

## 2015 – 2016 Talking Points

Chair: Andy Duyck   Dick Schouten   Greg Malinowski   Vice Chair: Roy Rodgers   Bob Terry

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### TRWC organizational background:

#### **Kristel**

- Introduction to Commissioners: Rich Van Buskirk, Chair, Kristel Fesler, Vice-Chair, Bob Baumgartner, Co Secretary,, Jan Miller, Treasurer, and April Olbrich, Coordinator (only paid staff)
- Council history – TRWC (non-regulatory & non-profit) was recognized in 1996 by the Washington County Commissioners. [This year is our 20 Year Anniversary]
- Council makeup – very diverse make up – representatives from:
  - Forestry,            Agriculture,            Urban
  - Business,            Local Government,            Education,
  - Environment,            Fisheries,            Citizens at LargeMany groups are active in the watershed with differing perspectives.
- How we work – Collaboration, communication, partnerships.
- Funding is primarily through grants.

### Description of TRWC activities

#### **Rich Van Buskirk: Data collection, analysis and planning:**

- In 2015, we completed the Gales Creek Restoration Action Plan. This plan provides valuable information for landowners and organizations doing restoration work and highlighted areas of the highest value to restore. This spring, we've been meeting with landowners and TRWC partners to develop partnerships for enhancement activities.
- Dairy-McKay culvert assessments on private lands; during 2015, compared various geo-spatial data to prioritize crossings from which TRWC will obtain permission from private landowners to perform culvert assessments. Once these assessments are completed and prioritized, will work with landowners in obtaining funding for replacement.
- Submitted a place-based planning grant application to Oregon Water Resources Department; by collaborating TRWC partners would work together to address future water needs that include growing population, increased multiple water demands and the environmental issues created by changing climate patterns. By working together in developing solutions that could include changes of policy, institutional processes, and a list of potential projects which benefit a variety of interests that include water supply, water quality, ecological health and floodplain management, the Tualatin Basin would benefit. The application ranked very strong but was not awarded funding; TRWC plans to continue to seek other funding sources to develop and implement this planning process.

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### **Bob: Information & Capacity Building**

- Our monthly meetings are open to the public and cover many topics of interest to the Council as well as the citizens of Washington County.
  - Toured City of Beaverton Hall Creek enhancement project that include floodplain reconnection and stream meandering, native plantings along the stream and construction of a rain garden facilitated with a boardwalk connection that helps connects residents to the creek.
  - Received an update on the renewal of the Clean Water Services watershed-based NPDES permit.
  - USFWS Wapato Lake Restoration Planning
- The Council implemented suggestions from its 2014 Marketing and Funding Strategy Report.
  - Included meetings with several TRWC stakeholder members in “listening sessions” to learn from these TRWC member organizations about potential for new TRWC roles and/or activities that TRWC could participate in to assist members.
  - Formed a partnership with the Tigard Friends of Bull Mountain Park in helping build their new nature park by being its fiscal agent to administer the donations and grants.

### **Jan: Education/Outreach**

- Working with partners to develop an outreach strategy with Tualatin Basin homeowners associations that would result in their learning about the benefits of restoration projects on their common natural area properties. The goal is to encourage them to request grants to do similar projects.
- Pacific University students produced two videos for TRWC that a) focused on the Clear Creek large wood placement project with the City of Forest Grove and b) surveying by community volunteers to record Coho salmon spawning in rural streams.
- The Council is a partner in Tualatin Basin Partners for Clean Water (TB-PAC) that sponsors naturescaping classes for residential landscapes.
- Will repeat our partnership with Tualatin SWCD at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Bird Festival to provide an opportunity for children to pot a native plant and take it home to plant.
- Sponsor Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife training class for volunteers who want to perform spawning surveys on rural streams;

### **April: Restoration Activities:**

- Implemented new grants with several Home Owners Associations and TRWC partners. The projects are in the Fanno Creek watershed and covered 15 acres. The work involves removing invasive plants and replanting with native plants
- Work with community volunteers to maintain and improve Rippling Waters, a site owned by Washington County on Gales Creek.

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- Implemented intensive native plantings at Rippling Waters to aid in source water protection.
- Provide native plants and technical expertise to Tualatin Basin residents who want to remove invasive plant species like Himalayan blackberries along stream banks and replant with native plants.
- Working with rural landowners in obtaining funding in order to replace culverted crossings damaged from the December 2015 high water events with larger crossings or culverts that will sustain future high water events as well as provide passage for native fish.

In order to accomplish many of these tasks we partner with our members and state or federal agencies.

### **Wrap Up**

#### **Kristel**

The Council is a 20-year success story. We have many active stakeholder groups, consisting of both individuals and organizations. The Council continues to implement a strategic plan that focuses on restoration and enhancement; providing a place to discuss issues impacting the basin, and education and outreach for the citizens of Washington County.

The Council looks forward to expanding its role of protecting natural resources in the basin while protecting the economic vitality of the region

### **Questions?**

### **Pass out Annual Report**