



**Calapooia Watershed Council held their regular monthly Board of Directors Meeting on
Wednesday, December 14th, 2022 at the Kirk Room, Brownsville Public Library.**

The following members were present:

Shannon Richardson Jim Wagner Dee Swayze John Joiner

The following members were present via Zoom:

Sharon Crowley Matt Mellenthin Mark Running Joe DearDorff

The following were also in attendance:

Collin McCandless, Executive Director

Fiona Julian, Operations Coordinator

Kristen Daly, Education Program Manager (via Zoom)

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

AGENDA ITEM: Approve September Board Meeting Minutes (quorum not available at October vote)

Dee moved to approve the September minutes. Shannon seconded the motion. Jim Wagner and Joe DearDorff abstained from voting due to being absent from the September meeting. The motion passed 6:0

AGENDA ITEM: Brief Financial Update

Fiona stated that second quarter financials will be presented at the January meeting, and that once the second quarter was reconciled, a budget review will be performed to reflect any updates.

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion switching banks from Umpqua to Beneficial State Bank

Fiona shared that after reading the article joangarry.com/diversity-and-inclusion-initiatives, she visited the IRS website for FDIC Minority Owned Financial Institutions and learned that there is currently just one in Oregon; Beneficial State Bank. Fiona continued that after learning more about Beneficial and their business practices, herself and Collin had a virtual meeting with an account manager at Beneficial who gave a compelling presentation revealing an aligned mission with the council by their investment in environmental causes and divestment from harmful environmental practices. Fiona explained that she thought moving our financial business to Beneficial would be a good way to not just implement a DEIJ actionable item but also by way of being more intentional with our banking, and investing in a new way of doing business that supports our mission. Fiona also explained that the account manager would personally assist with the banking transition, and that everything could be done remotely. Matt asked what the bank's economic impact in Linn County was; how many people they employ here, and what investments they have in our watershed. Fiona responded that she would find out. Mark shared that nonprofit banking needs may differ, and that the idea sounds good but requested some feedback from nonprofits that are currently banking with them. Fiona agreed that would be helpful information, and stated that The Freshwater Trust banks with them. Joe confirmed that TFT is a nonprofit organization. John asked how stable the bank might be given we are entering a recession and we would want to ensure they are around next year, and shared his concern that it could be a painful transition. Collin stated they were founded in 2007 so survived the immediate recession that followed. Joe stated that they were a B-Corporation and Shannon explained that a B-Corp demonstrates high standards of performance in social, environmental, and business responsibility. Dee asked if we had encountered any problems with Umpqua, and Fiona responded other than with investment brokering, there were no problems. Mark stated that the bottom line as John said is the board's duty to ensure the bank is healthy. Jim asked if the "State" in the name meant they were not FDIC insured. Fiona confirmed they were FDIC insured and listed on the IRS website for Minority Owned Financial Institutions. Kristen shared that she had spent the past couple of weeks attending the Center for Diversity and the Environment's West Coast Environmental Leadership retreats and over the past two days and the Racial Equity Institute presented information of the history of racism in the USA, during which they raised the concept of "markedness" which she explained is part of hidden white supremacy which can be observed in the term "black-owned banks" versus "banks". Kristen shared that we can change the concept of what we do with our money, by investing and helping to empower. Collin supported Kristen's words and that it was important to keep in mind as the questions being raised about Beneficial were not raised when the council switched from Linn Co Community Credit Union to Umpqua.

AGENDA ITEM: Update 2022 Salmon Watch!

Kristen shared that Salmon Watch included a new location this year; Riverbend County Park which she explained was a gorgeous location and allowed them to spend the whole day at the river's edge. Kristen continued that although there were no spawning salmon at River Bend, there are also no spawning salmon at Wiley anymore; they are now spawning near Camp Koinonia across the river. Kristen stated the program was more paired down this year focusing on the two main stations of Macroinvertebrates and Salmon Biology which combined other elements such as water quality and provided more time to take a deeper dive into the topics. Kristen shared that a new game was developed that had students acting out a salmon run; first with conditions akin to 1000 years ago, then as present day, which Kristen explained was enormous fun and the children were observed bringing information from the game to the Salmon Biology lesson. Kristen stated that the game was derived from her work with Gladys Ruiz Consulting which shifted the focus from the information and agenda of the educator, to instead be guided more by student curiosity. Kristen shared that this was the first in-person Salmon Watch season post Covid-19 which felt really good and was a lot of fun. Kristen informed that seven schools participated and four hundred and seventy-seven students were served. Kristen shared an experience with a student who refused to leave the river edge, and explained that this provided insight into how to better support students with behavioral issues which might include visiting certain classes prior to SW to increase relationships and staff exposure for students. Kristen provided big thanks to the staff, Shannon, Serene with the Corvallis Environmental Center and seasonal program educator Kelcey Yeager and OSU student leader Erik Jackson, and spoke of how all the program partners really came through for the program this year.

Collin shared that this was his favorite year of Salmon Watch, and enjoyed the changes and increased interest from the students which was meaningful and impactful. Collin encouraged the board to come to Salmon Watch and stated it was the magic that our council is doing.

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion Winter BOD retreat

Collin began the discussion of the annual retreat and if it was a legal requirement. Shannon stated that the legal requirement is for nonprofit boards to hold a membership meeting at least once a year, and any votes cast electronically require 100% of members voting and any outcome also be unanimous. Collin stated that objectives of the retreat are elections for odd year board members (John Joiner, Matt Mellenthin, Mark Running, Jim Wagner, Jim Merzenich), and all officer positions, as well as developing an updated Strategic Plan, and reviewing By-Laws for updating. John shared that years

ago the Annual Retreat was more of a publicity event with presentations, information tables, and refreshments for the public. Joe said he recalls a previous discussion to break the strategic planning into smaller meetings. John expressed interest in viewing the tree tipping project site. Collin said it would be preferable to view the site after the water has hit the trees, which Dee offered would be April/May. Joe stated he would rather see a project site in the summer, and John commented the Upper Calapooia would be a trickle in the summer. Collin said that might be a better time to see what has accumulated behind the trees which Dee agreed would allow to see how the log placements were functioning. Shannon shared that she would be interested in seeing both and wondered if there was a close-in site visit that we could combine with a longer meeting and that early summer could be a good time. Collin agreed and suggested Tub Run and Periwinkle Park as site visit options. Jim asked if there was anything worth viewing at first or second lake. Joe stated that Tub Run is a good site, but there is not much to see at Periwinkle which could make it good “before” viewing. Sharon asked what was happening at Periwinkle Park. Collin responded that it was a SEP project where we are working with partnerships to create a multi use habitat and requires a different approach to projects that occur on private or inaccessible land, due to Periwinkle being a higher visibility with its reach into public areas. Dee and Sharon stated they were on board with splitting the retreat into sections. Shannon suggested another option could be to send documents for review/edit to a subcommittee for a preliminary review. Joe formally offered to serve on the subcommittee. Matt asked what the timeframe would be for each section of the retreat. Collin responded that the elections and By-Law review would be held late February/Early March, then in late spring/early summer we could tour Tub Run, and then visit Upper Calapooia later in the year. Matt discussed potential schedule issues for his availability.

Other

Collin shared the disappointing news that the MVRC was not awarded the NOAA grant they had applied for. Collin continued that they didn't yet have further details of the rejection. Shannon shared that one thing they know is that there were over ninety applications which represented a large amount of competition. Dee stated that it would be good to know what applications were successful.

The meeting Adjourned at 6:18pm