



**Council  
Minutes Meeting of  
November 7, 2018**

Stakeholders Present:

Bob Baumgartner	Service Districts (Sewerage) Primary Representative, Clean Water Services
Alexis Cooley	Drinking Water Provider Representative, City of Hillsboro Water Department, Primary Representative (shared position)
Stephen Cruise	County Primary Representative, Washington County
Jan Miller	Citizen at Large Primary Representative
Greg Mintz	Citizen at Large Alternate Representative
Victoria Saager	Citizen at Large Primary Representative
Dyami Valentine	County Alternate Representative, Washington County
Rich Van Buskirk	Education Primary Representative, Pacific University
Ross Van Loo	Citizen at Large Primary Representative
Juli Waarvick	Soil & Water Conservation District Alternate Representative, Tualatin SWCD

Staff Present:

April Olbrich	TRWC Coordinator
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Guests Present:

Wayne Auble	Oregon Dept. of Forestry Asst. District Forester
Kate Holleran	METRO Senior Natural Resources Scientist (presenter)
Becca Miller	Tualatin Basin resident
Tim Sautter	Washington County LUT Operations Dept.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

The meeting commenced at 7:04 p.m. with introductions from those present.

**October 2018 TRWC minutes:**

A motion was made by Jan Miller and seconded by Alexis Cooley to adopt October 2018 minutes; the minutes were adopted by consensus.

**Public Comment:**

- Alexis noted upcoming Joint Water Commission rate hearing taking place on 11/13/18.
- April noted upcoming Washington County Small Woodlands Association banquet taking place on 11/17/18 at the Meriwether National Golf Club in Hillsboro.
- Rich noted the upcoming Community Open House for the Balm Grove Dam removal and restoration project; seeking community input and to increase public awareness; reach out to Rich or TSWCD for more information.

**Presentation:**

**Chehalem Ridge natural area update, Kate Holleran (Metro)**

- Overview of efforts to promote healthy forests and habitat at Chehalem Ridge Natural Area (soon to be Chehalem Park).
- Recognition of the important collaborative relationship with Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, who still use the area.
- Much of original 2011-12 restoration work focused on the streams.
- Forest context: habitat historically established through natural disturbance, with many diverse characteristics and features like downed/dead wood, is no longer present in intensely managed forests that are more dense and uniform (e.g., 8ft spacing Douglas fir); perhaps 600+ acres in that category on the site, with less biological legacies and diversity.
- Deadwood is important in helping the soil, sediment, and water remain at the site; it was forested but missing an understory, so work has been completed to address that.
- Monoculture of Douglas fir is also less productive in terms of wildlife (e.g., many birds like hardwoods)
- We need more diversity to help build resilience to climate impacts (e.g., increased abiotic and biotic effects; increased fire frequency and duration; changes in insect survival; drought severity/frequency)
- Goal include increased diversity of tree species/size, hard woods, understory, shrubs and herbaceous layers, down wood and snags.
- Areas that were managed as Douglas fir plantations are being guided toward more diverse forest, but not necessarily aiming for oak woodland (as that could require longer term changes).
- Foresters aim to work with existing complexity; look at multiple scales; conserve and create legacies; add snags and down wood; add gaps and skips; and add shrubs and herbaceous layers.
- Density management is one of biggest tools – it can reduce moisture stress; increase availability of light and nutrients; reduce fuel loads; increase resistance to insects and diseases; and maintain or increase diversity. This helps keep the trees we want on the site and growing.

**Summary:**

- Want to keep the diversity we have where we have it, and create opportunities for more.
- Create room for light, and thin to allow for understory growth.
- Also creating a nature park!
- Master plan completed; working through permitting with Washington County, and will perhaps be ready for construction by summer 2019 (or 2020 at the latest).
- Hurdles include lack of access to water and electricity, which are expensive to add.
- Important to bring people in to the site in a way that protects habitat and water quality

**Questions:**

- RVB: given the agricultural history of the site, were there any impacts to the soils that have caused problems?
- KH: yes, probably a plow pan (fairly impermeable layer right below plow depth)... we worked with Trout Mountain Forestry to identify proper approaches; not seeing a lot of

blow down, but those trees that do blow down seem to have smaller root balls than expected; just working with what we have; foresters seem to feel that fir and oak will easily be able to get through any plow pan.

KH: What do we do with the wood?

-Retain on site snags and down wood;

-Send wood to other sites for stream restoration projects;

-Then, sell viable remainder to local mills.

\*Approximately 600 acres will need to be thinned again within the next 20 years (the site will be a park at that point)

BB: Keeping track of other wildlife populations besides birds?

KH: Tracking birds, and some amphibians, but not many others. Less formally, we are seeing increases in species. Cougar, bobcat, coyote, beaver, long tailed weasel, pigmy owl, and great horned owls are all present.

AC: How much are you managing for invasives?

KH: It is one of the top three things we focus on for forest health; there is a routine program in place for management of invasives. The site was relatively clean when we got it, only a little scotch broom. We have a contract to manage invasives, but currently there is no extra monitoring.

RVB: Are there other potential access points that could allow efficient access?

KH: The other potential trail head shown on the map was less developed and using that route would have been more disruptive for neighbors and required more updates.

### **Council Business:**

#### **1) Update of transition plan**

RVB: We now have a new ED for the Council, Scott McEwen. He last worked with PC Trask and Associates, and has worked with Columbia Land Trust and others. He will start on Monday, November 26, and will come to the December Council meeting for introductions.

RVB: Regarding funding, we have verified TSWCD's commitment for support and CWS grant support is coming soon; we are waiting to hear from Joint Water Commission.

RVB: Regarding fundraising, first focus will be increasing and diversifying the funding portfolio. Potential interest in building membership and using bottom-up fundraising to build foundation.

#### **2) Nomination and election of 2019 TRWC officers**

Individuals running for 2019 TRWC Officer positions:

-Chair: Bob Baumgartner

-Vice Chair: candidate still needed; SC may be willing to serve, but still considering.

-Secretary: Lacey Townsend

-Treasurer: Rich Van Buskirk

**Motion:** Jan moves to elect the slate as it currently stands for Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer (not voting on Vice Chair yet)

**Second:** Ross Van Loo

**Vote:** Motion passed without opposition

**Council Coordinator, Council Committee and Member updates:**

Council Coordinator update

Cedar Mill N Johnson Creek, flooding remediation and enhancement taskforce has selected a new name, Watershed Enhancement Team for Cedar Mill/N Johnson Creek.

-Taskforce includes Beaverton, CWS, Wash Co, TSWCD, THPRD, Willamette Partnership, the Wetlands Conservancy and TRWC.

-A three-year work plan is being developed to outline different programs and elements; looking at funding and technical assistance, prioritization schemes; hoping to have something to County Commissioners by mid-January.

In October, there was a rainwater harvesting site tour with 15 folks participating..

In November,

- Partnered education series, Intro to rainwater harvesting workshop will be offered on Saturday at Tualatin SWCD (11/10/18)

-TRWC Education and Outreach Committee meeting next week to work on 2017-18 TRWC annual report.

-A week from next Friday, Metro invited partners to meet at the Zoo to help figure out strategy on potential natural area bond measure for 2019.

-April will be in the field with TSWCD on 11/16/18 taking photos of project sites before vegetation goes in.

At December meeting, Steve Trask and Stillwater Science will present on the Gales/Clear Creek Confluence project and the monitoring .

Member update:

Stephen C: With next rainfall, Coho salmon likely moving up into the smaller tributaries; have we seen them using the holes in GC/CC? April: Likely not enough water yet.

Stephen C: Hag Lake now has better access and road improvements; it's a much better visitor experience.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Mintz  
Co-Secretary

**December 5, 2018 TRWC refreshments: Ariel Kanable**

**Roving Steering Committee member for October 26 meeting: None**