



**The Calapooia Watershed Council held its regular Board meeting on Wednesday April 13th, 2022 at  
Brownsville City Hall Community Room.**

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

Jim Wagner                      David Lawlor                      Jim Merzenich                      Mark Running                      John Joiner

The following members were absent:

Matt Mellenthin                      Dee Swayze

The following were also in attendance:

Collin McCandless, Executive Director

Fiona Julian, Operations Coordinator

Kristen Daly, Youth Education Program Manager

Cris Salazar, Habitat Restoration Program Manager

Joe Deardorff, City of Albany, Oregon

Shannon Richardson, Executive Director South Santiam Watershed Council

Nora Daly

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

**Approval of March 2022 Board Meeting Minutes:** Mark stated there was a correction to the number of years Mark has served on the board, and stated that it was 15 not 20 years as written in the March minutes. David moved to approve the minutes. Mark seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:0.

**Approval of the Financials:** Jim M commented on the P & L's net income being in the positive and if that meant we no longer qualified as a nonprofit. David responded that showing a profit does not equal nonprofit ineligibility. John commented that the graphics were nice and he would like to see previous year comparisons added to the reports. John moved to approve the financials. Jim M seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:0

**eDNA Update:** Cris shared the exciting news that unexpectedly 12 of the 91 samples have detected the presence of Chinook salmon in the Calapooia. Cris stated that he is following up with ODFW to review the validity of the results but that they are unlikely to be wrong. Cris explained that there are certain species that have been overlooked due to their unknown existence in the river, and that follow-up sampling will be conducted to target restoration development, and determine the presence of chinook vs. steelhead. Jim W mentioned that there is a 5-10% natural population habitat straying and there was a brief discussion regarding the impacts of the wildfires. John asked if there was any information regarding spring-fed tributaries. David asked if the presence of an ESA listed species in the river would provide opportunities for funding. Cris affirmed that could be the case. Cris explained that the project budget included 131 eDNA samples but we've only collected 91 therefore we have additional sampling available. John asked if the samples are specific to chinook or could they include other species DNA identification. Cris responded that we paid for just chinook screening initially but that the presence of other ESA listed species should also be checked; Western Pond Turtles, Mussels, Beavers. Cris stated that the samples are also providing baselines and that this is the first study of its kind that OWEB has funded. There was a round of applause for this accomplishment. John stated that he wouldn't expect to see the presence of chinook west of Brownsville. Mark discussed how the dam removal and

subsequent development of gravel bars might be impacting things. David suggested that these eDNA results would be a good opportunity to share with the newspapers. Shannon shared that ODFW has temperature data for habitat surveys which could be overlaid with GIS to explore more factors for research data.

**Strategic Plan Update Process:** Collin suggested that instead of how the strategic plan has historically been developed over the course of an entire day, that instead it be developed over the course of several twenty minute segments during the next four Board meetings to be completed by Fall '22. Collin continued that he will bring the 2017-2019 updates at the next meeting. David moved to approve the suggested plan. Mark seconded the approval. The decision passed 5:0.

**Board Development and Recruitment:** Collin introduced two prospective candidates: Joe Deardorff and Shannon Richardson.

Joe and Shannon introduced themselves and shared their work experience and interest in joining the CWC Board. Joe stated he was currently working for Albany Public Works and manages the Talking Water Gardens in Corvallis. Joe shared that he has worked as Past Project Manager for North & South Santiam Watershed Councils. Collin stated Joe also has years of invasive species management. Kristen stated that the council has been fortunate to have Joe as an education advocate throughout the years. Shannon shared that she is the Executive Director of the South Santiam Watershed Council, a Mid Valley River Connections Partner, Mid Willamette Beaver Partnership Partner, and former ODFW Step Biologist, Springfield office. Shannon shared that she has worked for ODFW for 11 years with mostly desert fish species. Shannon continued that she has gotten to know David through EDI workshops. David stated that he thought Shannon to be a great candidate who is informed and intelligent. John asked if there was any reciprocity happening with Collin joining the SSWC's board and Collin confirmed that he was voted in at SSWC's last board meeting. Shannon stated that there is a lot of shared work between the councils and that our spheres of influence overlap having neighboring basins. Shannon invited the board to attend SSWC's board meetings. David shared that he had attended one held via Zoom and it was a good meeting. Mark thanked both Shannon and Joe for coming. Collin stated the voting for the members would occur via email.

**Other:** John asked Joe if he worked with county roads which Joe responded he did not. John raised a concern he has about a pullover by McKercher Park which he stated was very dangerous and inquired if there might be nearby land that could be used instead for river access. John asked if the UCSHE project would have any roadway impact with the passage of heavy equipment. Cris responded that it is not expected but that conditions will be reviewed closer to the time. Jim W shared that he would like to see more walking tours throughout the watershed.

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:07pm.**