



# Luckiamute Watershed Council Board Meeting

## February 9, 2023 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., via Zoom

### Attendance

**Board:** Britton Castor, Dave Ehlers, George Grosch, Nick Hazelton, Jackson Stalley, Jay Tappen, Karin Stutzman

**Staff:** Aubrey Cloud, Maya Cook (minutes), Kristen Larson

**Guest:** Phil Sollins (OSU professor emeritus & former Marys River WC board member)

### Call to Order & Introductions

#### January 12, 2023, Minutes APPROVED

### Public Comments:

Phil went to the Post-fire Research and Monitoring Symposium at OSU, Feb. 7-9 where a lot of Watershed Councils & other organizations were in attendance. Happy to loop us in for the next thing that comes up. Several LWC Board members are involved in emergency / fire response and / or woodland management and are interested in the topic.

### Announcements:

Jay noted in FRC that OSU extension is doing some neat things & would like to know how to build more involvement & relationships there & across OSU. Would like to know about contacts or ideas to build that.

Phil: At conference, met wildfire specialists who are supposed to be involved with outreach at the county level. There's a new person in Corvallis for Benton & Polk. **Phil will** reach out to let her know we're interested.

Kristen: misunderstood the intention, thought it was about finding a link for LYW fundraising – linking LWC theme of Beavers in the Basin for 2023 and 2024 and OSU Beaver mascot. Did you mean more technical?

Jay: initially fundraising, but thinking about it, there's more opportunity beyond fundraising. Haven't been to meetings & don't know connections & discussions, so just curious about how it could be expanded.

Dave: on stakeholder advisory committee on McDonald-Dunn Forest & have been talking about beaver & habitat in forests, definitely being looked at by the university. Did ask about restoration work, & they're talking about Private Forest Accords (PFA), widening buffers & improve habitat. Beavers at the top with regard to management plan.

### Mission Moments:

Dave: Aubrey came out to help organize 14k plants. He was great & Dave is enjoying getting to know & work with him since J.P. stepped down.

Kristen: Aubrey deserves huge kudos for taking on all the reveg while training Ross during J.P.'s transition.

George: recently signed grant agreement for 80k trees between Feb-Mar 15. Wow! Are they paid well?

Aubrey: Quotas for planters of appx 1200/person/day. We use folks who pay living wage.

*(recording started 6:23 PM)*

### 2022 Annual Projects Report, Presented by Kristen Larson & Aubrey Cloud

Projects fall into 3 major categories:

1. **Under implementation** (orange): construction, big interplanting, etc. We did a lot in 2022

LSNA Phase V - one of our most successful restoration plantings ever.

- Focus on North Tract, all is doing well, well established
- 60-acre field turned over to restoration from leasing. Got funding via NAWCA & prepped for more floodplain forest reveg.
- Planted 155k plants. Growing, looking great. LSNA already the largest contiguous floodplain forest, but this makes it even bigger! Based on 1 acre = 50lb carbon sequestered/year heuristic, it will be broadly 2000lb/year once mature.

Knotweed - 22 river miles of knotweed treated; another very successful, long running project. Most knotweed is on main stem Lucki, with only one tributary known to be infested. Main funding ran out, but we've tracked down some new ones from BLM, ODA to continue the work

- About 90% participation, which is great. Have had a couple of landowners along upper mainstem – not wanting to participate due to concerns around herbicide use. Creates source material for downstream infestations. BUT in 2022, Aubrey successfully recruited them for a modified treatment. It's time-intensive, but very thorough with minimal pesticide use. He innovated on the fly, & now we know how long it takes, which will help us project time & expenses going forward.
- Teal Creek – only known trib with heavy infestation. Paddle surveys have enabled us to get a clear picture of density & distribution and influence of Teal on the Little Lucki. Nearly all dense infestations are below Teal confluence. Outreach to recruit landowner access.

Upper Maxfield Creek – yet another long-running project; a NetMap high priority for salmonid habitats.

- Lower Maxfield in active revegetation. This year we did in-stream implementation of new wood structures, new locations for large wood placement (LW), roughed up previously decommissioned roads for planting, removed illegal dump materials just below BLM property, & seeded. Next: site prep for riparian reveg, blackberry removal, conifer enhancement (future sources of LW).

South Fork Pedee Creek – past projects include riparian revegetation & monitoring.

- Upper culvert replacement in 2022. Road there owned by Hancock, so there was a lot of cooperation. BLM funded via OWEB, and Graham Trask worked really hard for us. Fun to watch the sediment plug continue to come apart & exciting to see what happens over the next couple of years.
- Up next: monitor changes upstream, assess future needs, continue downstream monitoring. A little bit of funding left to make some fancy time lapse videos.

## 2. **Stewardship** (green), moving on to plant establishment phase: 42 sites, 668 acres

Ash Creek – runs through Monmouth & Independence, the largest urban centers in watershed. Another long-running project; objective to control weeds & establish new plants over 12 acres. Weed control is going well, but deer browse has been a lot more severe than predicted.

- Experimenting with new strategies: deer repellent, non-palatable species (Oregon grape, coyote bush), Planted containerized trees & caged to build tree scaffolding to stabilize roof & preserve shade for other plants to established. Very successful so far, preparing to do more.

Expand the Benefit: Site 1 (of model watershed work): 10.5 acres planted along appx 1 mile of mainstem Lucki with max gain potential for shade. Concluding a wildly successful implementation.

- Up next: continued stewardship & monitoring (see below).

## 3. **In-development/future work** (purple): 2023 is a reconvene, plan, look ahead year.

Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership (MWBP) continuing – lots going on

LSNA neighbor to north needed help to improve his 7.1 acre CREP restoration. Got an OWEB small grant for interplanting & weed management

Mid-Valley River Connections (MVRC) shared grants: Technical Assistance (TA), knotweed

Expand the Benefit Site 2: restore & enhance riparian forest along Little Lucki. Retool, develop & improve habitat. Ross to start that project.

## **EDI Statement Development**

Incorporating language changes to how we recognize events that have affected specific communities. *Version A* shows previous statement version & *Version B* is revised to call out effects to BIPOC.

Feedback & discussion noted general preference for B, and:

Jackson: would like to spend more time with them to fully conclude. Would like to revisit next meeting. But also avoid analysis paralysis.

George: there's plenty of time to sort it out so that it feels right. Discussion is good!

Dave: prefers to remove part about state & fed governments from Why. We're all guilty, do we need to call out every perpetrator?

Britton: “the goal is not to catalog them here” feels dismissive, maybe better to exclude that here. Maybe shift to more positive phrasing? The goal is to acknowledge the past that continued to shape. Really likes the second paragraph. Maybe “while we acknowledge other groups have been affected, the history of forcibly...”

Nick: the resources section adequately names/recognizes specific people such that the Why can be more general.

Kristen: calling out in reference to our mission of landowner engagement & why our landowner demographic is what it is. We’re close, but there’s enough discomfort with spirit & tone to keep parsing.

(recording stopped 7:15pm)

### **Executive Committee Updates – Kristen Larson**

OWEB Biennial Self-assessment: 6 of 8 respondents. We can pause if other 2 want to contribute, but speak up because it was anonymous. No response. We’ll keep it open 2 more weeks; **Kristen will** send it out again.

- Process to have 1 collective answer per question. In some cases, a response garnered clear majority. In other cases, they’re evenly split – we have to pick a collective answer for those, deciding if we’re closer to one or the other. More votes might allow us to swing one way or another.

*Discussion:*

George: let’s make it easy: when in doubt, go with the lower answer because we’re improving.

Karin: you can’t max out skills. There’s always further to go.

- Choose & report the 4 of 29 areas we’re most interested in strengthening.
    - Kristen flagged priorities in 2019-21 & 2017-19 biennia for reference.
- George: suggest 4 priorities from your perspective & we’ll discuss it.

### **Finance Committee & Treasurer Report – George Grosch**

#### **December 2022 Preliminary Financial Reports**

Books not closed yet, but operationally we’re moving forward positively & have cash to cover upcoming expenses. We had our first \$1million year. Numbers will change by next meeting.

- Unbilled revenue: we’ve done the work & spent the money, but we haven’t done/can’t yet do the paperwork to get reimbursed.
  - We don’t account for that on a month-to-month basis, only at EOY. To tie revenue to FY, it gets entered on last of FY and then reversed in new FY, leaving us starting FY with negative revenue.
- Lots of new operations costs in 2022 – staff set up, equipment, laptops, furniture.

### **Board Recruitment Webinar Takeaways – Maya Cook**

Review of prepared summary: seminar was about how to diversify by age & improve board recruitment of younger members as a component of intersectionality, but it works for all kinds of diversifying.

- Time to dust off board matrix & update it, keep it fresh & in front of us
- Seems to dovetail with our engagement goals, so we can use this to help with recruitment efforts

*Discussion:*

Dave: get WOU student to sign up for a year, semester, quarter, etc. to sit in on meetings, etc.

Kristen: was on a career panel at WOU & professor asking about careers in sustainability & environment.

Mark Van Steter runs a sustainability club.

Karin: what about career fairs at OSU, Willamette, etc? Maybe help with interview coaching?

Kristen: Low return. Unless we have a job on offer, people aren’t interested. This panel was more about how to get experience & develop skills; those people were willing to volunteer.

Britton: There was a HS career fair in 11<sup>th</sup> grade at OSU (is it still?) they dress up, have resumes, & do mock interviews. Good opportunity to meet up with local kids.

Dave: we’re looking for board members. College students can come in for a year or 2 & help us with involvement & volunteering.

George: these are great, and they’re all outreach tasks – which is currently Suzanne at ¾ time. So it’s good plan & also to take it as we’re able.

Jackson: knows Mark, likes the possibility. They can even earn credit & might be interested in seeking work at Watershed Councils after graduation.

Kristen: Marys WC has a position for Hydrophiles liaison; we could try something similar with Mark’s club.

Phil: the last 2 Hydrophiles reps have become permanent board members

Karin: what other ways can we make it more tangible, e.g. small farms school for local communities in natural resources?

George: how about inviting people to paddles & similar to build community

### **Executive Director Update – Kristen Larson**

1. Major pileup of events: hiring & onboarding Ross, Amanda leaving/replacement process, end of year finances, etc. so, still no budget.
2. Gentle House changed rules on catering, so now we’re doing March 5 event at the GFWC Polk County space. Working on invites.
  - Will be sending out Sign-up Genius requesting board members contribute to potluck. Keeps costs low, informal, simple, fun, about community & gratitude.
  - Because of the competition, there are lots of chocolate dishes & no savory.
  - Will be indoors, so only come if you’re comfortable.
3. Selected by River Network for Urban Watershed Community Engagement program opportunity for cash & staff assistance to work with engaging community around climate change. Fits our Urban Watershed Program development perfectly. Will meet 1-2 times per month with lessons, templates, experience, etc.
  - They only fund 5-7 projects across the country; we weren’t really expecting to get it, but here we are.
  - It’s what we want, a great opportunity, but the timing is terrible. Would like board support to move ahead anyway.

*Discussion:*

Karin: do you have a community picked out already?

Kristen: In strategic plan, we talked about Ash Creek, so the initial thought was just Monmouth-Independence. BUT we just heard from Dallas Parks & Rec manager about Rickreall Watershed Council merger. So now there’s a question, do we include Dallas or not? Fortunately, that’s part of the process: they help us figure out who, frame the questions, etc. All of this work means we’ll be ready to hit the ground running on Urban Waters when we kick it off.

George: how are you going to fit it into your schedule? Who’s shouldering this load?

Kristen: Kristen, Suzanne, Kendra for documentation, researching hosting an Americorps volunteer.

***No objections raised to moving forward with River Network MOU.***

4. Rickreall WC reached out & would like to revive discussion about merging. Worth following up & talking it over – needs a couple of board members to meet with them & hear them out. Kristen will bring up with Jenniffer Bakke at Manulife meeting if it feels appropriate.
  - George and Nick interested in participating.
  - Britton interested, but schedule may not permit.
  - The process of could be big a big lift & we need to sort out our expectations.
  - **Kristen will connect on scheduling.**

### **Upcoming Meeting Issues**

- Need to reschedule May meeting to accommodate Kristen’s vacation. No objections.
- Need to pick a date for the July-Aug combined meeting.
- **Kristen will work on scheduling via email.**

#### **Important dates coming up – please mark your calendars!**

<b>Day, Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Wednesday, February 15	1 – 2pm	Governance Committee (GC) meeting
Thursday, February 23^	3 – 4:30 or 5pm	Finance Committee (FC), ^rescheduled
Thursday, February 23	6:30 – 8:00pm	Sips ‘n’ Science, New Morning Bakery, RSVP required
Monday, January 30	4 – 5:30pm	Finance Committee (FC)

Tuesday, February 28*	3 – 5 pm	Executive Committee (EC) meeting
Thursday, March 2	3 – 4:30pm	Fundraising Committee (FRC) meeting ( <i>regular schedule shifted to 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays</i> )
Thursday, March 2	5:30 – 7:30pm	Project Review Committee (PRC) meeting
Sunday, March 5	2 – 4pm	LWC Social and Celebration
Tuesday, March 7	1 – 2pm	EnO Committee
<b>Thursday, March 9</b>	<b>6 - 8pm</b>	<b>LWC Board Meeting (Facilitator – Jay);</b> Indy Commons, hybrid

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

### Projects

<i>Application Pending</i>	<i>Design &amp; Permits</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Maintenance &amp; Monitoring</i>	<i>Notes</i>
River Network – Community Led Research Project (Urban Watershed Engagement Program) <sup>1</sup>		<b>REVEG:</b> 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); Lower Luckiamute Floodplain Forest Enhancement	<b>REVEG:</b> LSNA Phases I - III; Upper Luckiamute Phases I & II; Fencing/Reveg; Ash Creek; Expand the Benefit Site 1 (Luckiamute)	1 - Awarded, to develop MOU
ODA Weed Board Grant – MVRC Knotweed Control (LWC is applicant on behalf of MVRC) <sup>2</sup>		<b><u>IN-STREAM:</u></b>	<b><u>Instream Projects:</u></b> 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, Upper Maxfield Restoration, S. Fork Pedee Upper Culvert (BLM-led)	2 – Submitted 12/15. Notice in Feb. 2023
		Love Your Watershed Program (EnO committee)	OWEB TA - NetMap Modelling and Field Surveys & MW Culvert Assessment	
		Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership		
		Luckiamute Basin Knotweed Control		
		OWEB Technical Assistance for Project Development (MVRC Regional TA grant)		