

Summer
2018

LWC Meanderings

Watershed News & Reflections



LWC MISSION:

To engage and assist land-owners and communities in the voluntary protection, restoration and enhancement of the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

WHAT WE ARE:

The Luckiamute Watershed Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit comprised of stakeholders who live or work within the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

WHO WE ARE:

Patrick Melendy, *President Independence*

Dan Farnworth, *Treasurer Monmouth*

Kathy Farnworth, *Secretary Monmouth*

Gail Oberst
Independence

Karin Stutzman
Monmouth

Dave Ehlers
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Mark Hazelton
Kings Valley/Hoskins

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Held the second Thursday of every month from 7 to 9 pm. Visit our website at: www.LuckiamuteLWC.org for location and details.

We're Moving!



Starting on July 1, the LWC office will be located in the old Valley and Siletz Railroad depot building at 165 D Street in Independence!

— by Suzanne Teller, Outreach Coordinator

Amidst a whirlwind of events, strategic planning sessions and grant deadlines, the Luckiamute Watershed Council has taken on one more task this summer — moving!

Currently located in an upstairs suite in “The Little Mall on Main” building on South Main Street, the Council had been keeping an eye out for suitable office space that offered more room and was accessible to mobility-challenged community members. Not only does the new location offer both of these advantages, it also will provide an office for Lucas Hunt, Council Coordinator for the Rickreall and Glenn Gibson Watershed Councils.

“We are excited to be more visible and more accessible to everyone in our community!” - Kristen Larson, Executive Director

The new building is located a short ways down the road at 165 D Street, and used to be a railway depot for the now defunct Valley and Siletz Railroad. Interestingly, the LWC has another indirect intersection with the history of this railway via our Side Channel Reconnection Project. One of the first steps to restore a natural meandering

Moving, continued from page 1

portion of mainstem Luckiamute River involved the removal of a portion of the old Valley and Siletz Railroad berm that prevented fish from utilizing valuable off-channel habitat. You can read more about this project and view some time-lapse footage of the river channel's transformation at LuckiamuteLWC.org/upper-luckiamute-side-channel-reconnection-project.

In fact, the construction and operation of the Valley and Siletz Railroad has impacted much of the work that we do today in the upper parts of the Luckiamute watershed. The railroad was built in 1912 to connect Independence to Valsetz, a now-abandoned logging community in the Coast Range just west of Falls City. During railway construction, parts of the Luckiamute River were straightened, disconnected and made impassable to juvenile salmon and trout. Additionally, splash-damming was used to ease the transport of timber downstream — but also scoured the river of its large wood and gravel, reducing the river floor to bare bedrock in many places. As the Luckiamute Watershed Council settles into its new headquarters, we'll continue to work with landowners to reverse some of the unintended consequences of these historical practices associated with the Valley and Siletz.

We also welcome you to stop by anytime to check out this part of our local history, talk about your hopes for the watershed, discuss any project ideas you might have, and share your experiences and knowledge with us. Our office phone number is the same, so feel free to call us at 503-837-0237 before stopping by to make sure we are not out in the field. Our own hope for this move is that our new location will inspire a fresh look at our role in the community, and help us get even better at engaging all of our stakeholders in watershed conservation. Stay tuned for an invitation to our Open House party later this summer to celebrate our big move!



The new LWC office location features a little bit of local railroad history!



A view of the old Valley-Siletz Railroad berm at our Side Channel Reconnection Project site.

Become a FRIEND OF THE LWC!

What does it mean to be a **FRIEND OF THE LWC?**

- ◆ Regular “Behind the Scenes” Bulletins
- ◆ Early access to event registration
- ◆ Discounts on workshops
- ◆ Knowing that you are helping improve the health of your watershed!

Ready to Join?

Find out how at

LuckiamuteLWC.org/Friends

We also welcome donations* to support the work of the Council. All charitable donations will be used towards building the organizational resources needed to address our goals of water quality enhancement, habitat restoration and community education.

**Your contribution may be tax-deductible. The LWC will provide a letter of documentation in January 2019, following your donation.*

Upcoming Council Meetings

Join us for Council Monthly Meetings, held the second Thursday of each month from 7 — 9 p.m. Our meetings are always open to the public and discussion topics include local watershed issues and actions. For details, please visit our web site at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org.

****No Meeting Scheduled for July****

Aug. 9, 2018: Monmouth Volunteer Hall

Sept. 13, 2018: Location TBD

To donate, go to www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate or you can send a check to:

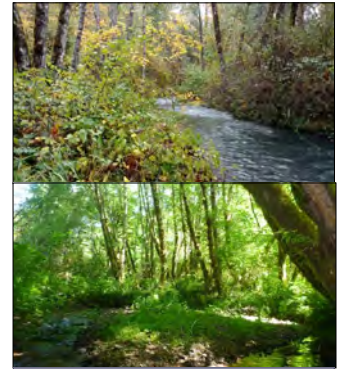
165 D Street, Independence, OR 97351

Thank you to our supporters!

Watershed Restoration Update

This month, we are starting riparian (streamside) restoration projects along two Luckiamute tributaries. Both of these projects are focused on sites that were indentified by NetMap — a new watershed mapping and analysis tool — as having the potential to be excellent salmonid habitat. For our Maxfield Revegetation project, we are working with multiple funders, project partners and eight landowners along Maxfield Creek to restore the health of a two mile stretch of this creek and 26.5 acres of neighboring riparian forest by removing invasive species, planting native trees and shrubs, and equipping the landowners themselves with the tools and knowledge they need to protect their creek's health beyond the project's lifespan.

For the Upper Ritner Creek Splash Dam Recovery Project, we are working with Hancock Forest Management and the Bureau of Land Management to remove invasive reed canary grass, install large wood structures and plant native conifers along 2.1 miles of Ritner Creek. Stay tuned for more details about both projects in the coming months!



Both Maxfield (top) and Ritner (bottom) creeks lack large conifers, which contribute woody debris essential to salmonid habitat.

Order your plants for Benton SWCD's 2019 Native Plant Sale NOW!

Pre-order from June 4, 2018 through July 4, 2018, and pick up on February 23, 2019!

Details can be found at www.bentonswcd.org/programs/plant-sale/

Getting Ready for the Independence-Monmouth Grand Parade!

For the past four years, the Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) and Polk Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) have been teaming up to put together a grand finale for the annual Fourth of July parade. Aiming to inspire on-lookers to keep trash out of the streets and streams of our watershed, parade volunteers carry color-coded trash bags ready to receive any litter and recyclables along the 3.3 mile route. For the past couple of years, we've even stepped it up a notch with Claudia Chinook, our 14-foot-tall clean water ambassador, and live banjo music by Jim Reams!

Those who live along the parade route are especially grateful for the help in keeping their yards and sidewalks a lot cleaner than in the years past. Volunteers, in turn, appreciate having a positive impact on stream health, and enjoying a couple of hours being a near-celebrity! The cheering crowds and the eagerness with which the littlest spectators rush up to offload their handfuls of empty candy wrappers never fails to put a smile on everyone's faces. As one 2017 volunteer told us afterwards, *"I thought I'd change it up and be in the parade this year instead of just on the sidelines, but I had no idea how much fun it would be!"*

Are you ready to join in the fun this year? You can sign up to walk with us for the whole 3.3 mile route, or join us for just part of the route—you decide. Just head to our parade volunteer sign-up form at LuckiamuteLWC.org/grand-parade-volunteer. You can also contact Outreach Coordinator Suzanne Teller at 503-837-0237 or outreach@luckiamutelwc.org.



Our youngest volunteers are ready to help spread the word about keeping our streets and streams clean!



Our 2017 Grand Parade entry featured live banjo music, straight from the fish's mouth!

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Whether you have contributed your hard-earned dollars to our watershed conservation goals, or your time and energy to an outreach event or planning meeting, *THANK YOU!* Our supporters are at the heart of what we do and why, and we cannot achieve results without their contributions and hard work. In our Winter issue, we thanked all the charter members of *Friends of the LWC*, so here are the names of all our 2018 donors and volunteers so far. We appreciate you all, and look forward to expanding this list over the next six months!

2018 Donors

Dave & Sarah Ehlers*
 McMenamins Corvallis Pub
 Dave & Heidi Schmidt*
 Tom Hewes & Audrey Perkins*
 Mark Hazelton & Evelyn Hukari*
 Judy Maule*
 Pat & Andrea Melendy*
 Anonymous Donors*
 Michael Cairns & Gail Oberst*
 Hollis & Charles Holstine*
 Paul Landry*
 Judy Beebe*
 David & Peggy Clyne*
 Mark & Marcella Henkels*
 David Hibbs & Sarah Karr*
 Boy Scout Troop #38
 Carol Reams

2018 Volunteers

Gail Arkley*
 Ken Bierly
 Rob & Erin Burns*
 Jay Charland
 Erin Cunningham
 Dave & Sarah Ehlers*
 Dan & Kathy Farnworth*
 Douglass Fitting*
 Karen Hans*
 Mark Hazelton*
 Hollis Fishelson-Holstine*
 Joel Geier*
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 Lori Reed*
 Rochelle Regutti
 Sharon Safina*
 Teresa Schmidt*
 Scott Snedaker
 Karin Stutzman*
 John Westall*
 Teagen Whisler
 Tom Wilson*

**Friends of the LWC, Charter Member*

Not a Charter Member yet? There's still time! Head to LuckiamuteLWC.org/Friends and join for 2018!



*Your Land. Your Rivers. Your
 Community. Your Watershed.*

Luckiamute Watershed Council

165 D Street
 Independence, Oregon 97351

Phone: 503-837-0237

www.LuckiamuteLWC.org

Executive Director: [Kristen Larson](#)

Outreach Coordinator: [Suzanne Teller](#)

Monitoring Coordinator: [Caleb Price](#)

Project Manager: [Jean-Paul Zagarola](#)