



Calapooia Watershed Council
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes

Wednesday, February 12th, 2025

The Calapooia Watershed Council Board of Directors held their usual bi-monthly meeting via Zoom.

The following members were in attendance:

Joe Deardorff	Matt Mellenthin	Mark Running	Dee Swayze
Jim Wagner	Shannon Richardson	Jim Merzenich	

The following members were absent:

John Joiner

The following were also in attendance:

Kristen Daly, Youth Education Program Manager

Alex Rice, Habitat Restoration Program Manager

Collin McCandless, Executive Director

Fiona Julian, Operations Coordinator

Collin McCandless presided over the meeting, Fiona Julian recorded the minutes.

Agenda Item: Check In

Collin stated that Sharon Crowley had stepped down from her position on the Board due to taking a new position that she understood to be a conflict of interest to serve on the Board. Collin also stated that he and Kristen were meeting with two prospective board members next week.

Agenda Item: Approval of Financials

Joe Deardorff moved to approve the Q2 Financials as presented. Dee Swayze seconded the motion. The motion passed 6:0 (Shannon Richardson was not present for the vote.)

Agenda Item: Education Program Update

Kristen stated that due to the season she did not have many updates, and presented a slideshow of program updates (attached).

Kristen shared that she had been busy applying for grants and was particularly excited about the Marie Lamfrom grant that would provide \$75k annually for two years. Kristen stated that she had submitted a LOI for general Education program funding, and explained that once a grant is awarded, the recipient is then eligible for a higher level of funding opportunities.

Kristen also shared that she had applied for a Spirit Mountain grant and that it had been a while since the CWC had last applied to them. Kristen explained that she had been working with Collin and Alex to develop grant applications and that her position falls under the category of Outreach and Education. Kristen discussed Urban Ecology dates and that sign-ups were recently opened and there are currently already 11 dates filled with 14 classes.

Kristen continued that she had just finalized the Seasonal Educator Job Announcement and that she expected 2-3 returning educators in addition to hiring 3-4 new staff. Kristen explained that she is working with Alex at the SSWC to offer the educators the opportunity to participate in both councils' training and education programs, and receive a higher rate of pay covered by the SSWC's ODS funding. Joe requested clarification on the Marie Lamfrom grant being multi-year and was excited to hear that it was. Joe congratulated Kristen on finding the opportunity and applying and that he was unfamiliar with the foundation. Kristen mentioned that during the application process, she was able to see in real-time the impacts of the current administration's elimination of DEI initiatives as the application question was removed in due course.

Agenda Item: Restoration Program Update

Alex provided a presentation of updates (attached) and stated that nothing too exciting is happening with current projects, but they are moving along nicely. Alex expressed appreciation for the MVRC NOAA coordinator, Regina Southworth and that she has been instrumental in helping with the current NOAA Habitat grant application as well as managing and explaining the logistical and administrative

aspects of the current Fish Passage grant.

Alex stated that the recently awarded BPA grant is not impacted by the Federal Funding freeze attempts by the new administration, as BPA funds come from USACE dam's revenue rather than appropriation. Alex continued that he was continuing to source additional funding and that costs of additional development are still unknown until we find out if the excavated material from the targeted crossings has to be removed entirely or can be left on site which would be significantly less expensive. Alex then shared that a herbicide application was recently performed at East Thornton Lake and will be looking to install oaks and native seeds in the spring. Alex stated that the first Tub Run grant and the Bowers Rock Implementation grants had both closed out at the end of last year, and final reporting was complete. Alex then discussed how the council had received SEP funds from the City of Albany two years ago to cover seeding and design of the Periwinkle Park and greenway. Alex explained that Phoenix Habitats had been selected to develop the designs for the area and recently completed the 47-page design plan. Alex stated that it was one of the best design plans he had ever seen, as it provided a much higher level of detail, including plant types and illustrated renderings to transform what is mostly lawn space. Alex continued the goal was to preserve lawn spaces while converting edging areas back into native habitat, creating an enhanced aesthetic for community members to enjoy as well as providing benefits to native species. Alex stated he is meeting with the City of Albany to discuss ways to obtain public input into the planning. Alex stated that in light of the federal funding situation, he is determining the best strategy moving forward - and that the NOAA Habitat Restoration grant was theoretically still open for applications, a decision has to be made as to whether it is worth pursuing given the instability of federal funding currently. Alex stated that the application is a very heavy lift for funding that has a high probability of being pulled back. Alex shared that he has been working on several alternate grants that plan to be submitted to OWEB in the spring, and that he will also reapply for additional BPA funding when that application reopens.

Agenda Item: Board Elections & Self Assessment Google Forms

Collin announced that it was time for bi-annual board member elections and that the voting process would happen electronically through Google Forms. Collin explained that members will initially get a form to share their interest in continuing on the board and/or interest in officer positions. Collin explained that the self-assessment form is only necessary to complete if there have been significant changes.

Agenda Item: Sodom Dam Bifurcation Meeting

Collin explained he had recently been re-contacted by the office of Representative Jamie Kate regarding the ongoing concerns expressed two years ago by Telly Wirth about the available water flow down the Sodom channel for farming irrigation. Collin stated that the office was inviting him to the next meeting that is being organized with other landowners. Collin explained that the email also contained links to two federal grants the representative's office was encouraging the council to apply for through the Bureau of Reclamation in order to address the flow concerns. Collin continued that this issue and suggested actions are counter-intuitive to the council's mission, is not a priority fish passage, and that other factors (besides the dam removal in 2011) have impacted river and channel flows. Collin clarified that it is OPRD who owns the land being addressed. Collin stated he would respond to the representative's office explaining the facts of the matter and that federal funding is not a reliable source of funding based on the new administration's federal funding freezes. Shannon stated that grant applications are a considerable lift for staff and an example shared was that it cost \$11k in staff time to prepare a recent grant application and thinks we should emphasise the time that Alex and Collin have to put into grant writing. Joe agreed that for the uninitiated it is a good example to help articulate our position as it is a complex issue to navigate. Matt asked if any other party is asking the council to resolve the flow issue and Collin responded it was only Jamie Kate and Telly Wirth but that he was not previously informed of all the partners involved. Mark stated that it's worth talking to landowners and representatives to articulate the heavy lift of what they are requesting and to be as specific as possible in explaining that the council is grant-funded. Mark continued that state employees get paid regardless of grant status which may help set a realistic view of our operations. Matt asked if Collin had a sense of the motivation for the ado and if he foresaw any curveballs. Collin said he was not sure but would check-in with OPRD as this is ultimately their issue with the landowners. Mark stated to keep reiterating that the original plan was simply to facilitate the dam removal with no additional maintenance. Shannon suggested that the CWC could propose partnering, but asked what that would look like. Mark responded that we could offer moral support, but there is no sense of obligation following the dam removal. Mark continued that he had some sympathy for the private landowners and has heard that some are offering to help pay for a solution, and have already received permission from OPRD to remove logs and are looking to remove silt from 300' in a bifurcation area. Mark stated it was painful to see the issue turn into an ordeal. Shannon agreed and said she was dismayed at the situation but is interested to see how it turns out. Jim M asked why we don't want to increase water down the channel to which Collin responded that there is not enough water anymore and we have no control over that. Joe concurred that we have our objectives and can

only focus on those.

Agenda Item: Other

Collin reviewed the benefits of having a current Strategic Plan and the progress that is occurring to that end. Collin stated that we were fortunate to have Alex with us who is assisting in creating a shared format application to support this process and provide better development and outcomes, as well as help apply for a collaborative grant for our (MVRC) partner watershed councils to allow for optimal attention and dedication can be applied to this purpose. Collin stated that he and Alex spoke with Chris Sherrod who held a presentation on Strategic Planning for United Way. Collin continued that Chris has lots of experience in this area and that he, Alex and Shannon will be meeting with United Way shortly to discuss six different potential grant applications.

The meeting adjourned at 6pm

Voting Information on the next page.

Calapooia Watershed Council Board of Directors Elections Process - Feb 2025

- Board Interest Surveys were issued via email on Feb 12th 2025 / Board responses were completed by Feb 24th 2025.
- Voting Ballots were issued Feb 25th 2025 / Voting was completed on February 28th 2025

Results of the Election:

The following board members were up for re-election and were voted in unanimously to continue as Board Members for another term:

Jim Wagner

Jim Merzenich

Matt Mellenthin

Shannon Richardson

Mark Running

John Joiner

Joe Deardorff

Dee Swayze

The following members were vote in for the attributing Officer Positions:

Joe Deardorff - Co-Chair

Matt Mellenthin - Co-Chair

Dee Swayze - Secretary

Shannon Richardson - Treasurer