



## **Tualatin River Watershed Council Meeting Minutes July 1, 2020**

### **Stakeholders Present**

Bob Baumgartner	Services Districts (Sewerage) Primary Representative, Clean Water Services
Briita Pajunas	Soil and Water Conservation District Alternate Representative, Tualatin SWCD
Tom Nygren	Small Woodland Owners Primary Representative, Washington County Small Woodlands Association
Stephen Cruise	Washington County, Primary Representative
Ashley Short	Environmental Organizations Primary Representative, Tualatin Riverkeepers
Victoria Saager	Citizen-at-Large
Ross Van Loo	Citizen-at-Large
Greg Mintz	Citizen-at-Large – Representative Helm Office

### **Staff Present**

Scott McEwen	TRWC Executive Director
Samantha Sharka	TRWC Project Manager

### **Guests Present**

Simon Christensen	City of Hillsboro Water Department - Water Resources Specialist
Brian Creutzburg	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Kellyn Baez	Clean Water Services
Monica Blanchard	ODFW – Assistant Fish Biologist
Allan Whiting	Consultant for Strategic Action Plan for Dairy McKay
John Runyon	Cascade Environmental Group – Guest Presenter
Michael Carlson	Cascade Environmental Group – Guest Presenter
Laura Whittaker	CWS Intern
Stephanie Beall	Oregon Department of Forestry
Chris Toole	Citizen-at-Large
Liz Redon	OWEB – Guest Presenter

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Bob Baumgartner, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:04 pm. Bob shared that this meeting will be recorded via Zoom. Scott and Bob shared the agenda. Stakeholders, staff, and guests introduced themselves. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom. Recording of meeting can be viewed here via Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sunl0q0iokrzaex/AAAdpKfgtDtVJKKcV7zRyOOca?dl=0>

Addition to the agenda was presented. The Oregon Conservation Recreation Fund will be discussed at the end of meeting by Greg Mintz

Approval of June meeting minutes. Motion for approval made by Tom Nygren. Seconded by Ashley Short. Passed unanimously.

**Presentation: OWEB Budget Updates -- Liz Redon, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**

Liz presented the OWEB Budget Spending Plan Rebalance. Due to Covid impacts to Oregon lottery revenue, a pause was put in place on new grants beginning in April in order to protect funds for open grants. No open grants, such as staff capacity grants, will be negatively affected. Any current grant agreement in place has protected funds.

There has been a sharp drop in expected video lottery revenue due to Covid and all lottery machines closing in late March. OWEB originally planned \$33 million available due to lottery revenue forecasts for 2020. Revised total expected budget is now \$15 million in best-case scenario and \$8 million available to OWEB in worst-case scenario.

May grant funds distribution was ok, 92% of budget was available, but the August distribution will likely receive a more significant reduction. NOAA Fisheries has awarded OWEB additional Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF) which can help close the funding gap.

OWEB Board completed a rebalance plan to address anticipated budget shortfalls. Staffing makes up 35% of Operations budget. Operations took the early hit and they completed a 33% reduction in staffing which equates to 11 positions.

OWEB will complete targeted reductions as needed across grant offerings. There will be no new grant types. PCSRF funds will be used to stretch out the lottery budget. OWEB is considering support of potential mergers and all grants must be able to hit the ground running once a grant is awarded. There will be no additional cycle for annual grant awards for weeds monitoring and acquisition type proposals. Currently ~\$4.7 million in OWEB account. There is a grant deadline in July 2020. Grant review process is a 6-month process so they plan to continue this review engine so that if and when money is available to award in March, grantees will be able to start these projects.

Scott Question for Liz:

Payroll Protection Plan did go through for TRWC ~18K

How does this effect the OWEB capacity grant awarded to TRWC? Courtney Shaff with OWEB will be a good contact to address this question in more detail.

You cannot overlap dollars. If you are covering costs from PPP you should not be billing for these same hours to OWEB grants.

### **Presentation: Strategic Plan – Priority 2 (DEI) -- Liz Redon, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**

Liz presented on the OWEB Strategic Plan and covered DEI topics. OWEB Strategic Plan was adapted 2 years ago and included a DEI component.

Prior to Covid, OWEB was in “Listen and Learn” phase. Staff focused on training to better understand unconscious bias and how to create presentations for the larger audience living in Oregon. OWEB invited Columbia Slough WC to share their experiences working with a diverse population living in their watershed service area. These interactions were intended to help bridge gap between OWEB staff located in office and those that are working more directly in the field. OWEB invited tribal members from different areas in the state to hear about their history and better understand how OWEB can be interacting with their tribal members in the future. Due to Covid, OWEB has less capacity to be focusing on their DEI goals and planned trainings at this time.

Liz has observed other watershed council members starting to improve awareness around cultural resources and making sure that adequate protections are laid out prior to beginning restoration projects so harm to valuable cultural resources is mitigated or prevented.

Kellyn question for Liz: What is OWEB thinking about how to address limited representation among watershed council stakeholder membership? How are others thinking about board structure and representation?

Answer: Liz has not seen a lot of examples of this being done in governance structure effectively yet. OWEB has historically allowed all WCs to take the lead on selecting their stakeholder membership. i.e. Timber, Ag, Environment and other specific categories are generally considered for membership first. OWEB would be supportive of the TRWC adding more diverse background and cultural representation among the TRWC stakeholder group and being more creative to expand the categories that represent traditional board member selection criteria. She recommends looking around the watershed community to determine how a more representative coalition could be brought together to serve on the TRWC board. She recommended making a plan; showing that the TRWC current membership understands who makes up this watershed community and then go from there to create a more culturally representative membership.

### **Presentation: Dairy McKay Restoration Action Plan – John Runyon, Cascade Environmental Group and Michael Carlson**

John presented on the Dairy McKay Restoration Action Plan – Using NetMap to Inform and Prioritize Restoration Planning.

John previously completed Gales Creek Action Plan to synthesize habitat surveys, fish passage, and riparian surveys. Then Dairy McKay work began in 2019 in collaboration with Dr. Lee Benda (geologist and expert in large wood delivery to stream systems and landslide processes).

NetMap Analysis:

NetMAP creates a virtual watershed using LiDAR data, in essence creating a topographic map of the watershed focus area. NetMap has been integrated into the entire Tualatin River Basin. Examples of NetMap Products for the Dairy-Mckay include floodplains, shade and thermal loading, shade restoration effectiveness, thermal refugia, large wood inputs and gravel recruitment. Lower watershed below Hwy 26 exceeds temperature thresholds for Coho. Steve Trask's previous fish sampling (snorkel surveys in summer months) only occurred north of Hwy 26. Major limiting factor for Coho salmon is winter rearing habitat and summer water temperatures. NetMAP allows for isolating potential alcove and floodplain off channel winter rearing habitat. Having this extensive flood plain mapping is really a valuable tool for prioritizing where and what type of habitat improvement projects are planned and implemented. John identifies Lower East Fork Dairy Creek and lower Bledsoe Creek as important opportunities for increasing shade to reduce thermal load. He sees this area as where we should increase cooling. Bob asked about ground truthing needs and where is it most effective to collect this type of data? John thinks this NetMAP creates a framework to begin prioritizing where ground truthing activities can and should take place. Ground truthing can take place at confluences of tributaries flowing into the main channels. These may open up opportunities for confluence refugia due to upwelling at these areas. Scott suggested that as part of the final report from John Runyon that locations for field validation could be identified. Aaron Shaw with TSWCD is working on a Phase II for this project which will include some additional criteria and processes to complete field validation and enhanced monitoring. Aquatic inventory will be needed as a follow up to confirm what current large wood levels are and to better understand what future large wood needs may be at any given site.

Michael Carlson presented on Fish Passage within Dairy McKay Creek.

Michael was coordinator for Clackamas River Basin Council and is now a contractor working with John Runyon on this project. He worked with existing data (TRWC Private Lands 2017, Washington County Barriers 2019, ODFW Barriers 2018, Rapid Bio-Assessment 2013, 2014). He analyzed these multiple datasets to identify highest intrinsic potential for Steelhead, Coho and other anadromous and resident fishes. In comparison with Gales Creek (large obvious barrier in Balm Grove Dam), EF Dairy Creek and associated tributaries have several smaller passage barriers that can be addressed. Michael isolated several examples where natural fish passage barriers (8 – 12 feet vertical waterfalls) are downstream of identified man-made barriers. Some of the man-made barriers could be de-prioritized for removal or modification due to the observation that other natural barriers will prevent fish access to these upper reaches anyway.

### **Greg Mintz: Citizen-at-Large – Representative Ken Helm Office**

Conservation Recreation Fund looking at \$2-3 Billion drop in this biennium and a \$5 Billion projected drop in next biennium. Governor Kate Brown directed 17% cut from all State Govt agencies. It will be a long hard time particularly in the natural resources sector during the downturn. Human element issues i.e. healthcare and education are dominating the focus in State Legislature. They recently convened a special session in the state legislature for review pandemic relief assistance, police accountability, and social justice reform. Conservation Recreation Fund is an effort that began well before the Pandemic and was convened in 2015. Mostly focused on revenue gained from hunting and fishing licenses. Began looking at what other revenue sources exist. Goal is to create a broader fund itself from a more diverse community of outdoor recreation enthusiasts in addition to the hunting and fishing community. A 2

million-dollar fund was created, with the goal of recruiting a 1-million-dollar match from private fund sources. The match component does remain although Greg is not sure in what amount, and now a larger grass roots campaign is being kicked off. Monies may be available through this fund to support projects related to DEI work to get everyone outdoors and feeling safe being in the outdoors, to more traditional conservation work on-the-ground projects. Greg wants to bring this fund to attention of TRWC. Greg's group is targeting a kickoff date for press releases in mid-July. Greg can share the sign on letter with TRWC to vote to support and participate in this way initially.

**Ashley Short: Tualatin Riverkeepers**

Ashley shared that the Tualatin Riverkeepers boat rentals are open and boats can be reserved by accessing their website on-line.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Briita Pajunas, Co-Secretary