



LWC Board Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2020

Via web conference

6:00 Call to order

Wendy Hudson, President

Introductions

Board Members: Wendy Hudson, Dan Farnworth, Dave Ehlers, Jackson Stalley, George Grosch, Karin Stutzman, Scott Youngblood (joined about 6:30pm)

Staff: Kristen Larson

Guest: Matt Malinowski

Action: July 9, 2020 minutes approved as presented (Attachment A). Approved by consensus.

Mission Moment – Wendy noted that the Watershed Care Packages went out and were well-received; we've gotten some positive feedback. Good job EnO committee and thank you to SWCD partners that helped with contents and postage! Karin Stutzman commented about a wildfire that broke out near her house on Tarter road. Could see the flames from her house. Fire departments from surrounding counties delivered water and fire was extinguished in about an hour.

Questions / Comments on Committee Minutes / Activities – Dave asked about the potential choice of Incense Cedar for the one millionth plant ceremony. Is not considered native to this part of the valley. Kristen noted that species was choice of the venue when we were planning a large event. Species will be based on final site – still working on the details.

Dave also provided an update on the J2E River to Ridge project. All instream components are complete – large wood structures placed in Vincent Creek and riffle installed to address the perched culvert on Sarah's Run (tributary to Vincent Creek). Dave is working on weed control and USFWS rep, Dave, and Jean-Paul are planning out fall and winter activities.

Public Comments – Matt Malinowski offered to help with GIS volunteer activities if LWC has anything it needs help with. Kristen will follow-up. Thank you!

Treasurer and Finance Committee

George Grosch, Treasurer

Finance Committee Profile – See Attachment B. George gave a recap of what their purpose is, what they've accomplished from the strategic plan, and what their current goals are. The committee asked if there were any changes the Board would like to see in the reporting, no changes were suggested, just general comments and clarifying questions.

June 2020 Monthly Report – See Attachment C. In general, LWC is in a good position, no cash flow problems. June is halfway through the 2020 fiscal year.

Fundraising Committee (FRC)

Wendy Hudson, Chair

Love Your Watershed Campaign Update – We are very close to reaching our goal, have made close to \$7,000 more than we did last year. Looking to make \$18,000, up from \$10,000 in last year's campaign. Campaign goes till the end of August.

The LWC's mission is to engage and assist landowners and communities in the voluntary protection, restoration and enhancement of the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

Executive Committee (EC)

Wendy Hudson

DEI Self-Assessment Results – Reviewed results of DEI Self-Assessment (Attachment D). Most of the Board thought we were on our way, but needed more training, more thought on how to promote DEI. Discussion around whether to wait for trainings until can be in-person or proceed via Zoom for now. In-person is a long way off, we don't want to wait, but these are tough conversations to have in a virtual setting – need the right environment. Some people comfortable over Zoom, others find it harder to participate and challenging to get non-verbal communication.

Responses to self-assessment varied. People have difference experiences and interpretations of the options. Tool is imperfect but at least initiated the discussion and serves as a baseline and information to provide to the consultant. One way to think about LWC's DEI work is to ask, "If the LWC was a model of DEI, what would that look like?"

Can LWC survey other groups working in DEI and serving underrepresented communities? Always good to ask people rather than assume. How create an inclusive environmental; make sure people feel welcome. Does LWC have a statement on the web site? No – that is something the Board should adopt and is intended to be a result of the trainings. Not something staff should write or establish.

Would be useful to have facilitated discussion around shared values and establish a common language as a good starting place. Can meet a facilitator via Zoom; have initial discussions virtually as prep for in-person phase. Kristen will talk to MVRC about options for some facilitated engagement during COVID-19.

Strategic Plan Review Part 3 – Internal Goals - See Attachment G. Discussion of goals and strategies at a high level. Went through all the goals and ranked the ones we would put on hold for now, keep focusing on, or completely get rid of. Wendy will make a questionnaire for the board to rank out competing goals and narrow down which ones to really focus on.

Executive Director Update

Kristen Larson, Executive Director

Monthly Activity Report - See Attachment F. ED provided updates to her workload and upcoming grant proposals. Kristen noted that Monmouth staff reached out regarding current consideration of a stormwater utility. Kristen will follow-up with the Board via email tomorrow and the EC will discuss the topic at its next meeting.

Kristen reviewed a few challenges with landowners and a neighbor conflict. One new landowner on a project site damaged part of the planting area. Kristen will follow up with them with more information, offer for help to replant, and a visit – focus on building the relationship. Neighbor conflicts - discussion around whether and how the council should get involved.

New Business – None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05pm.

The LWC envisions communities working together to create vital, vibrant watersheds of thriving native fish populations and diverse, healthy habitats shared by people, plants and animals.