



TUALATIN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
Staff Activity Report to Council Members - October 2020
Submitted by:
Scott McEwen, Executive Director and Sam Sharka, Project
Manager

CONVENOR: STRATEGIC PLAN - GOAL 1

1. Cedar Mill North Johnson Creek (CMNJC)
 - a. The TRWC continues to serve as the chair of the Programs Subcommittee of the CMNJC collaborative. This committee seeks to identify programmatic on-the-ground actions in a highly urbanized setting that will improve the overall health of the subbasin.
 - b. The TRWC is spearheading an effort of the programs subcommittee to pilot a project identification and prioritization approach in CMNJC.
2. Dairy McKay Restoration Action Plan
 - a. The Cascade Environmental Group Inc. is nearing completion of a DRAFT Restoration Action Plan. This draft plan will be reviewed by the Restoration Committee and presented to Council once it is complete.
 - b. The draft plan has been used as a pilot to test some of NetMap capabilities. A presentation of the preliminary Dairy McKay analysis was given to CWS and DEQ in July.
 - c. Our film on the East Fork Dairy Creek Project was accepted into the virtual Stories of Our Watersheds RRNW film festival which will take place Oct. 26th- Nov. 8th.

PARTNERSHIP BUILDING: STRATEGIC PLAN - GOAL 1

1. TRWC met with partners from CWS, TSWCD, and The Wetlands Conservancy to discuss the issue of beavers in urban systems. Samantha has upcoming meetings scheduled with THPRD staff and Jakob Shockey (The Beaver Coalition) to discuss these issues further.
2. Samantha continues to meet bi-monthly/monthly with two outreach groups: Urban Watersheds Outreach and Together for Watersheds. Together for Watersheds is a collective composed primarily of outreach staff from Portland metro area watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and an array of environmentally focused 501(c)(3) non-profits who convened early in the COVID-19 shut-down to brainstorm and implement creative ways to conduct outreach virtually and keep community engagement levels up.
3. Samantha attended the Fish Screening Task Force Committee Meeting Hearing for the JWC in June in support of their fish passage and mitigation project on Bateman Creek.
4. Scott and Samantha met with staff from Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Oswego Lake Watershed Council, and the City of Lake Oswego to discuss the Lake Oswego watershed councils' funding source from the City and potential collaboration on future projects.
5. Scott and Samantha met with Anne Marie Santos of the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) to discuss the potential to assist in the identification of sites eligible for a community-based stormwater retrofit project in Washington County.

BUILDING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY: STRATEGIC PLAN - GOALS 4 & 5

1. Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds were secured by TRWC staff in June.
2. Under Covid-19, staff continue to use the Enhanced Network Attached Solution (NAS) allowing staff to access all TRWC files remotely from mobile phones and laptops during the pandemic.
3. Staff continues to build out a new website design blueprint and reach out to contractors to scope out work on a new website platform.
4. Geographic Information System – Staff continue to use its ArcGIS Online capability to allow remote use of GIS capability. Samantha is taking GIS Analysis as a follow up course to Intro to GIS at PCC
5. The internal computer file system was streamlined and restructured with older items archived.
6. TRWC secured a master contract with CWS for FY20-23. The master contract SOW includes building out some new programming to be taken on by a possible future outreach specialist position.

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE: STRATEGIC PLAN - GOALS 4 & 5

1. The September Council Meeting featured speakers from the Johnson Creek Watershed Council and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council on their approaches to building Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) in their respective organizations.
2. Staff developed a DEI survey for Council members and compiled and presented survey results to Council.
3. Staff and Council are conducting research to identify an appropriate trainer for the upcoming Council DEI training.
4. Meeting with Jan Miller, Kelly Dawes and Rich Van Buskirk to plan for the transition of Jan out of a financial role for the organization
5. Processed invoice payments.
6. Processed banks deposits.
7. Received 2020-2021 Bureau of Reclamation award for \$30,000.

RESTORATION PROGRAM: STRATEGIC PLAN - GOAL 2

1. Clackamas County Water and Environment Services - The Watershed Council received a \$41,500 contract with Clackamas County to continue riparian restoration efforts in the Rock Creek watershed and along the mainstem of the Tualatin River.
2. Metro, Nature in Neighborhoods – Johnson Creek Regional Trail. The Watershed Council completed its responsibilities as a fiscal agent for the Neighbor for Smart Growth as part of the North Johnson Creek Regional Rail project.
3. Current NetMap Status – Improving the Road Layer in the Headwaters

- a. Aaron Shaw (TSWCD) is working with Brian Shepherd (CWS) to develop a new, more comprehensive roads layer derived from newest LiDAR data. There is potential to use this improved roads inventory layer within NetMap to conduct a debris flow analysis for a wildfire risk assessment project (see Wildfire Collaboration).
 - b. We are in the process of obtaining a Riparian Buffers dataset from Terrain Works. We will likely use the parameters put forth from ODF's newly released Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/Pages/HCP-initiative.aspx>
4. NetMap Phase II - Scope of Work Development
 - a. TRWC and TSWCD are moving forward with our first NetMap Phase II analysis with support from JP Zagarola (BEF consultant) and Steve Trask (Trask Consulting, Inc.) on the topic of improving the quality, function, and connectivity of riparian and floodplain buffers in areas of valuable steelhead habitat, for the benefit of habitat and water quality. Prioritizing this analysis is based on survey feedback from our organizational partners.
5. Clear Creek LWD II – Project Status & Monitoring
 - a. Jeremy Lees of Biosurveys, LLC. conducted snorkel surveys and spawning gravel inventories on August 3rd and 4th for the 2020 Clear Creek Rapid Bio-Assessment report.
 - b. Samantha Sharka collected pre-project implementation data for effectiveness monitoring with the help of Mike Conroy (TSWCD), and Monica Blanchard (ODFW). Data sampled included macroinvertebrates and channel metrics (pool inventories). Macroinvertebrate identification assistance was provided pro-bono by Shannon Hubler of Robin's Reach. Robin's Reach was unable to conduct their monitoring services (pebble counts and macroinvertebrate sampling) with volunteers this season due to COVID-19 restrictions.
 - c. Samantha is working with Casey Storey from David Evans & Associates on the permitting process for the in-stream project work. BOR funds awarded to TRWC have been secured for permitting.
 - d. Our OWEB restoration grant application was submitted in July, and our virtual site visit has been scheduled for November 23rd. The site visit will take place virtually, rather than in-person, due to COVID-19 restrictions and will consist of a review of the restoration grant application projects for competitive funding. The presentation will go over technical aspects of the project as well as any fine project details as noted in the grant application. The OWEB Willamette Region Review Team meeting is scheduled for December 15th, 2020. After all regional meetings are completed statewide, evaluations will be distributed, and funding recommendations will be given.
 - e. We have also begun the process of applying for funding from DEQ's SEP. An enforcement action against Columbia NW Recycling in Cornelius, OR will cost the recycling company more than \$611,000. Columbia NW Recycling is permitted to pay out 80% of the fines to eligible, shovel-ready projects. We will pursue this funding opportunity as a secondary option, under the circumstances that we are not awarded OWEB restoration grant funding.
6. Tualatin Conservation Partners Update
 - a. In 2019, the TRWC was invited to participate in the Tualatin Conservation Partners (TCP). This partnership is comprised of the TSWCD, CWS, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Metro, Columbia Land Trust, the Wetlands Conservancy, and the Tualatin Riverkeepers and serves as an ad hoc think tank around emerging conservation strategies. The TRWC has recently been asked to co-lead this partnership with CWS.
7. Wildfire Collaboration
 - a. The Wildfire Collaboration committee is a group formed of organizational partners from CWS, TSWCD, TRWC, City of Hillsboro, NRCS, ODF, and the JWC to discuss the potential to create a pre and/or post-wildfire plan in order to protect the JWC's DWSA. Water quality and JWC critical assets and infrastructure are given high priority for the purpose of this assessment. Given the very recent events of fires located in the DWSA (Hagg Lake and Bald Peak) as well as nearby and across the state of Oregon, this project's priority has been fast-tracked.

- b. TSWCD and TRWC plan to present an enhanced SOW and Vision Statement to the Wildfire Collaboration group at their next committee meeting to help shape the direction of the project.
- c. There is potential to utilize NetMap wildfire tools including Mapping Fire, VegFire, and Wildfire Cascade in addition to erosion potential and debris flow analyses in order to inform a pre-fire risk and vulnerability assessment. Terrain Works has agreed to host an informational session to inform TSWCD and TRWC staff on the capability of these tools and how the roads layer can enhance the debris flow modelling.

Acronyms:

BEF: Bonneville Environmental Foundation

BOR: Bureau Of Reclamation

CMNJC: Cedar Mill North Johnson Creek

CWS: Clean Water Services

DEIJ: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

DEQ: Department of Environmental Quality

DWSA: Drinking Water Source Area

FY: Fiscal Year

GIS: Geographic Information Systems

HCP: Habitat Conservation Plan

JWC: Joint Water Commission

LCEP: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

ODF: Oregon Department of Forestry

ODFW: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

OWEB: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service

PPP: Paycheck Protection Program

SEP: Supplemental Environmental Project

SOW: Scope of Work

TCP: Tualatin Conservation Partners

TRWC: Tualatin River Watershed Council

TSWCD: Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District