



**Council  
Minutes Meeting of  
April 4, 2018**

Stakeholders Present:

Bob Baumgartner	Service Districts (Sewerage) Representative, Clean Water Services
Ruby Buchholtz	Environmental Organizations Primary Representative, Tualatin Riverkeepers
Stephen Cruise	County Primary Representative, Washington County
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
Briita Pajunas	Soil & Water Conservation District Primary Representative, Tualatin SWCD
Jon Pampush	Fisheries Primary Representative, Trout Unlimited
Erin Poor	Citizen at Large Primary Representative
Rich Van Buskirk	Education Primary Representative, Pacific University
Ross Van Loo	Citizen at Large Primary Representative

Staff Present

April Olbrich	TRWC Coordinator
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Guests Present:

Wayne Auble	Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Assistant District Forester
Wade Peerman	Oregon Dept. of Env. Quality, Tualatin Basin Coordinator
Chris Toole	Tualatin Basin resident and volunteer

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

**Approval of March TRWC minutes:** A motion was made by Ross Van Loo and seconded by Stephen Cruise to adopt the March meeting minutes, which were adopted by consensus.

**Public Comment and Member Updates.**

Tom Nygren, Washington County Small Woodlands Association, shared a report detailing forest inventory stocks in Washington County over 60 years that is available. For more information please contact Tom Nygren.

Bob Baumgartner, CWS, shared that after the CWS presentation to the council last week there have been many meetings with the CWS team to discuss strategies on how to communicate the hydro-modification phase and to better define their goals and outcomes.

Britta Pajunas, TSWCD, Weed Watchers Workshops are offered throughout April and May. Check the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District website for dates.

### **Presentation from Erin poor: The Urban Beaver Study**

Erin completed her master's thesis by looking at impacts to urban streams due to beaver activities. For her presentation she focused on two sites, Stoller Creek at Bethany and Fanno Creek at Greenway. These small urban creeks and streams are having more erosion issues and incision resulting in an increase in suspended solids in the water. This is caused from an increase in the amount of impervious surfaces in the region (i.e., development) and because of past straightening of the waterways in the area for agriculture use and transportation. Beavers have historically resided in the basin and their dams impede flow creating ponding to occur. Erin describes the following results from her study:

1. Stream Hydraulics
  - a. Decreased velocity when beaver dams are present
  - b. Beaver dams help the flooding access the floodplain
  - c. With beaver dams there would be a decrease in rate of change (i.e., stream flashiness)
  - d. Dams are buffering the intensity of these storm events (seen more at Stoller)
2. Sediment dynamics
  - a. Less accumulation of sediment when beaver canals are present
  - b. 4 year period of time 1200 cubic meters of sediment stored
  - c. Peak turbidity was reduced as water traveled through the beaver pond
  - d. Consistent decrease of suspended solids measured downstream of the beaver dam
3. Temperature Patterns
  - a. Water temperature is cooler 0.4 miles downstream of the beaver reach where the channel is confined and shaded
  - b. Water temperatures vary spatially and temporally within the ponded area
  - c. Some warming in the beaver ponds but cooling downstream
4. Biodiversity
  - a. Herons are everywhere when beaver dams are present
  - b. Since beaver built dams, more species of birds are using the greenway parkway and staying longer
  - c. Beaver dams and ponds create new still water habitat that amphibians are using for egg laying
  - d. Rough skinned newts present (lots of personality)

A link to the Tualatin Beaver Study can be found here:

<https://or.water.usgs.gov/tualatin/beavers/dams.html>

Erin noted that there has been an increase in algae in Fanno Creek and said she would like more sets of eyes to look at Fanno Creek for potential sources of algae and if anything is out of the norm – please contact her if anyone sees anything.

### **Council Business**

The Council reviewed the Steering Committee’s suggestions for the Tualatin Watershed Council’s 2018-19 updated work plan. The work plan was divided into three areas, organizational development, planning, and community engagement (restoration will be included in the future). The following were comments and suggestions on the sections:

1. Organizational development
  - a. Non-work item on high priority (no new fiscal agents agreements)-should be removed.
  - b. Put diversity in the high priority – but don’t just say you’re going to do it, have actual actions to increase Council diversity
  - c. Fundraising plan and funding strategy in two different places are listed as high priority and low priority
2. Planning
  - a. Important topic to us but nothing immediate on the horizon
  - b. No current opportunities
  - c. One item that we could push harder on is the Wapato Wildlife Refuge to be a part of the planning process
  - d. Woodlands association on low priorities list – so will council ignore those opportunities or act on them even though they are low priorities? \*\*May be passing on those opportunities\*\*
3. Community Engagement
  - a. Since time is running out please review on your own time and if you have any comments please email.
4. Restoration (to be reviewed in the future)

April shared a few events in the basin where TRWC volunteers are needed:

1. May 19: Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Bird festival
2. April 13: Students from Catlin Gabel School pulling ivy at the North Johnson Creek enhancement project site

Information on the Cedar Mill Creek flooding task force and to provide input can be found at <http://cedarmillcreek.org/>; <http://orsolutions.org/osproject/cedar-mill-creek-flood-remediation-collaborative>

The meeting adjourned at 9: 00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruby Buchholtz  
Co-Secretary

**May 2, 2018 TRWC refreshments: Victoria Saager**

**Roving Steering Committee member for April 9 meeting: None**

**Roving Steering Committee member for April 24 meeting: None**