



Luckiamute Watershed Council Board Meeting

December 8, 2022 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., via Zoom

Board Members: Britton Castor, Dave Ehlers, George Grosch, Karin Stutzman

Staff: Ross Hiatt, Kristen Larson, Suzanne Teller

Presenter / Guest: Jean-Paul Zagarola (Bonneville Environmental Foundation)

Minutes: Maya Cook

MEETING MINUTES

Introductions

November 10, 2022, Minutes APPROVED

Mission Moments:

Karin: Seeing a growing herd of elk (counted 185 the other day) in her area - now trucks are stopped up & down the side of the road. Also saw a black bear on trail cam gorging on apples (evidence it also threw some up later).

Kristen: Last Saturday at Spiritopia, Ben Gorman spoke about the Ash Creek poems project & how since then he sees students now noticing litter & stopping friends from littering. Writing about the creek has changed the way students think about it and respond to it.

Scott: The world is changing – met with group of Greenspring farm managers & all of them thought it was a great idea for State Parks to own neighboring property. Nice to have their support.

J.P.: Went out on Upper Lucki with Amanda today to do monitoring & saw a beautiful spawning bed behind one of the structures!

---Recording at 6:15pm---

Presentation: Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership Updates

Tons of updates since last time update (March 2022), lots to go over

Stakeholder Analysis & Habitat Assessment (J.P.)

- Using well-developed tool at Utah State, Beaver Restoration Assessment Tool (BRAT). Less often used here than in intermountain west. Examines dam density capacity for each reach. Not much background needed to help us collect data.
 - Recent update allows integration of other data sets & field data to field verify predictive model.
 - Can predict where dams could cause conflict
 - ID conservation area low hanging fruit
 - See where small action could spur more dam building

Step 1: was to run the model before collecting field data. Blue & green would be higher density, to lower density in red. Foothills expect most dam building.

Step 2: Last summer & next, field verification. Summer 2022 had 4 interns, 3 were from OSU's New Beginnings for Tribal Students program. Went to stream reaches in 2 pairs managed by LWC & MRWC.

- July 2022 workshop to discuss preliminary results & do initial training. Great results: surveyed over 50, plus Staff & ODFW help.
- Next summer, we need to do finish up foothills & focus on agricultural areas.
- Ag water quality grant:



- conduct prelim assessment, plus habitat data, stakeholder engagement surveys to create beaver management plans for focus sub-watersheds.

Stakeholder Engagement (Suzanne)

Land use & land management can affect opinions on beavers, so we need to know what a variety of stakeholders think to effectively approach & engage.

New approach (for us): Community-based social marketing (CBSM). Removing barriers to behaviors & enhancing benefits to adopting. Contracted assistance from Action Research & Doug McKenzie Mohr.

- In-depth interviews, focused groups, mailed surveys
- 13 Interviews: industrial timber, larger ag producers (grass, orchards, ranchers), Public Works depts.
 - Few recorded beaver-related issues.
 - Our language of coexistence isn't the same as theirs. They "coexist" by responding to existing problem. Affects our messaging so we're understanding each other.
 - Those who do trap were reluctant to talk about. They don't want to, but sometimes have to. So trapping isn't generally first choice.
 - Main barriers to coexistence techniques (beaver deceivers & other discouragement behaviors) – cost, lack of time, lack of confidence that they would work
- 2 Focus Groups: Non-lethal coexistence (7 ppl), Trap & remove (4 ppl)
 - Both groups have almost universal appreciation for beavers.
 - Barriers: cost, time, lack of information about what can be done & what works
 - Strong desire for 1-stop shop for beaver coexistence resources
- 1600 letter Mail-out Survey: pre-notification, survey, follow-up, and additional survey to anyone who didn't return. We got about 400 back, which was our target for strong results.
 - Questions: how often beavers encountered, overall concerns, response, prevention methods, preferred mode of information, trusted sources
 - Findings: not very many beaver interactions, primary concerns are wildfire & drought, lack of information about coexistence techniques (what, how, how much) – again wanted 1-stop source + mailed info. Top trusted source: ODFW & OSU Extension.
 - Correlation between conservation easement/project & interaction. Not sure whether it's just spending more time on land.
- Strategy development:
 - exploring pilot project ideas around public durable commitments (signs, postcards, etc.)
 - Website one-stop shop: exploring how to build, what will be included, good info, decision tree, opportunity for feedback.
 - Postcard A/B testing to see which messaging is more effective to hook users.
 - Up soon: Public Works focus groups in Jan/Feb. County Public Roads depts have a lot of experience. Value to get them in the same room to talk about challenges, strategies, etc.
 - Agricultural Producers Focus Group (from ODA funding) to focus on what messages they find most effective.
- Grants (J.P.):
 - OWEB Organizational Collaboration Grant: to formalize processes & build partnership structure with decision making processes & resource sharing guidelines. Might look at ways to more fluidly distribute funds



- Broad Reach Grant: website, community science habitat collection tool. New tool would be web-based & instantaneous without sending back to USU for re-evaluation
- NSF Research & Implementation proposal: how beaver dams impact terrestrial organisms. Highly competitive, our chances aren't great, but if we get it, it will be \$600-700k for implementation of beaver-based restoration projects.

Questions:

Will there be full time staff? Collaboration grant may decide. Not in the immediate future, but possibly somewhere down the road.

How can we enhance tribal relationships? How long will this relationship last? This is the first step in building relationships. Right now they're interested but participating as advisors. If we move into implementation, they've identified some good spots on tribal land to work on as part of collab & make sure we're inclusive & improving our communication, building stronger relationships.

- Clarifying point: important to use this language, "Staff Representatives from Natural Resources Departments of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde & Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians". Warm Springs is supportive but doesn't have staff capacity to engage yet.

Any protection laws coming for beavers? Are we going to do all this work only for them to get destroyed?

- Regulated as "predators" on private land, so they can be trapped as nuisance.
- ODFW beaver management working group to address trapping on federal lands, but not much came of it (may be some potential that those conversations will be revived). Led to good conversations about promoting beaver to address drought, wildfire, & climate change that might open the door to changes.
- Oregon Forest Accords – private timber & small woodlands treatment is in the process of change
- Another group has received funding to do BRAT across the state, & statewide beaver management plan & knowing where important areas are may lead to assigning special protections in those areas.
- All of this will lead to outreach & education that reduces killing = "social diffusion"

2023-24 LYW Theme: Beaver in the Basin!

Sips 'n' Science:

- Jan 25th Aubrey will talk about megafauna, including beavers
- February, Brian Bangs will do a big venue beaver talk for us (location TBD)

---Recording stopped at 7pm---

EDI

- Attachment B has Maria's recommendations
- Also received NAACP response:
 - wondering why BIPOC aren't named/called out & what do tribes think about not including them? They're interested in David Lewis' opinion on that exclusion.

Discussion:

- Generally happy with the direction it's going; how do we tie in NAACP comments?



- If you list some people, then you risk leaving someone out. By leaving it open ended, we're looking to be inclusive of LGBTQAI, people with disabilities, poor, age, discrimination, religion & everyone without fully inventorying intersectional existences. In the name of brevity, it works.
- Why don't we ask the people who brought it up? If we were to incorporate that, what would it look like? How do other groups approach this language?
- If you do name groups that have a long history of oppression, it shows that we're recognizing & taking action on what we're trying to address.
- If we decide not to include every community by name, maybe explain why at the end.
- Under the Why section, adding "systemic, historical oppression of BIPOC" might be a good spot to put it.
- Maybe add an "if we missed anyone" clause?
- Makes sense to talk to David Lewis & get his opinion.
- His point is more like, if this is what we're talking about, then let's just come out and say their names. Of course we're opposed to oppression & exclusion of anyone/everyone, but is it sea-lioning?
- David Harrelson of CTGR presented a Champifenu talk yesterday and discussed land acknowledgements, and how exhausting it is being asked to evaluate other people's acknowledgements. Particularly when it's empty words/box checking. So we might want to approach David gently & see if he'd mind/be interested before sending. **Suzanne will send him an email.**
 - Does David mind that he's been volunteered as an opinion? He's very busy, hard to get response by email.
 - Since we're really just asking for his opinion on naming/not naming BIPOC rather than evaluating the whole document, maybe it will be easier? Of course, "and any other feedback you feel like adding" as an option.
- Early iterations included it & there was a conversation about should we name anyone specifically or not?
 - Naming is powerful & important, maybe we should bring it back.
- Karin's friend is a CTGR member, has volunteered to talk about tribal issues, maybe we should pursue his input?
- To value their time, energy, & opinion, we should answer the direct question & find our right answer one way or another.

Acknowledgement & gratitude to J.P. for 9 years of hard work on LWC projects. We'll still be working together on beavers for a long time to come, but it's the end of an era.

Executive Committee Updates

Rotating facilitator schedule:

2023: Nick: Jan/Feb, Jay: Mar/Apr, George: May/Jun, Britton: Aug, Jackson: Sep/Oct, Scott: Nov/Dec
2024: Karin: Jan/Feb, Dave: Mar/Apr

ACTION ITEM: Call for officer nominations and elect officers for 2023

- George nominated Karin Stutzman for President – **APPROVED by consensus**
- Karin nominated George Grosch for Secretary and Treasurer – **APPROVED by consensus**
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Finance Committee & Treasurer Report

October 2022 Financial Reports: all is well. See Finance Committee minutes for more detail.

Operations going over we're at 96% budget at 83% into the year. The rules state that board has to approve overspending.

Also it won't be possible to build a proposed budget until January, so would like to continue 2022 spending rates while a new one is built and implemented.

ACTION ITEM: Spending resolution for extension and overage

Proposed Action:** Approve spending at the budgeted 2022 rate through March 31, 2023, allowing the Executive Director and Finance Committee time to prepare and review the 2023 Budget prior to adoption at the February Board 2023 meeting. **APPROVED by consensus

Proposed Action:** Approve spending in excess of the approved 2022 budgeted amount. This will raise the Operations portion of the budget by \$17,922 to a new total of \$61,744.20 in total through March. **APPROVED by consensus

Executive Director Update – Kristen Larson

- Delays with Ross because of waiting for background checks, finally went ahead without – then the results came through & all is well. He started today. Welcome Ross!
- Payroll transition is taking a long time, we're chipping away at it.
- Shared bed elevation monitoring Brackett diagrams (coming soon in Behind the Scenes newsletter). Great to be using the data we collected!
- OWEB Self-assessment overview and preparation: every 2 years. Tabling to January for Jay & Nick presence. Has to be finished before June & things ramp up in spring, but January is fine.
 - **Kristen will** send out Google survey. Anyone feel free to reach out with any questions.
 - What takes the most time is to build a collective answer out of different responses & prioritize top 4.

Other Topics/New Business

Spring paddle: which day of the week? → Working folks need weekend days.

Important dates coming up – please mark your calendars!

Day, Date	Time	Event
Tuesday, 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
Wednesday, December 21	1 – 2pm	Governance Committee (GC) meeting
Wednesday, December 28	3 – 5 pm	Executive Committee (EC) meeting*
Thursday, December 1	5:30 – 7:30pm	Project Review Committee (PRC) meeting
Tuesday, January 3	1 – 2pm	EnO Committee
Thursday, January 5	4 – 5:30pm	Finance Committee (FC), rescheduled
Tuesday, January 10	3 – 4:30pm	Fundraising Committee (FRC) meeting
Thursday, January 12	6 - 8pm	LWC Board Meeting (Facilitator – Nick)

*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. Grant agreement executed.
OWEB Good Neighbor (BLM) additional Temp. Monitoring funding ²		IN-STREAM: Upper Maxfield Restoratio1n, 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 executed.
OWEB Organizational Collaboration Grant (MWBP, Calapooia WC is grantee) 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. Grant agreement executed (CWC).
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 executed.
OWEB Small Grant – Lower Luckiamute Floodplain Forest Enhancement (north of LSNA on private property) ⁵		Luckiamute Basin Knotweed Control		5 – Recommended for funding. Grant agreement in processing.
Spirit Mountain Community Fund Letter of Interest (LYW Program) ⁶				6 – LOI submitted 12/5/2022.