



Calapooia Watershed Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 12th, 2023

The Calapooia Watershed Council held their regular monthly meeting on April 12th 2023 5pm-6pm, Brownsville Public Library.

The following members were present:

Matt Mellenthin Shannon Richardson Joe Deardorff Jim Wagner Jim Merzenich
Sharon Crowley John Joiner

The following members were absent:

Mark Running Dee Swayze

The following were also present:

Collin McCandless, Executive Director

Kristen Daly, Youth Education Program Manager

Fiona Julian, Operations Coordinator

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

Approval of March 2023 Minutes - Matt moved to approve the minutes as written. Jim M seconded the motion. The motion was approved 6:0 (John Joiner was absent from the vote.)

3rd Quarter Financials - Collin asked if everyone had had a chance to review the financial statements, and stated that in his time with the council he has not seen the financial reports presented so well. Jim W concurred and general appreciation expressed. Fiona stated she was pleased that the reports and data provided are valuable to the board.

Education Program Update - Kristen provided an Education Program presentation and update which is an addendum to the minutes. Kristen explained that two summers ago we began working with Jackson Street Youth Services to provide snorkeling programs for their residential youth, and for their mentors and mentees. Kristen continued that the youth from the shelter have started requesting that they do something throughout the rest of the school year, such as hiking and so she has started doing that and has led eight hikes since November. Kristen talked about some upcoming hikes and asked the board to share their favorite hike. Jim W stated he had an extensive list he would share. Kristen spoke passionately about the high school programs and planting accomplishments and experiences. Kristen informed the board that she had received seven scholarship applications and would be sending those out for feedback as she would be abstaining from the vote out of fairness. Kristen explained that Urban Ecology is ramping up and is currently training five new educators for the program which will be the first time not using just staff and volunteers which she stated would

bring new levels of value and experience to the program. Kristen explained that due to being able to charge a different grant over the past summer, we have the funds in TNC to hire the seasonal educators and that two of them may stay on past the spring into the summer. Kristen mentioned that the newly provided Nature Journals are a big hit but are hard to find in rainproof paper in the budget range. Joe suggested printing the books in house with Rite in the Rain paper. Joe said he thought the program activity of constructing a watershed and wetland was awesome and asked how the watershed construction was done to which Kristen explained the design, technique and benefits. Kristen shared that she was purchasing a vehicle that is more suitable for field trip excursions, and that transport is sometimes an issue for participants and that her current research shows costs to hire a school bus and driver have almost doubled over the past few years, but thankfully we have a grant to help cover transport costs. Kristen spoke about the Albany Library Summer Program partnership which she explained involves offering our watershed science stations in a local park without a reservation fee and allows us to reach more participants through the library's programming and advertising. Kristen asked Jim M if he would be able to provide wood cookies for the program to which Jim agreed he could. Kristen invited the board to come to any events to just observe the programs in action and that she guaranteed we would not be sorry. Jim M invited the program to come to his property and help with the invasive weed project he has with the Institute of Applied Ecology, and that he had a 3 to 4 mile hiking loop that has some ridges at two thousand feet with terrific views of the valley. Matt encouraged Kristen to send the trip dates out to the board.

May and June Board Meeting Plan - Collin announced that the May Board Meeting would be a tour of Upper Calapooia and the tree-tipping project. Collin asked if anyone could rideshare with those without suitable vehicles or tires. Collin said the trip plus travel would be about four hours. Collin shared that he was going to be viewing the site this Friday with Cris to take photos for reporting and it was mentioned that the water levels would likely be very different when we visit next month. Collin continued that after the idea that some board meetings be more informal was discussed, he proposed doing something like that for the June meeting. Collin reminded everyone that June is an important meeting to attend as we will be approving the 23-24 budget, and suggested Tub Run as a site to gather at and see the extensive restoration work occurring there. Collin reminded everyone that there is no meeting in June but for July or August, we could also do a potluck and there followed a discussion about other possible sites or activities for the more social meetings and Jim M offered his property, as did Matt, such as we did for the 2019 float to his place which was very enjoyable for everyone. Matt moved to pass the motion that the August meeting be a "hangout." Jim M seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0.

Board Meeting Schedule for FY 23/24 - Collin proposed changing the board meeting schedule to every other month, which he explained would allow for committees to meet in the in-between months. Collin continued that committee engagement has been low and suggested that with less frequent meetings, better preparation can then mean more valuable meetings. Shannon spoke about how the SSWC bi-monthly schedule has been working well, along with the more social gatherings at every other board meeting. John mentioned that it doesn't have to be staff presenting each meeting, and that for years they had guest speakers. Joe shared that he recalls it being taxing on the staff to book guest speakers. Kristen stated that she felt that guest speakers are more appropriate at community outreach

events instead of board meetings, and that it takes time and budgets to make speaker arrangements. Collin agreed and added that a couple of times a year would be good. John suggested that perhaps next fall or at some point, we should reach out to the City of Brownsville and meet with them to have a conversation about local watershed concerns and what the city might be doing so that we are better informed. John mentioned that the city is putting in a new well which will be essentially hydraulically connected to the river and that he would be interested in hearing the city's comments on that. Kristen stated that one of the roles of leadership for the council is to share information between other local agencies to ask and answer any questions. Jim asked about the Projects Committee and if it was something we needed anymore. Collin mentioned that the committee meetings were open to the public and therefore more helpful to have when we had CREP projects/they aid in reaching potential landowners for projects. Collin continued that additionally the meetings were more of an update, instead of an opportunity to draw off the skills that board members bring to the table, and agreed that a different format should be figured out. Jim M moved to pass the motion to hold bi-monthly board meetings for the next fiscal year. Matt seconded the motion. The motion passed 7:0. (August 2023 will be the first meeting of the year.)

Other - Jim M expressed wanting to honor Mark for all the work he has done for the CWC. John mentioned the Peter Jensen Award was something that was historically given out each year as an acknowledgement of a stakeholder's commitment to and work supporting the health of the watershed. Fiona offered to look into this.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02pm.