

TRWC – CWS dialogue (submitted by Dave Waffle)

The following points are intended to initiate discussions among the leadership of TRWC to respond to the issues/concerns raised by CWS in the listening session from February 9, 2016. I didn't attend the meeting so I'm reacting to the notes provided me. I recommend a multi-step process:

- 1) Signal immediately to CWS that TRWC intends to respond positively to the listening session with a dialogue about their concerns and suggestions.
- 2) Review among the Steering Committee, Capacity Building Committee with any feedback from the other committees. Develop a response in writing to share with CWS.
- 3) Meet and discuss with CWS on approaches, tasks and "fit" with expectations. Clarify the opportunities for funding to take on these tasks either from CWS or others.
- 4) TRWC develops specific proposals and solutions and returns to CWS for follow-through, negotiations on scope and funding. Some of the possible responses might use elements of the executive director description and some might reflect the marketing manager description that came from the Barney-Worth contract.

CWS Issues

TRWC can use its expanded capacity to provide forums or logistical and community engagement support to CWS. We can "go deeper" into our stakeholder groups and expand the scope of engagement to others. Here is an illustrative list of issues looming on the horizon for CWS for which they may wish TRWC support. Many of these flow from the new NPDES.

- Design and construction standards amendments
- Natural treatment
- WWTP changes
- Stormwater planning and management
- Hydro-modification
- Dam raise
- Willamette water supply
- Next round of UGB expansion (2018?)
- Place-based planning
- Others

Tours

TRWC can use its expanded capacity to sponsor and operate tours in the basin either on a rotating or topical basis. Some tour ideas include:

- Parks and natural areas
- River trail access
- Barney Reservoir
- Hagg Lake

- Native plant nurseries
- Commercial and industrial forestry
- Living with beavers
- Wetlands
- Urban LIDA best practices
- Invasive weeds
- Bird-watching
- Landscape scale restoration activities

The audiences for these tours might include:

- Elected officials and staff of agencies at various levels
- Community groups such as home-owner associations (HOA), neighborhood association councils (NAC), citizen participation organizations (CPO)
- Faith community
- Non-profits
- Business organizations (individual firms or chambers of commerce)
- Tourists

Federal Partners

The significant federal partners in the region include the following agencies. Particularly with the dam and Wapato planning, CWS may wish TRWC to use its expanded capacity to co-sponsor forums with the agencies or otherwise facilitate their efforts through logistical or community engagement services. These may lead to direct contracts with the respective agencies. Similar roles might be played with Metro or the Oregon Water Resources Commission.

- Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) – dam safety and options
- National Wildlife Refuge Service (NWRS) – Sherwood and Wapato refuges
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) –
- National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) –

Research

TRWC could use its expanded capacity to provide assistance to CWS, Clean Water Institute or others in areas such as:

- Assess and address gaps in the foundational research of the Tualatin basin
- Applied technology in research methods (i.e. drones, GIS)
- Applied research in topics such as urban wildlife and cold water refugia
- Landscape scale riparian and upland habitat restoration