



**Council Meeting
Minutes Meeting of
June 7 , 2017**

Stakeholders Present:

Bob Baumgartner	Service Districts (Sewerage) Representative, Clean Water Services
Joel Cary	Water Districts, Alternate Representative, Tualatin Valley Water District
Eric Chambers	Small Woodland Owners Alternate Representative, Washington County Small Woodlands Association
Stephen Cruise	County Primary Representative, Washington County
Alfred Dinsdale	Environmental Organizations Alternate Representative, Tualatin Riverkeepers
Ariel Kanable	Business and Industry Representative, Washington County Visitors Association, Primary Representative (shared position)
Jan Miller	Citizen at Large Primary Representative
Tom Nygren	Small Woodland Owners Primary Representative, Washington County Small Woodlands Association
Jon Pampush	Fisheries Primary Representative, Trout Unlimited
Erin Poor	Citizen at Large Primary Representative
Victoria Saager	Citizen at Large Primary Representative
Rich Van Buskirk	Education Primary Representative, Pacific University
Ross Van Loo	Citizen at Large Primary Representative
Dave Waffle	City Primary Representative, City of Beaverton

Staff Present

April Olbrich	TRWC Coordinator
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Guests Present:

Curt Mycut	USFWS Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge biologist
Wade Peerman	Oregon Dept. of Env. Quality, Tualatin Basin Coordinator
Sharon Selvaggio	NW Center for Alternatives to Pesticides, TRK
Bill Stride	Tualatin Basin resident
Dick Stride	Tualatin Basin resident
Chris Toole	Tualatin Basin resident

Welcome and Introductions: The meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m. with introduction.

Approval of May TRWC minutes: A motion was made by and seconded by to adopt the May meeting minutes, which were adopted by consensus.

Public Comment. Sharon Selvaggio of the NW Center for Alternatives to Pesticides and Tualatin Riverkeepers board member, noted a report, Water is the Connection, about pesticide management and salmonids is being published. Also eight pesticide fact sheets

will also be available. This information is being provided so the folks can evaluate pesticide alternatives and if choosing to use pesticides are familiar with best management practices.

April conveyed a request from Metzger resident, Mary Elizabeth McAndrews for assistance from Council members regarding a Division of State Lands exemption for an adjacent riparian property adjacent to an Ash Creek tributary.

Presentation: Wapato Lake Environmental Assessment presentation, Curt Mykut, Wildlife Biologist, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Recently the Wapato Lake environmental assessment was released to the public with a request for comments. The original public comment period is now closed, but it has been extended until the end of the week. This environmental assessment has been about 10 years in the making. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been looking at this area since the 1930s so it is exciting that we are at the current stage.

In 2013 Wapato Lake was designated as its own National Wildlife Unit, i.e., separate from the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (near Sherwood, Oregon). This wildlife unit has a 4300-acre area from which the USFWS is authorized to purchase property from willing landowners. Most of the unit acquisitions to date (950 acres) have been within Wapato Lake. However, there are several inholdings in private ownership, one within the lake and one on the southern end of the lakebed.

History: There has been documentation of indigenous camps living at Wapato Lake. Hudson Bay records described the lake as the terminus for 6 creeks and 1000 acres of Labish soil (or peat). However, records prior to 1850 are limited. Wapato Lake was seasonally connected to the Tualatin River during the winter high flows. The 1850s included period of settlement in the area. In the 1880s, the Tualatin River was channelized away from Wapato Lake and initial efforts were made to drain the lake. During the 1930s, levees, canals and pump stations were constructed. In 1950 the Wapato Improvement District was formed to manage the lakebed for farming. The lakebed is still being farmed.

USFWS goals are to 1) restore hydrology and a diversity of wetland plants; 2) support diverse and abundant native wetland dependent wildlife throughout the year; and 3) manage water quality risks to the Tualatin River. In developing a plan to reach these goals, USFWS personnel worked with United State Geological Survey (USGS) to develop a Water Management Scenario Tool. This tool provided a water budget that would inform resource managers of the lake characteristics over time, and then to compare different restoration strategies across a climatic gradient.

There were two alternatives examined in depth for the environmental assessment document. As part of the process, a “no action” alternative was also included. The “no action” forms a baseline against which to compare the alternatives.

Under the “no action” alternative, the lake fills from rains through fall and winter with the pumps turned on in the spring to drain the lake.

Under a second alternative, removing the infrastructure regulating flow at the lower end of the lake would restore the Tualatin River connection. Portions of the lake (65%) would always be flooded to a level of three to five feet, even during summer months.

Under a third alternative, the levee and pumping infrastructure would remain to maintain target water levels. Under this alternative the water levels can be dictated with a target of a more varied depths. The dominant depths would be between zero and two feet with a more stable hydrograph. This would allow the establishment of desired plant communities.

The lake depths will have significant impacts of wildlife use. The “no action” alternative does not restore wetland or improve wildlife habitat, but does allow for the management of water quality risks. Under alternative two, the wetlands would be restored, but due to the higher water levels, it would not provide the restoration of preferred vegetation which would improve wildlife support. Alternative two would not manage water quality risk. Alternative three does restore wetland, support wildlife year around, and manage water quality risks. Alternative three is the preferred alternative.

A pictures of a shallow emergent marsh located in Scappoose Oregon was shown as a future picture of what Wapato Lake may resemble once restored; a tremendous response is expected in its restoration.

Questions:

- 1) What’s become of the Wapato improvement District? It has been dissolved. The USFWS retains the water rights for all those tracts; USFWS needs to have some agreement with the landholders to fulfill the expectations.
- 2) How will replanting occur? USFWS is working with CWS to develop and implement planting and restoration. Upland conservation is not normally a USFWS priority. But on Wapato Lake, there is a future goal to perform upland restoration.
- 3) What have been the comments regarding the environmental assessment? So far the comments are largely positive
- 4) Question on timing, what are the next steps and when will restoration occur? USFWS expect that the selection of the third alternative will allow them move forward to secure funding for restoration and deal with the inholdings. Timing will be dependent in part on the actions of the inholdings.
- 5) Is there intent to support foraging for Canada Geese? It is expected that the site will support a lot of waterfowl since the site does currently support a lot of Canada Geese.
- 6) Given the inholdings, did the service consider a partial response while the inholdings remain? Yes, but it may be cost prohibitive. To achieve a setback levee may be difficult to attain. USFWS did consider breaking the site into independently managed units but that would require creating levees at greater operation and maintenance costs.

7) Will there need to be a replacement of the pumping infrastructure? Yes, the pumps are old, the headwall acts as the levee is failing. This infrastructure will be replaced; USFWS is initiating a study of the geotechnical infrastructure of the dikes.

8) Is there a role for the Council in the restoration? A North America Wildlife grant is being applied for by USFWS and Clean Water Services to assist with restoration. TRWC could provide in-kind for the grant by providing education and outreach. A support letter may also be helpful. Carrol Murdock from Clean Water Services is coordinating the grant application.

9) Have historical agricultural uses had an influence of the soils to be restored for wetlands? Lots of farmed areas have been restored. May not be a lot of precedent for this type of wetland soil.

10) Did the City of Gaston express a preference? The Mayor and a number of citizens have been engaged with the process USFWS has not received a preference from the City. Most of the citizen feedback has been positive.

TRWC Business:

1) Update of the interim Executive Director Role. The Steering and Capacity Committee have merged and simplified the scope of work. The Scope focuses on the Strategic Planning (60%) and Operation Structure and Procedures (30%) and Recruiting a permanent Executive Director (10%). The Steering Committee is working with CWS and JWC to develop a work plan to make sure our funding partners have what they need for the funding. We have two candidates that have been forwarded to the Council for interviews after the funding has been secured.

2) Annual August Potluck and Picnic, where should we consider for holding the event? Last year we were at Cook Park. Ideas offered included:

- New Boat Ramp at Farmington
- Gales Creek Camp Ground
- Hillsboro's new park at Orenco
- Noble Woods Park

No decision was made, if you have additional ideas let April know so we can be ready for the August potluck meeting.

3) Discussion regarding State of the Watershed Event included:

- Figure out who we are reaching out to, decision makers, general public and then select a few broad topics to focus on
- Determine what may interest people
- Figure out what would interest the stakeholder groups
- Come up with a theme, such as “past present and future” or “a day without water”
- Perhaps a history of the basin, there is a quite rich history of the basin, this could be a great staging point for why we are here and the impacts we have had
- Try to attract people who could be sponsors
- May try to tie into an existing event
- Perhaps a two tiered audience, one more technical and one geared to the general public with less detail
- The council should be the organizer
- Talk to different sectors to give them an opportunity to be present

- The history could be provided by some of the people involved in the past to transfer the knowledge to those that have not been historically involved
- Envisioning, where we have been, where we are, and where we want to go.

Eric Chambers, Jan Miller, Victoria Saager and Chris Toole volunteered to be on a committee to develop and plan an event. Bob will try to provide support from Clean Water Services.

Coordinator Updates. April and Rich provided the TRWC annual update to the Washington County Board of Commissioners on May 23rd. It included providing them with the Council's *2015-16 Annual Report*. April attended Our Future Water Workshop on May 24th and 25th, which was related to place-based planning. On May 7th, Beaverton School Green Teams Eco-Work day at North Johnson Creek enhancement project included 30 volunteers who removed invasive species; TRWC volunteers included Kim Sanderford, Jennifer Massey, and Jen Nelson. At the May 20th, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Bird Day Festival, Tualatin SWCD and TRWC hosted a native plant-potting table for participants to pot up a native plant to take home and plant. The TRWC volunteers included Jen Nelson, Ali Pennell and Jennifer Massey.

See May Project Updates for additional project status details. <http://trwc.org/about-us-categories/council-meetings/meeting-archives/2017-council-meetings/>

Committee Updates. The Education Committee has completed the Council's *2015-16 Annual Report* which is available at tonight's meeting and posted on the TRWC website. The Issues Committee is preparing comments on recent updates to the OWRD Integrated Watershed Resources Strategy.

Member Announcements. Stephen Cruise said that Washington County will be performing bridge replacement and culvert repairs this summer.

Erin Poor noted that there was an algal bloom in Fanno Creek. If you see anything please let Erin know. She has photos and data.

June 23rd is the Tualatin Riverkeepers' Discovery Day at the new Farmington Road launch. This event has been occurring since 1989. Everybody on the Council is invited to participate on that day.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Baumgartner
Co-Secretary

July 5, 2017 TRWC refreshments: Ross Van Loo

Roving Steering Committee member for June 14 meeting: Dave Waffle