



Tualatin River Watershed Council Meeting Minutes March 6, 2019

Stakeholders Present

Stephen Cruise	County Primary Representative, Washington County
Jan Miller	Citizen at Large
Ashley Short	Environmental Organizations Primary Representative, Tualatin Riverkeepers
Rich Van Buskirk	Education Primary Representative, Pacific University
Jon Pampush	Fisheries Primary Representative, Trout Unlimited
Simon Christensen	Drinking Water Provider Primary Representative (shared position), City of Hillsboro Water Department
Lacey Townsend	Soil and Water Conservation District Primary Representative, Tualatin SWCD

Staff Present

Scott McEwen	TRWC Executive Director
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Guests Present

Tim Sautter	Washington County LUT Operations Department
Kellyn Baez	Clean Water Services personnel
Chris Toole	Citizen
Michael Schindel	The Nature Conservancy

Welcome and Introductions

Rich Van Buskirk, Treasurer, opened the meeting at 7:05 pm. Stakeholders, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

Presentation by Michael Schindel, The Nature Conservancy: *Climate Resilience: Concepts and Characteristics of Climate Resilient Sites*

Michael Schindel is the Director of Geographic Information Systems at the Nature Conservancy (TNC). He has worked for TNC since 1992 and with the Oregon chapter since 1999. TNC received funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to identify the most resilient terrestrial sites in the Northwest that will best sustain native biodiversity as our climate changes to alter current distribution patterns.

Michael went through TNC's methodology used to determine which terrestrial sites were the most resilient. One key concept was topoclimate diversity. Spatial heterogeneity in topoclimate represents an

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important buffer in response to climate change. For all ecoregions, TNC calculated a Heat Load Index (how much solar energy hits the landscape over the course of a year) and a Compound Topographic Index (measure of soil moisture potential calculated from a digital elevation model). Combined, these two indexes make up the Topoclimate Diversity Index. The highest topoclimate diversity showed up along riparian corridors.

A second key concept was landscape permeability. The lower Tualatin has a lower permeability level because of agriculture.

Land facets for each ecoregion were also mapped: combination of soil, slope, and elevation. TNC looked for the most resilient examples within these land facets.

Chances of Tualatin river maintaining diversity of species over time is good because Tualatin is a rain-driven system instead of a snow-driven system.

Michael finished his presentation with some final take-aways:

- Terrestrial resilience is a neighborhood function and context is important.
- Climate exposure is a key consideration when developing adaptation strategies
- Our collective actions can facilitate the adaptation of species to a changing climate by protecting a resilient and connected network of sites.
- The Tualatin watershed can make important contributions to the region's climate adaptations.

Council discussion on how terrestrial resilience concepts may inform developing TRWC programming

The Council members discussed how to use this information to form actions for the Council. The Council can bring many stakeholders together to play a convener roll and introduce this information. This information can be used to bring the right people together to identify areas to focus on restoration for climate change and prioritize where to work in the Tualatin. The Tualatin can be a significant area for connectivity. Although the Council's primary focus is on aquatic, it is important to consider the upland area and terrestrial species.

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No quorum present to take action.

Public Comment

- Ashley Short: Tualatin Riverkeepers' annual gala is coming up April 13.
- Jan Miller: The Washington County Small Woodlands Association's annual native plant sale is coming up March 16.
- Jon Pampush brought up Clean Water Services' fish passage waiver application to ODFW for the Balm Grove dam removal project. A new waiver request will be coming out soon that addresses some of the concerns from the first request. Council members discussed whether this is something the Council could submit public comment. Because the Council is a consensus-based

organization, it was decided that the Council should just get the information out to stakeholders and allow individual organizations make their own decisions.

- Tim Sautter voiced his concern that the Council lacks enthusiasm and future goals. Jon Pampush explained that the Council is in a transition. Hiring Scott as the Executive Director was the first step in moving the Council in the right direction. He explained the intent to diversify the board, get people excited, and re-energize the Council. In order to do these things, the Council must develop some planning documents to guide its future activities. The Council is basically starting from scratch.

Steering Committee Report: Outcomes of the 2019 OWEB Organization Self-Assessment

Lacey Townsend went through the results of the OWEB Organization Self-Assessment. The Steering Committee identified five areas that scored the lowest. These five areas will be prioritized for implementation over the next biennium: Community Involvement, Funding Model, Communication and Outreach, Board Involvement and Participation in Fundraising, and Volunteer Management.

Update – Executive Director Activity Report

Scott sent his activity report out in advance. Scott shared highlights of this report.

Update – Strategic planning

Scott's intent was to bring in a strategic planning consultant to the April meeting. Much of the planning material is already in place from the last few years. Scott would like to expedite the planning process and put together something based on all of the materials already created.

Update – Restoration Committee

Stephen gave an update of the last committee meeting. The committee wants to be more of a working committee rather than an input committee. There will be no new restoration projects in the near future, but the committee will be looking at restoration planning and prioritization. An annual work plan will be developed. The next committee meeting will be March 20 at 7:30 am. Dr. Lee Benda will be giving a presentation on a GIS platform called NetMap.

Update – Members

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lacey Townsend
Secretary