



TUALATIN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Engaging The Community To Sustain Our Watershed

Tualatin River Watershed Council Meeting Minutes January 3, 2024

Sector Representatives Present

Rich Van Buskirk	Education Representative – Pacific University
Bob Baumgartner	Local Govt and Special Districts (Sewer Districts) – Clean Water Services
Victoria Frankeny	NGO Representative – Tualatin Riverkeepers
Tom Nygren	Forestry Representative – Washington Co. Small Woodlands Association
Lacey Townsend	Local Govt and Special Districts (SWCDs) – Tualatin SWCD
Rodney Jacobs	Forestry Representative – Stimson Lumber Company
Maly Haghshenas	Local Govt and Special Districts – Joint Water Commission
Rahim Harji	Local Govt and Special Districts (Cities) – City of Hillsboro
John Pampush	NGO Representative – Trout Unlimited
Stephen Cruise	Local Govt and Special Districts – Washington County
Greg Mintz	Community Member

Staff Present

Scott McEwen	Tualatin River Watershed Council Executive Director
Antonella Fillet	Tualatin River Watershed Council Project Manager

Guests Present

Brian Creutzberg	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Mary Kyle McCurdy	1000 Friends of Oregon

Welcome and Introductions

Rich Van Buskirk opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Stakeholders, staff, and guests introduced themselves and the sector they represent. The meeting was held both in person, at the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, and virtually.

Review and Approval of the Agenda

The 2024 Election of Officers has been postponed to the next Council meeting.

Public Comment

- Scott McEwen: The Tualatin River Watershed Council has been receiving phone calls concerning Washington County Ordinance 882, which proposed a refinement study area for a possible Tile Flat Road extension.
- Victoria Frankeny: Victoria is leaving her position with Tualatin Riverkeepers and will appoint an interim staff member to sit in on TRWC meetings until her replacement takes over.
- Brian Creutzberg: DEQ will be involved in litigation regarding their water quality trading program. Hearings will be held downtown.



Approval of December 2023 Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION: Governor's Housing Production Advisory Council – Presented by Mary Kyle McCurdy, 1000 Friends of Oregon

1000 Friends of Oregon is one of several nonprofits that have been following Housing Production Advisory Committee (HPAC) meetings. Governor Kotek created HPAC in 2023 to address housing production needs. It consists of 25 members, including legislators, developers, tribal representative, etc. Environmental groups and local governments were not included on the HPAC. 1000 Friends has submitted testimony and written comments but is not a member of the HPAC.

The goal of the HPAC is to submit recommendations, to include changes in policy and regulations, amongst others, to increase housing production. HPAC broke into five workgroups that met regularly, include availability of land and permit applications workgroups.

From these workgroups, four recommendations arose regarding wetlands. The land availability workgroup made three recommendations:

- (1) enable Department of State Lands to create wetland mitigation opportunities throughout the state to support housing goals, including additional mitigation banks and expansion of fee-in-lieu;
- (2) through emergency order, governor would direct agencies to adopt waters of United States definition (that arose from the *Sackett v. EPA* case) as water of states definition within UGB; and
- (3) expand mitigation-in-lieu program.

The fourth recommendation came from the permit applications workgroup, which proposed a 5-foot wetland buffer for waters of the state. Other recommendations that arose were rolling back tree canopy protections. A final report with these recommendations will be submitted to the governor by the end of the month. Public comment may be allowed on the final draft.

Executive Director Report: Private Forest Accords Grant & Building Beaver-Influenced Landscapes – Presented by Scott McEwen and Antonella Fillet, Tualatin River Watershed Council

TRWC recently submitted a grant request of \$400,000 to plan, monitor, engage, and implement beaver-enhanced landscapes. This grant arose out of Private Forest Accords Habitat Conservation Plan work being done by ODF. Partners include ODFW, Stimson, TWC, CWS, TSWCD.

Funding for the grant will go towards identifying priority locations where beaver dam building will likely succeed and provide habitat benefits, identifying beaver co-existence strategies and engage with landowners and stakeholders, funding community science volunteers from the Wetlands Conservancy to conduct beaver survey with ODFW along Gales Creek, and



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implementing the Coffee Creek Wetland Restoration and Finger Creek Fish Passage Improvement.

As an additional note, TRWC will be hosting a workshop on working with beavers in urban environments in Hillsboro on January 30th.

Strategic Planning Update – Presented by Scott McEwen, Tualatin River Watershed Council

Strategic Planning Goals have been finalized. Scott and Antonella sent out draft strategies and actions for the Steering Committee to review which will then be presented to the Council at the February meeting.

Adjournment

Rich Van Buskirk adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Frankeny, Secretary