



Working Together for Watershed Health

Calapooia Watershed Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

The Calapooia Watershed Council held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 10th 2020 via Zoom Teleconferencing.

In attendance were the following members of the Board of Directors:

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| Mark Running | Nate Meehan | John Joiner | Rick Jones | David Lawlor |
| Dee Swayze | Matt Mellenthin | Heather Medina Saucedo | | Aimee Addison |

Absent were the following members of the Board of Directors:

Jim Merzenich Jim Wagner

Also in attendance were:

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| Collin McCandless | Kristen Daly | Sarah Norton | Fiona Julian |
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Collin McCandless presided over the meeting, Fiona Julian recorded the minutes.

AGENDA ITEM: **Approval of May Board Meeting Minutes**

David moved to approve the minutes of the May Board meeting. Matt seconded the motion. The motion passed 8:0 (Aimee Addison was not in attendance at this point in the meeting.)

AGENDA ITEM: **Approval of Financials** *Review presented by Board Treasurer*

Aimee shared the latest financial reports provided by Fiona, and explained that the accounts were looking much better and thanked Fiona for her hard work on this. Fiona added that she was pleased with the progress being made and that she was looking forward to finishing out the fiscal year and starting afresh with the new. Matt moved to approve the financials. Aimee seconded the motion. The motion passed 8:0. (Rick was not in attendance during this vote.)

AGENDA ITEM: **Restoration Program Updates**

Collin explained that on Friday May 29th, the CWC held Bowers Rock Bid Tours with OPRD, River Design Group and six different contractors. Collin continued that despite the park closures, they were able to have the tour on-site instead of via a virtual meeting. Collin stated that CWC received five contractor bids for the project, and that one estimate came in over budget by \$10-15,000, and another was about 20,000 under budget. Collin announced that the contractor selected is BCI. Collin explained that BCI is the contractor that CWC worked with previously to complete the Sodom dam removal and stream bed simulation, and Cox Creek Dam Removal. Additionally Collin explained that they are the contractors who completed the TNC Confluence project in Springfield. Collin stated that BCI came highly recommended and have won many awards for their work.

Collin explained that another factor that led to making the decision regarding contractor choice, was the contractor demeanor and communication style given the specific issues with this particular project. Collin explained that the contractor lead had the opportunity to speak with the confrontational neighbor to the site access gate, when arriving for the Bid Tour, and had demonstrated professional, and exemplary conduct with the encounter.

Collin informed the Board that on Thursday, June 24th he will be attending a meeting with the Anchor Habitat Technical Team for a grant review on the application he submitted last month. Collin explained that he was looking forward to the review for a few reasons; 1) the lead reviewers of the project are people he has partnered with on this project over the years, 2) the review team questions will be easy to answer, and 3) earlier this past week Collin explained, OWEB and OPRD received a letter from a concerned family near the gate which prompted a meeting with Andrew (OWEB) and OPRD to discuss mitigating this issue and they were impressed with the response planning. Collin continued that from all of the conversations he has had with reviewers and OWEB, this is an investment that they would really like to see moving forward. Collin stated he is feeling the support from CWC partners. Collin mentioned that there is discussion and planning happening for a public presentation on the project in August, and is hopeful that people will be excited for the project, as well as providing the opportunity for the public to ask questions.

Cris shared that with all the activity around Bowers, he has been spending most of his time on project reporting. Cris explained that with his eDNA project proposal, he has been singled out to lead a network of partners for eDNA sampling in the mid and upper Willamette. Cris continued that sampling, with a focus on lamprey data, will likely happen in Muddy Creek, upper Calapooia and Butte Creek and should only take a couple of days.

Cris informed the Board that the Upper Calapooia surveying is now over for this season. Cris explained that due to the Covid-19 restrictions, only half of the intended survey area was covered and therefore the final count of 221 redds is likely only fifty percent of the entire survey section. Cris updated the Board regarding the steel trap and that data of the pit tagged smolts shows about 8-9% of them making it out to the Willamette. Cris explained that the pit tags will remain in the fish and so it will be possible to track them when they hopefully return in two to three years' time. Cris explained that he might be overly optimistic about those returns but that the project will provide good data. Cris stated he will be summarizing these findings in the project report.

AGENDA ITEM: Education Program Updates

Sarah explained that she has been busy with M99 reporting and that she has now completed this for both GAPS and CLSD. Sarah continued that she can't submit the budget for the 2021 ODS season until those reports are approved, but once approved the school districts will provide payment in full. Sarah then explained that over this past season, she had experienced difficulty with communicating with the CLSD staff regarding planning, which she continued appears to be now related to a recent email she received from one of the newer fifth grade teachers at CL. Kristen explained that the email curtly stated a request to remove CL from the Salmon Watch sign-ups this fall as they were "going with another provider." Kristen explained that this was confusing as there is no other Salmon Watch provider, and so submitted a reply requesting clarification as to CLSD intentions with Salmon Watch and Outdoor School. Kristen explained that she had mentioned in her email that CWC has had a relationship providing programming to their students since 2013, and hoped to continue being a provider. Collin then stated that he received an email response Celeste Van Cleave, (CLSD Business Manager), informing CWC that they will not be using us as a provider for any services moving forward. Kristen and Collin expressed the surprise at this decision having no indication or communications from CLSD regarding this decision, and in fact, CLSD had been giving Sarah the runaround with trying to schedule ODS planning meetings but still corresponding as though intending to use CWC for ODS. Kristen

stated that another reason for the surprise of this decision is that CWC has contributed \$10,000 to CLSD ODS programs for two years in a row, and told that CLSD did not want to be troubled with applying for M99 funds via OSU. Sarah continued that over the past few years, CWC has assisted CLSD with applying for these funds. Collin stated that he then reached out to Mark who has a long standing relationship with CLSD. Mark explained that the superintendent is not usually involved in this level of decision making but expressed concern that as a long-time partner of CLSD, we were caught completely unawares. Mark continued that a meeting has been called with those decision makers and that he should have some further information for us on Monday. Mark asked if the staff knew of other ODS providers in the area, to which Kristen responded that there aren't independent providers but camp facilities are developing their own programs. Collin stated that when he attended BEETLES, most attendees were camp staff. Kristen shared that she had mentioned the situation to a fifth grade teacher friend, and asked for their feedback as to why they thought this decision had been made - the response she received was just that the teachers felt offering the program was a "burden" to them. Kristen continued that she did not understand the particular burden they were feeling as CWC and other partners handle virtually every aspect of the programming. Collin stated that it was important to note that this decision by CLSD in no part reflected on Sarah, who has been the consummate professional, reaching out to help however they have needed it and generally doing an excellent job.

Matt asked what the Education Program is planning for next year and Kristen responded that as far as can be determined, there will likely be a hybrid of online programming and in class lessons for students returning to school, and so herself and Sarah and considering multiple possibilities of ways to help get students outside. Kristen stated that in regards to the funding for Sarah's position, the funds are secured regardless of CLSD's actions. Nate asked if securing that funding would have any impact on the ability to hire a restoration technician to which Collin explained it would not, and that the budget for that position has been allocated and cannot be utilized anywhere else (without a budget revision submission to OWEB.) Nate also asked if there are any opportunities to pick up other ODS/Education contracts, and Kristen mentioned reaching out to Harrisburg once we hear back from the CLSD superintendent.

Matt announced that on Saturday there will be a Youth March happening in Corvallis. Heather mentioned that she had spoken with Gladys Ruiz who wanted to let us know that she is available for consultation work with a focus on EDI in environmental education. Matt said he was asked by associates at Marion County Watershed Council if we could provide a statement of actions the Education department has made with EDI efforts.

AGENDA ITEM: Social Media

Collin explained that last week CWC blacked out our social media platforms and re-posted only two posts; Black Birders' Week events, and anti-racist resources. Collin continued that the reason for this is to show solidarity with the Black Community and people of color. Collin cited CWC's Strategic Plan Page 11, Section B.2, to "Increase the equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) of the audience we serve." Heather stated that it was fine to black out but that making a donation to the local chapter of NAACP would be more helpful. Collin stated that he didn't know if as an organization it was permissible to make donations outside of our industry but all the staff were pleased to know the Board would support this. Heather suggested a \$100 donation. Aimee shared that her organization has previously sponsored a table at the NAACP annual convention and that this could be an opportunity to invite a couple of high school students to attend. Heather stated that if we donate cash, black people can then do what they need to with the money. Matt stated that a statement of our future plans for allyship would be good to post. Collin asked if the Board would like staff to write the statement for review by the EDI Committee. Heather mentioned that Greenbelt Landtrust had posted in support of Black Lives Matter, and Matt stated that Middlefork Watershed Council had also released a statement of support. David shared two resources for a statement that his organization uses and said we were free to use them. Heather suggested doing a survey to ask how BIPOC want to be involved with the work the watershed council

does. Matt stated that this issue warranted a further discussion that this meeting doesn't allow for and said he was available to talk further. Matt set up a Zoom meeting for tomorrow to continue the discussion. Heather moved to approve the motion to make the \$100 donation to the local NAACP chapter. Matt seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0. Aimee Addison was not in attendance at this point in the meeting. Rick Jones abstained from the vote.

AGENDA ITEM: **OWEB Update**

Collin provided a brief update that today and tomorrow the OWEB Board will be meeting to discuss their options and decisions moving forward with the serious decrease in funding. Collin explained that there are three options that OWEB are considering for funding:

- **A:** Fully fund FIPs from 2019, Small Grant funding of \$0.8 million: fully expends all available funds
- **B:** 50% FIP funding from 2019 investments, Small Grant funding of \$1 million: leaves \$6.7 million available
- **C:** Nuanced FIP Funding, \$1.5 million in Small grant funding: leaves \$4.7 million in Boards account

Collin shared that he believed they were leaning towards option C, but that whichever option OWEB decides to go with, all CWC Mainstem projects will be fully funded due to their being approved in the biennium period that includes 2019. Collin stated that the CWC was looking good moving forward.

Cris stated that due to OWEB's situation, the funding for Phase II of Tub Run (Streak Horned Lark Habitat Wetland Prairie Restoration), is up in the air.

5:50 AGENDA ITEM: **Other** (5 mins)

Collin announced that Mid Valley River Connections (MVRC) applied for the Mosaic Grant (\$40,000) which will provide funding for drone flight lessons, restoration drones (EDI component), a new computer, and other peripherals. Collin continued that the grant also includes some limited staff funds for partners.

Collin mentioned that Fiona had been performing more updates on the website which he encouraged visiting. Collin also mentioned that North Santiam Watershed Council have sent a contract over to engage Fiona's services in redesigning their website.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.

READ and APPROVED by the Board of Directors

Signature

Date _____

Title