



Tualatin River Watershed Council Meeting Minutes June 2, 2021

Stakeholders Present

Bob Baumgartner	Services Districts (Sewerage) Primary Representative, Clean Water Services
Ashley Short	Environmental Organizations Primary Representative, Tualatin Riverkeepers
Simon Christensen	Drinking Water Provider Primary Representative (shared position), City of Hillsboro Water Department – Joint Water Commission
Tom Nygren	Forestry - Small Woodlands Association
Briita Pajunas	Soil and Water Conservation District Secondary Representative, Tualatin SWCD
Erin Poor	Citizen-at-large

Staff Present

Scott McEwen	TRWC Executive Director
Samantha Sharka	TRWC Project Manager

Guests Present

Kellyn Baez	Clean Water Services
Brian Creutzburg	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Welcome and Introductions

Bob Baumgartner, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:03 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.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of May meeting minutes. Simon Christensen moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Ashley Short. Passed unanimously.

Steering Committee Discussion - Updates to Bylaws and Organizational Policy – Scott McEwen

Scott presented on updates that the TRWC is considering for current and possible stakeholder group organizational policy.

Goals for reorganizing stakeholder group formation policy include:

Opportunities to create a more welcoming environment as new community members recognize a group that they can belong to within the updated structure.

Opportunities to build broader representation of board members serving the TRWC.

Scott noted that it has been difficult to fill and retain stakeholder group positions. Some current groups as written are inactive with no representatives. Some groups that are currently inactive as the structure is written are Business/ Industry Community and Local Government.

New proposals to update the structure include Local Government and Urban Community will be combined and transferred to the broader heading of Local Government and Special Districts.

Brief discussion was held on how this list of stakeholder groups was created. Tom Nygren has been on the Board since 2000 and doesn't recall how the list was created prior to 2000.

Overarching goal is to create more general categories and have more at-Large positions, to allow for greater flexibility and ability to recruit new stakeholder members from a diverse group of entity categories within the watershed.

One proposal was to add an additional category subgroup called Regional Government, which is not currently on this list as presented.

A proposal to change name from Non-governmental organizations to Non-profit organizations to offer more guidance, as NGO can be quite broad and applied to many groups such as Small Woodland Association.

Building in flexibility in sector categories where it has been hard to recruit and retain is important so these sectors will contain the most at-large positions.

Ashley Short noted that this sector category list is extremely long and therefore leads to a high number of board positions if all seats are filled. Balance on the board is important and the TRWC will strive to build representation from all sectors.

Changes in language of the bylaws will be needed, since currently internal recruitment for each stakeholder group is required. i.e. a board member from the forestry group is needed to recruit new membership within that group. So recruitment will be unlikely for those sector groups that are currently vacant until bylaw guidance is updated to reflect new recruitment provisions.

Two Year Strategic Plan Check-In - FY 21-22 Budget Priorities– Scott McEwen

Scott presented the TRWC goals and associated strategies for completion that accompanied the FY21-22 budget. Some strategy efforts were paused due to Covid i.e. hosting public forums and leading tours.

Goals and strategies associated with restoration actions were far along in development with many close to or meeting 100% completion.

Kellyn asked that a Teams shared folder be created that hosts lists, resource and information related to business and industry partnerships and collaborations that are in development. This will allow CWS and other stakeholders to be more involved and supportive of this partnership building effort.

Funding plan strategies are well underway, and TREE grants with Tualatin SWCD have been awarded three times to TRWC and partner organizations. TRWC Facebook and Instagram presence has increased greatly in the past year. Strategies associated with being a more inclusive organization and research into other watershed councils to better understand their governance structures has begun, and

there is continuing efforts to learn more from fellow watershed councils. Work is still needed for how to make updates and changes to the governance of the TRWC, onboarding new council members and defining roles and responsibilities of council members.

As an organization, the TRWC strives to make more of a commitment to apply resources towards goals that have not been met. Tours, public forums, and similar actions will need more guidance and input from board members to support the TRWC acting as a convener role.

Tours based on raising awareness around different sectors in order to engage and recruit new members and partnerships from all sectors is an option to explore. And sharing a tour with other partner orgs like the Tualatin SWCD could be an option. Many TRWC convening efforts are already underway with developing project initiatives such as DEIJ initiatives, CM/ NJ TWEC collaborations, Clear Creek Large Wood Project and Basin wide Beaver Strategy work as an example.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Briita Pajunas, Co-Secretary