



Tualatin River Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
November 3rd, 2021

Stakeholders Present

Ashley Short	Environmental Organizations Primary Representative, Tualatin Riverkeepers
Briita Pajunas	Soil and Water Conservation District Secondary Representative, Tualatin SWCD
Rahim Harji	Cities Primary Representative, City of Hillsboro
Simon Christensen	Drinking Water Provider Primary Representative (shared position), City of Hillsboro Water Department – Joint Water Commission
Jon Pampush	Fisheries, Trout Unlimited
Rich Van Buskirk	Education Primary Representative, Pacific University
Tom Nygren	Forestry Primary Representative, WA County Small Woodlands Association
Eric Poor	USGS – Co-Chair standing in for Bob Baumgartner tonight

Staff Present

Scott McEwen	TRWC Executive Director
Samantha Sharka	TRWC Project Manager

Guests Present

Anne MacDonald	Clean Water Services
Brandy Saffell	Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
Greg Mintz	Citizen-at-large

Welcome and Introductions

Erin Poor, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 7:02 pm and lead an ice breaker. Scott shared the agenda. Stakeholders, staff, and guests introduced themselves. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

Public Comment. No public comment.

Approval of October meeting minutes. Ashley Short moved to approve the minutes as presented. Simon Christensen seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Presentation: Tualatin Basin Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment and Recommendations - Brandy Saffell, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District

Brandy Saffell, Forest Conservation Specialist with the Tualatin SWCD presented on recently completed research on wildfire risk within Washington County. This was a joint research effort conducted by TRWC, Joint Water Commission, Tualatin SWCD, OSU Extension and Clean Water Services.



During an October 2019 stakeholder focus group, forest resilience and wildfire concerns were at the top of the list for issues that forest managers and forest landowners wanted to focus resources and energy on in coming years. Literature review on other similar assessments was completed by Brandy and Sam Sharka during 2020 to better understand what work had already been completed on these topics.

The original QWRA assesses hazard and vulnerability. In concert these factors lead to a measure of risk. Probability and intensity and severity are measures of hazard, and exposure and susceptibility are measures of vulnerability. If a fire were to happen, how large of an impact would it have? We see that in western Oregon we have high consequence, but the probability of a fire happening is actually rather low. The focus of this assessment was to understand how to protect water quality for people and wildlife. Washington County has on average 10 fire-starts per year, most are under an acre in size and most are human caused starts. This TSWCD led risk assessment worked off of the QWRA in many ways, but chose to use less frequent climatic conditions, random starts (not using historic starts) and pursue a focus on water quality and Drinking water source area (which was not included in the original QWRA).

This newly completed risk assessment includes maps which allows one to see where hazard interacts with important infrastructure assets such as control valves, roads, pumps and intake sites. This allows for future recommendations and focus on mitigation efforts to protect these vital infrastructure resources. The report provides a set of recommendations within all sub watersheds ranked by order of priority. The report also makes recommendations for mitigation actions.

Phase II of this effort will review impacts of post fire erosion and debris flows, with the goal to develop a water protection plan (JWC and CWS). At Tualatin SWCD, Brandy will use these integrated hazard maps to determine places where drought mortality and forest health data lines up to assist in targeted outreach and programming.

Washington County Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning update – Anne MacDonald – Clean Water Services

Anne MacDonald noted that Washington County will be kicking off a largescale Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning effort beginning in January – February 2022. Hazard mitigation planning reduces loss of life and property by minimizing the impact of disasters and is widely encouraged by FEMA. This is a multi-jurisdictional undertaking with active collaboration by several cities, TVWD, Washington County, THPRD and others. The planning committee overseeing this undertaking will be meeting in December 2021. The County is now in the process of selecting a contractor to move this large effort forward. Likely the Terrain Works NETMap data and the recently completed Wildfire Risk Assessment report findings will be used to inform the Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning work for Washington County.



Review of Proposed Amendments to Bylaws and Organizational Procedures – Ashley Short

Ashley reviewed proposed changes to the Bylaws and Organizational Procedures. The Steering Committee and Equity Committee has already reviewed and made recommendations on the Bylaws.

Summary of some proposed changes:

1. Proxy voting and allowing an assigned proxy to attend a meeting in a sector members place
2. New addition of more equitable and intentional language focusing on historically under-represented communities and tribal members
3. Proposal to allow changes to happen faster within the Organizational Procedures (i.e. with 10 days' notice a change can be proposed instead of requiring two board meetings to adopt recommended changes.)

Ashley shared that the next step will be to propose a vote to adopt all proposed edits (not all listed above) officially at the next December 2021 Board Meeting.

DEIJ Committee: Board Training Dates – Ashley Short and Scott McEwen

Ashley reviewed the Scope of Work for the upcoming Board DEIJ training. Workshops will include four three-hour sessions. Ashley asked about timing preference for these workshops.

The members decided to hold the workshops 6-9 pm every other month, so that off months allow for regular TRWC business to be addressed during regular meetings. The contract with the training consultant is ready to sign and the trainings will be proposed to begin in January.

January 5th, March 2nd, May 4th and July 6th are the currently proposed training dates for these board trainings (6 – 9 pm).

Due to concerns around summer availability in general, there is the idea that instead of a July training, a training would be scheduled for April. Scott will continue to discuss this rescheduling option with board members and the DEIJ training consultants and Meyer Memorial grantor contact to firm up this final date option in the near future.

There is a new re-occurring date of DEIJ Committee
4th Tuesday of every month from 12 – 1 pm

Adjournment Erin Poor adjourned the meeting at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Briita Pajunas, Co-Secretary