



Calapooia Watershed Council Board of Directors August 2023 Meeting Minutes

Calapooia Watershed Council held their regular Board of Directors Meeting on Wednesday, August 9th, 2023 at the Brownsville Library's Kirk Room and via Zoom.

The following members were present:

Jim Wagner, Jim Merzenich, Joe Deardorff, Mark Running, Dee Swayze, Shannon Richardson

The following members were absent:

Sharon Crowley, John Joiner, Matt Mellenthin

The following were also present:

Collin McCandless, Executive Director

Fiona Julian, Operations Coordinator

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of April Minutes

Collin explained that there are no May minutes due to the Upper Cal Tree Tipping tour, and June was an online vote for the annual budget approval. Collin stated that for an upcoming board meeting he would like to have a get together/potluck at either somebody's property or Thompson's Mills. Collin continued that there are some people in need of recognition and it would be a good opportunity for us and the new board members. Dee moved to approve the April minutes. Mark seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:0.

AGENDA ITEM: FYE 2022-2023 Financial Report

Fiona explained that the report is a draft until the CPA files our 2022 990, but that any changes to the figures would not be significant. Fiona informed that the end of the last fiscal year was also the end of the biennial OWEB capacity grant but that a new one had been secured and CWC declared as having met all criteria, no notes. Fiona stated that there were no big surprises this past year and were nicely

inline with our budget determinations and explained that while the Profit and Loss net income is a snapshot of a moment in time based on AR for that time period, the Balance Sheet is what to reference for CWC's equity and assets balance. Shannon stated that the financials were beautifully presented with good information and easy to read. Jim M agreed they were nice and asked why there have been no fundraising events over the past year. Collin shared that in his experience and former Board member David Lawlor's feedback, in person fundraisers tend to be a cost-deficit and not an optimal way to secure donations. Jim M responded that the outreach of events is of value, Mark agreed and Collin said that is the main benefit of events in our experience. Shannon shared that pub events with a short movie screening or trivia are less demanding on staff, and that a percentage of sales like the Block 15 Dine-Outs are also a good option.

AGENDA ITEM: Education Program Update

Collin shared that Kristen has held 11 snorkeling trips so far this summer, with 5 or so more scheduled, providing opportunities to come out and see the program in action which he highly recommended, adding that he went on Friday with Linn County Corrections and it was great. Collin explained that we take several great community youth groups on these trips; Linn County Corrections, Benton County Corrections, Jackson Street Youth Services, ELY (Environmental Leadership for Youth camp) Migrant Youth camp, Ophelia's Place, and youth from OSU New Beginnings, including the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Collin explained the locations of the trips have been at House Rock & Yukwah on the South Santiam due to being more accessible and having available facilities. Collin raised the topic of a program specific fire protocol. He explained that a small fire off Whiskey Butte Road was near a planned trip site and although it ultimately was not a threat, it raised the awareness. Collin shared that his actions in the moment were: a) To check inciweb.nwcg.gov the night before and morning of, for the surrounding area and if no hazard, proceed. b) If there is a fire that is not too close and relatively under control, call USFS or ODF/whichever entity is the lead for that area and if given the all-clear and feel comfortable, proceed. c) Cancel if you see or smell smoke. Collin asked for feedback on what other protocols could be included. Mark and Shannon both recommended the Watch Duty app which provides real-time, crowd-sourced fire data including the lead agency contact for each incident. Shannon shared her concern with the Wiley fire proximity in the South Santiam watershed, and mentioned her involvement with a fuels reduction program. Dee asked how many people were involved, Shannon responded that one landowner participated with 60 former tree farm acres. Shannon also suggested notifying the lead agency of the area fire of your presence. Joe

suggested there should also be a protocol for smoke and air quality, adding that air quality readings are index-based using two different thresholds. Collin explained that we use the same index as GAPS to avoid conflicting measures. Shannon stated there is also state guidance regarding working in high temperatures. Collin mentioned that Fiona had developed an EPP and Safety Plan but did not include Education Program specific protocols, which will now be added.

AGENDA ITEM: Calapooia Flow Discussion

Collin stated he had received a letter from a local representative who expressed concerns regarding the Sodom Dam Removal and Calapooia Channel. Collin provided some background of the project and area history and stated that between 2006-2011 leading up to and during implementation of the Sodom Dam removal, the CWC facilitated successful conversations to arrive at the best possible outcome for a complex problem. Collin also shared some communication he has also received from a landowner expressing concerns about a log jam and low water levels in the channel. Collin put him in contact with OPRD who went and investigated and did not observe any log jams. Collin stated that the Calapooia is currently between 6-8cfs, and 2.75 cfs in the Calapooia Channel which may be the lowest levels he has seen as a result of climate change which continues to occur in many rivers and tributaries. Collin stated he has a meeting with OPRD and is gathering information and records in order to present a full and clear response to the representative.

AGENDA ITEM: Other

Jim M asked if there was any comment on the solar project proposed at Muddy Creek. Dee said not yet but that the location is near the substation. Dee continued that as the need for renewable energy increases, it will be necessary to find dual uses for land. Jim W shared that OSU has shown that sheep really like the solar panel shade cover and that it was part of a large research project in the Willamette Valley for what is known as Agrovoltatics (using the same area of land for solar energy and agricultural products.)

Jim M donated 500 wood cookies to the education program for name tags.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.