



Luckiamute Watershed Council Board Meeting

November 10, 2022 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Hybrid (Zoom, Indy Commons)

Attendance

Board: Karin Stutzman, Dave Ehlers, Britton Castor, George Grosch, Scott Youngblood, Jay Tappen

Staff: Kristen Larson, Maya Cook, Amanda Brackett

Guests: Sharon Safina, Henry Dygert, Judy Maule

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – David Ehlers

Introductions

October 13, 2022, Minutes – **APPROVED**

Public Comments – New Director at PSWCD is a Luckiamute Watershed Resident

Mission Moments:

George: Toured Thyme Garden property, doing a lot of restoration work. Salmon is back after salmon reconnection, staging ponds, no knotweed. They're happy to do tours, and they do special events with luncheons, dinners, etc.

Summary of 2021 Stream Temperature Monitoring Results – Amanda Brackett, LWC Monitoring Coordinator

29 stations were monitored in 2021, but this talk will focus on only a couple of sites. 2021 may be an indicator of what future climate effects may be.

Sheythe & Clayton creeks: NetMap analysis listed as good habitat but potentially temperature-limited. Our data show mostly below 18C threshold for 7-day moving average of temperature maximums. Temperatures did cross over during the major heat events (both the bad heat dome in June & 2 smaller heat waves in August). Comparison with 2020 was similar, but 2021 was more extreme.

Maxfield creek: of 4 shaded sites, 2 dewatered in 2021, so the large spikes are actually showing air temperatures. In 2020& 2021, there was a lot of warming between P23 & P14 – 2 degrees in a very short distance. Again, similar to patterns in other years, but 2021 saw more extremes, including 1 additional dewatering vs. 2020. Near P14, the creek gets a lot of direct sun, also some temporary ponding (current theory is grandkids building rock dams for swimming holes).

Plunkett creek: NetMap also listed this creek as temperature limited. Last year the mouth dewatered so it's hard to tell what's happening later in season, but it generally stays below 18C threshold (except heat dome & waves). We previously thought it was cool enough, but since it didn't stay cool enough in 2021, may need to reconsider. The 2020 monitor stayed below 18C all summer, but went up to 17.6C a few times.

- Discussion about location: near culvert project, ODOT monitoring. Mostly farmland on that stretch. Forested at the monitor (Herb Crew's place). There's a logger at the mouth, first put in 2021 & dewatered. This year it didn't so we'll have better data once that's evaluated.

Heat Dome Data:

- All sites average 16.6C before. At peak, average max 20.4C – average 3.8 degrees warming in that week. All sites had higher average rise in minimum than maximum (P13 was the most extreme). Warmer night temps - losing important low minimums - is particularly concerning because salmonids can't get refuge at night. Will be re-analyzing past data & look at susceptibility to heat events, options for improvement, etc.

Discussion:

2008-2011: steelhead identified in 2009, lost some land access in 2010. Haven't surveyed since. Salmonid detection doesn't change water rights.

George: How much data? Some monitoring stations have up to 5 years of data. How does having this data impact our decision making? Can be used to justify project scoping & development on those reaches. The 2021 data show sites that are showing signs of stress & borderline temps that make us reconsider whether to take action there.

Britton: Do photos help? It's hard to tie temp to effectiveness measures. Canopy at the site can be part of it, but also an issue of scale. Not just over the logger, but the reach above the logger. We're trying to look at multiple scales at once & the effects on stream temps regionally, locally, upstream, etc.

- We made a choice to not monitor effectiveness, because it's a lot to tease out. Lots of orgs with more money than we have have given up. We look at status & trends & how we define our priorities. That's what we can handle & what OWEB wants, so that's our current approach.

Scott: Measure ambient air temp in relation to water changes would be interesting. Amanda planning to see what we can learn from available weather station reporting. We have some extra loggers, some low on battery, but could record air less frequently to see how local temps compare to regional. Trade off on the most data for the least effort & where there's enough granularity to make it worthwhile.

- On Dave's site, Caleb monitored air & water temps in 2020 and/or 2021. Temps there followed the same curves. Mostly the air makes the temp unless there's a seep lowering the temps.
- Position in the reach – downstream = more lag – can also affect the relationship.

Executive Committee Updates – Dave Ehlers

- ACTION ITEM: *Re-elect George Grosch to a 3-year term on the Board. Re-election APPROVED* by consensus.
- Annual officer elections coming in December, review roles & process (Attachment B).
 - George is currently President & Treasurer, VP is vacant (OR law doesn't require it), Karin is Secretary. Officer positions are 1 year terms. One person may hold more than 1 position, but not all of them. See Bylaws for more detailed process.
 - Tonight we discuss Officer roles & processes. For the next month, board members may nominate (or self-nominate) by notifying Kristen.

The primary time commitment for President & Secretary is participation in monthly Executive Committee meeting. Rotating facilitation means those facilitators also attend EC meeting for their 2-month rotation. Treasurer chairs the Finance Committee meetings & presents status to the board.

- Continuing the 2023 meeting schedule and rotating facilitator schedule; add new members
 - Once Dave finishes, we'll have completed a full cycle. Jay & Nick should sign up for Jan-Feb or Mar-Apr. **Kristen will** email & choose first-come first-serve. Hoping to map out the entire year by the end of December, if possible.

George would prefer to stay Treasurer & let someone else chair. The facilitation rotation is working for everyone & there's an interest in continuing it.

Karin is interested in chairing as long as rotating facilitation continues. Open to stepping down from Secretary if someone else is interested.

Project Review Committee (PRC) Annual Report to the Board – Scott Youngblood

PM & MC review upcoming projects, address goals & outcomes in strategic plan. Meet quarterly.

Key challenges:

- keeping members, as plates are full, jobs change, etc.
- scheduling technical speakers (finding people who have cool things to share but aren't crazy busy). Scott is always hunting for speakers. Vanessa Youngblood can talk about invasives. IAE looking at some interesting topics like Ash replacement.

- We need a small grant team rep [Kristen described how small grant process works]. Not a huge time commitment, lots of different people have taken on the role. Hoping to have the new RPM take it on.
- Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership: JP & Suzanne will update in December board meeting.
- Landowner Stewardship Guide – looking forward to getting this developed and using it.
- Paddle Trip planning for summer, PRC and/or Board. Scott has 16 canoes, let's use them. Everyone has lots of spare canoes & kayaks.

Note: PRC membership document uses Dave's old email. **Maya will update to current address.**

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Statement Development – Dave Ehlers

- Review latest version and external reviewer feedback (*Attachment D*)
- Evolution of the document through core group & now Maria Chavez-Haroldson's comments that have moved us closer to a good final product. Kerry has received the document but hasn't had a chance to review because they just had their big event.

Discussion

George: read some of Maria's comments, appreciates Maya's efforts collecting & integrating thoughts & comments. Grateful for the commitment & engagement in the work.

Britton: it's a beautiful document, good comments, noted some of the full comments got cut off toward the end. Kristen brings up the document to show. Touching on the negativities rather than framing positively was our big weakness & her suggestions are a big improvement.

Kristen: Staff reviewed & there are some grammatical suggestions, but they're minor.

Note: Maria has requested that we donate in lieu of consulting fee to a scholarship fund she's involved with.

Finance Committee & Treasurer Report – George Grosch

September 2022 Financial Reports (*Attachment E*) all is well. We're still spending, but sustainably & we're in a good position.

At 75% of the year (9/30), we're at 90% of ops budget (new hiring, onboarding, COLA). Resolution to approve Ops overages coming in December.

Budgeting for 2023 process is delayed due to new hire & payroll transition, so in December, FC will recommend extending current level of funding into Q1 2023, with budget ready to review in Feb (March backup if needed).

Reimbursements are coming soon from OWEB, ODA, & others. Just a lot of paperwork to get done.

In July, OWEB amended capacity grant agreement to increase \$17k. BLM monitoring grant (OWEB money) for \$48k. ODA grant for ag-centric grant for MWBP will be \$37k upfront.

Financial Report: **ADOPTED**

Executive Director Update – Kristen Larson

Monthly Activity Report/ Minutes Highlights (*Attachment F*)

- Staff COLA adjustments covered in Finance Committee report. Long discussion about the role of ED around setting salary for staff with regard to across the board adjustments rather than individual evaluations. Currently not specified that it requires review. Policy gives ED authority at this time.
 - Recognized need to separate out pay policies & processes vis COLA in January & Performance review at employee anniversary. Cascade employers will consult re policies, laws, etc.
- Met with Katherine Alexander at Straub Outdoors about environmental ed & EDI. Will be incorporated into strategic planning conversations around outreach, EDI, youth, etc. She's less interested in breaking into Central School District than pre-covid (too much on their plates with covid pivots).
 - Scott's people have worked with Straub; there may be some opportunities to partner at LSNA
- Interviewed another RPM candidate, references checked. If offer falls through, we'll have to re-post
- Payroll transition is moving along. Lots of IT steps & field mapping to do. Goal is to be ready for time tracking on December 1 (there may be some overlap at first, depending, because the spinning plates are also juggling balls).

- 3 major projects Kristen was very involved in:
 - knotweed work transition to Aubrey & getting him up to speed,
 - managing SF Pedee culvert project,
 - upper Maxfield large wood placement
 - Graham roughed up old road bed to help with reveg;
 - Aubrey found an old illegal dump site full of appliances, tires, cars, etc. Kristen is working with Coffin Butte & timber co on covering the cost of removal. Graham is also helping pull it all out.
- Starker got notice from ODF that the slide at Harris creek is still sliding & unstable, so occasional turbidity.

Board recruitment question:

- 2 people interested in potentially joining the board - they bring skills and networks, etc, but are more middle-aged white men. With our intention to diversify the board, what are thoughts?
 - Karin: volunteers are hard to find, we should take what we can get. Foolish to turn anyone away. Still plenty of room on the board to continue to grow.
 - Britton: if board members are doing most of the recruiting, we’re probably going to get more of the same. How to expand network & extend outreach, plus change our cultural operations to be more welcoming.
 - Dave: demographics in Oregon: 6% Asian, around 3% each of Native and Black populations. No specific demographics on Latinx (Kristen says this area is higher than state average - around 45% of Central SD) so there are clearly folks. Can we reach out to Tribes, OSU, Linn-Benton, & further, looking for recommendations.
 - Henry: work with kids organizations to introduce to watershed processes & get them interested in STEM fields. Involving more local teachers on our board, check in with lots of places, they may also have recommendations for people to talk to.
 - Britton: we need some urban M-I board representation. Stormwater project may help.
 - We’ve previously had the opposite problem, so location is less of a concern
 - George: it’s good to have new people, and help with short-term capacity issues, but we must focus on our responsibility in EDI statement to find and invite participation & learn about what prevents volunteers? “If it’s to be, it’s up to me” – we have to put the time & energy into doing it intentionally and consistently.
 - Dave: keep in mind we don’t just need STEM people, we need marketing, HR, creative, financial, etc.
 - George: some of what we need is to understand how different communities look at problems.
 - Kristen: we have to stay mindful of showing up from curiosity and interest, not just transactional “what’s in it for me”.
- **Kristen will** use this conversation to bring up new directional points at EC & next board meeting & look at ways to spread the work & build network.

Important dates coming up – please mark your calendars!

Day, Date	Time	Event
Wednesday, November 16	1 – 2pm	Governance Committee (GC) meeting
Monday, November 28	4 – 5:30pm	Finance Committee (FC) meeting
Tuesday, November 29	3 – 5 pm	Executive Committee (EC) meeting*
Thursday, December 1	5:30 – 7:30pm	Project Review Committee (PRC) meeting
Saturday, December 3	2:30 – 4pm	Ash Creek Anthology Book Release & Fundraiser, Spiritopia
Saturday, December 3	4pm	River Poems book release party & fundraiser, The Valkyrie
Tuesday, December 6	1 – 2pm	EnO Committee
Thursday, December 8	6 - 8pm	LWC Board Meeting (Facilitator – Dave)
Wednesday, December 13	3 – 4:30pm	Fundraising Committee (FRC) meeting
Wednesday, December 14	6:30 – 8pm	Sips ‘n’ Science @ The Sippery; History of Fire in the Basin

*EC meetings are flexible and subject to change depending on needs of upcoming Board meeting facilitator

Projects

<i>Application Pending</i>	<i>Design & Permits</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Maintenance & Monitoring</i>	<i>Notes</i>
OWEB Technical Assistance for Project Development on behalf of MVRC (LWC is applicant) ¹		REVEG: LSNA Phases IV & V, MMT MW "LP3" Reveg & Fencing, Maxfield Creek Reveg, S. Fork Pedee, Upper Ritner RCG, J2E, Expand the Benefit Site 2 (Little Lucki)	REVEG: LSNA Phases I - III; Upper Luckiamute Phases I & II; Fencing/Reveg; Ash Creek; Expand the Benefit Site 1 (Luckiamute)	1 – Awarded Oct. 25. Waiting for grant agreement.
OWEB Good Neighbor (BLM) additional Temp. Monitoring funding ²		IN-STREAM: Upper Maxfield Restoration, S. Fork Pedee Upper Culvert (BLM-led)	Instream Projects: Maxfield Creek Phase II, Side Channel, Bridge Piers Modification; Upper Price Creek, Wolf Creek, Upper Ritner, S. Fork Pedee, J2E, LSNA Ph. 4 (Floodplain Recxn), Upper Luckiamute Large Wood Placement	2 – Funded. Grant agreement in processing.
OWEB Organizational Collaboration Grant (MWBP, Calapooia WC is applicant) ³		Love Your Watershed Program (EnO committee)	OWEB TA - NetMap Modelling and Field Surveys & MW Culvert Assessment	3 – Awarded at OWEB July 26-27 Board meeting. CWC working on grant agreement
Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Support Grant (on behalf of LWC & MRWC, sub-cohort of MWBP) ⁴		OWEB TA + SE Proposals: Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership		4 – Funded. Grant agreement in processing.
OWEB Small Grant – Lower Luckiamute Floodplain Forest Enhancement (north of LSNA on private property) ⁵		Luckiamute Basin Knotweed Control		5 – Submitted Nov. 7. Review team meeting week of Nov. 14 – 18.