



Luckiamute Watershed Council Board Meeting

January 12, 2023 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., via Zoom

Attendance

Board Members: Britton Castor, George Grosch, Nick Hazelton (facilitator), Jackson Stalley, Karin Stutzman, Jay Tappen, Scott Youngblood

Staff: Amanda Brackett (presenter), Maya Cook (minutes), Kristen Larson

Guests: Cliff Hall, Karen Hans – came for climate talk, but FYI her new job at Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) is to work with “Good Neighbor Authority” and help direct funds to local restoration groups like the LWC

MEETING MINUTES

Introductions

December 8, 2022 Minutes - APPROVED

Mission moments:

Nick: great to see lots of large logs on Ritner creek near Gage Rd.

Kristen: Large wood placement in 2018, lots of willow planted, lots of debris from recent storms, recent beaver activity

Presentation: Climate Change Models and What They Tell Us (and what they don't)

An overview of climate change model predictions for the Pacific Northwest and how to interpret them, by Amanda Brackett, Monitoring Coordinator

(Note: Amanda is moving on to an exciting new position and we're so grateful for the amazing work she's done to analyze data over the past year, and also we'll miss her personally.)

--Recording at 6:16 PM--

“All models are approximations – all are wrong, but some are useful”; we can gain some important information from them if we keep that in mind.

Most climate models are process based “general circulation models” using cells to represent area & uses mathematical physics to evaluate movement of energy between physical processes.

→ Not based on statistical relationships between events

How does climate modeling work?

1. Validation: “hindcasting” to run backward into the past & build average of variable simulations vs observed. Identifying the most accurate variables helps us hone better model scenarios into the future.
2. Once validated, predicting future climate: Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) feature heavily on IPCC reports that look how CO2 emission rate scenarios would average out. Most likely 4.5-6.0 PPM scenario based on available resources.



Model from Climate Toolbox showing changing conditions in Oregon:

Annual average temperature is already up 2°F. Summers expected to get warmer & drier. Greater increases in nighttime minimum temps than daytime maxima are of particular concern.

Interpreting box plots on variability:

- The box contains the middle 90% of model outcomes; lines above & below the box are 5% outliers.
- Uses median line instead of mean to avoid skewing.
- Boxes represent 30-year averages, so they can't/shouldn't be used to drill down to any individual year.
- Averaging conceals individual extreme data points
- Past year ranges show small boxes because there is more certainty. Future gets less certain, but also more variable.
- Future variability increases along with predicted temperatures, so boxes show a wider range of projections.

What can the model tell us?

- **More extremes:** both heat in summer & rainfall events in winter. There will still be cool years & hot years, but general trend toward hotter & drier.
- **Average Summer Minima:** relative increase is much greater than average maxima. This threatens past cold water refugia, impacting a lot of species; less cooling at night & fewer opportunities for temperature recovery at night upsets the dynamic equilibrium by both physically stressing the biotic system, and abiotic factors such as sediment transport and flow.
- **Moisture:** water temperatures are much more variable than air temperatures. Expect larger swings between wet & dry going forward.
- **What's lost in the system:** potential evapotranspiration (loss of plant & soil moisture) increasing drastically. As air temperature increases, it has a greater capacity to hold water molecules, and allows for more evaporation & transpiration.
- **Forested portions of watershed:** higher fire risk. Where weather previously prevented abundant fuels from burning, dryer periods will lead to more fires. Also expect increases in pathogens & tree mortality.
- **Change isn't just climate:** it's also global changes that affect pathogen lifecycles, species habitat ranges, etc.
- **For Agriculture:** shifts away from water-heavy crops as moisture regimes change, plus an increase in irrigation demand.

The upshot: less water in, more water out

- *What does it mean?* lower summer flows, higher winter flows, with larger decreases in flows in spring.
- *Negative Feedback Loop:* higher air & water temperatures lead to more evapotranspiration, reducing flows that lead to further temperature increases
- Highest impact on cold water aquatic species
- Models can't really predict exactly how ecosystems will respond – we can only make them as resilient as possible.



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Q&A and discussion re: potential impacts on the landscape, trends to increasing demand for on-site water storage for agricultural producers and potential impacts, impacts of increasing tiling in fields, and new topic of water banking. All very complex!

--Recording stopped at 7:08 PM--

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Statement Development – Nick Hazelton

Review latest version and feedback from tribal members David Lewis (Kalapuya scholar) & Mike Wilson (chair of Polk SWCD).

- Mike appreciated we didn't use BIPOC, because many tribal people don't identify with it and would rather choose specific tribal affiliation.
- David thought it was important to get more into details on specific events.
- Nick also shared with BIPOC friends, who appreciated it but thought it was a bit too long. There were some follow-up questions about specific how we'll implement & how would BIPOC go about becoming more involved?

Discussion: General agreement that there will always be differing opinions & we're happy with where it is right now, but any time we want to make changes, we can. The intention in not specifically calling out BIPOC was to avoid leaving anyone out, but it's important to acknowledge the harm done in our watershed and keep them in mind as we do the work.

Everyone expressed strong appreciation for how Suzanne changes her land acknowledgements each time in context.

Agree to move to next month's agenda & look at possible additions. Governance Committee can work on it & possibly build example non-public draft pages on website of resources & statement.

Possible additions:

- Action Item for annual statement review cycle to keep it evolving
- Continue having EDI topic at every monthly meeting
- Add a link to a resources page that shares the deeper stories of history as it relates to the LWC service area - broken treaties, black exclusion laws, Japanese internment, etc.

Executive Committee Updates – Nick Hazelton

ACTION ITEM: Re-elect Karin Stutzman to the Board for a 3-year term – APPROVED

ACTION ITEM: Rhythm Administrative Services (RAS) Contract RHAD 23-01 for 2023 -- APPROVED

- Referred from Finance Committee because RAS provides technical support, but the person who does the work is married to the Executive Director. To avoid conflict of interest, we evaluate annually. Kristen doesn't make the payment, which keeps a monetary firewall buffer.
- Kristen offered to leave for the discussion
- Karin: he knows us and our needs and Kristen is very good at keeping proper buffering.

Finance Committee & Treasurer Report – George Grosch

November 2022 Financial Reports – statement reviews found no material concerns.

- Significant jump in income due to previous billing activity.
- Large expenses from contract payouts.



- Down \$199k – fine because our \$255k equity/net assets keeps it balanced out as cash received in prior years is released for work in current year.
 - Kristen: Our FY is calendar year. There's a lag in processing by about a month & through committees, etc. At year-end there's additional processing. Temporary restricted access amount on the Statement of Financial Position is updated at year-end each year. Can't make changes until December is closed out & then we can update all the grant balances, journal entries, cash against future work, etc. Numbers in February Board meeting will be preliminary not final.

Executive Director Update – Kristen Larson

Starting community dialogues, next steps – broadening networks & diversifying board/committee recruitment.

- In terms of EDI goals, we're at the point of establishing points of contact & starting open dialogues to build relationships.
- How can we engage with different individuals & organizations in long term ways that earn trust? Who else is out there?
- Kristen provided a quick (not necessarily complete) list of who we've connected with in the past & who we know is out there.

Discussion:

George: how do we start? What do we ask?

Dave: these are the action items we need! We have the opportunity to establish relationships & find out what people need from us. A good map. Willing to build relationships with NAACP & Letitia Carson Legacy Project (LCLP).

George: would be great to make ties to LCLP land. Learn more about what her life was like on the property, etc.

Monthly Activity Report/ Minutes Highlights

1. Busy with training & onboarding Ross, now transitioning Amanda out & hiring process.
2. Year-end wrap-up & 2023 budgeting
3. January: conflict-of-interest statement annually. Maya will be sharing via docusign over the next week or 2. Reach out with questions.
4. Starting to prep for March 5 LWC Social & celebration at Gentle House. FRC discussed potential health precautions that would make it somewhat less risky.
 - a. Looking to change name to something punchier
 - b. Would like contributions to potluck and/or chocolate competition. Watch for sign-up sheet coming soon.
 - c. Respect people's health needs & boundaries
5. June 24 is the big paddle day
6. OWEB Self-assessment 5 of 8 have completed (thanks!), need the rest to finish in time for Executive Committee to review.

Cliff: appreciated meeting & Amanda's presentation. Will follow up with Kristen.



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Karin update: circling back on mentioned grant for reducing toxics in Columbia River Basin, DEQ lead applicant & taking different route than expected by ODA. Taking abstracts to come up with application (max \$7 mil, but \$13 mil worth of interest) for stormwater & maximizing reduction of toxics in the Willamette.

Important dates coming up – please mark your calendars!

Day, Date	Time	Event
Wednesday, January 18	1 – 2pm	Governance Committee (GC) meeting
Wednesday, January 25	7 – 8:30pm	Sips ‘n’ Science, West Valley Taphouse, RSVP required
Monday, January 30	4 – 5:30pm	Finance Committee (FC)
Tuesday, January 31*	3 – 5 pm	Executive Committee (EC) meeting
Thursday, February 2	3 – 4:30pm	Fundraising Committee (FRC) meeting (<i>tentative shift to 1st Thursday recurring schedule</i>)
Tuesday, February 7	1 – 2pm	EnO Committee
Thursday, February 9	6 - 8pm	LWC Board Meeting (Facilitator – Nick)

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

Projects

Application Pending	Design & Permits	Implementation	Maintenance & Monitoring	Notes
OWEB Small Grant – Lower Luckiamute Floodplain Forest Enhancement (north of LSNA on private property) 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 – Recommended for funding. Grant agreement executed.
Spirit Mountain Community Fund Letter of Interest (LYW Program) ²		IN-STREAM: Upper Maxfield Restoratio1n, S. Fork Pedee Upper Culvert (BLM-led)	<u>Instream Projects:</u> 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 – LOI submitted 12/5/2022. Notice 1/9/2023, not accepted for full application.
ODA Weed Board Grant – MVRC Knotweed Control (LWC is applicant on behalf of MVRC) ³		Love Your Watershed Program (EnO committee)	OWEB TA - NetMap Modelling and Field Surveys & MW Culvert Assessment	3 – Submitted 12/15. Notice in Feb. 2023
		OWEB TA + SE Proposals: Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership		



		Luckiamute Basin Knotweed Control		
		OWEB Technical Assistance for Project Development (MVRC Regional TA grant)		