



# TUALATIN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

*Engaging The Community To Sustain Our Watershed*

## Tualatin River Watershed Council Meeting Minutes April 6, 2022

### Sector Representatives Present

Erin Poor	Community Member
Tom Nygren	Forestry Representative – Wash County Small Woodlands Association
Rodney Jacobs	Forestry Representative – Stimson Lumber (APPOINTED AT THIS MEETING)
Bob Baumgartner	Local Govt and Special Districts (Sewer Districts) – Clean Water Services
Lacey Townsend	Local Govt and Special Districts (SWCDs) – Tualatin SWCD
Rahim Harji	Local Govt and Special Districts (Cities) – City of Hillsboro
Simon Christensen	Local Govt and Special Districts (Water Districts) – Joint Water Commission
Stephen Cruise	Local Govt and Special Districts (Counties) – Washington County
Jan Wilson	NGO Representative – Tualatin Riverkeepers (APPOINTED AT THIS MEETING)

### Staff Present

Scott McEwen	TRWC Executive Director
Samantha Sharka	TRWC Project Manager

### Guests Present

George Kral	Gales Creek resident
Sara Kral	Gales Creek resident
Anne MacDonald	Clean Water Services
Brian Creutzburg	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Steph Beall	Oregon Department of Forestry
Chas Hundley	Gales Creek Journal
Maya Hurst-Mayr	Tualatin Riverkeepers

### Welcome and Introductions

Bob Baumgartner, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:03 pm. Stakeholders, staff, and guests introduced themselves. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

**Public Comment.** No public comment was presented.

**Approval of February 2022 meeting minutes.** Rahim Harji moved to approve the minutes as presented. Tom Nygren seconded. Bob Baumgartner voted yes as proxy for Greg Mintz. **Passed unanimously.** The March 2022 meeting was dedicated to DEI training; therefore there were no meeting minutes to present from March.

### **Update on landslide/water conditions in Gales Creek Watershed – Scott McEwen**

This has been an emerging issue over the past couple of weeks. There was concern with increased turbidity in Gales Creek, with multiple complaints from community members about large amounts of sediment. Scott described the event as intermittent, dry weather turbidity. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) sent in photos of a North Fork Gales Creek landslide, which was causing fine sediment to deposit into Gales Creek. Scott shared these photos. It is thought that this slide is the source of the sediment and turbidity.

Comments from Council members and guests:

- Brian Creutzburg (DEQ) outlined the DEQ complaint process. It's rare to get a complaint like this without knowing the exact cause. DEQ relies on partners to do initial fact finding. In this case, follow up with the complainant, fact-finding, and reaching out to a broader network led to ODF who helped locate the source. DEQ can provide an advisory role with landowner permission.
- Simon Christensen (JWC) discussed that early indicators at the drinking water monitoring plant showed big pulses of turbidity come through. fDOM (fluorescent dissolved organic matter) spiked two hours after the turbidity came in and had to be treated at the plant with chlorine.
- Rodney Jacobs (Stimson) flew over the site on Stimson property with a drone and will have ortho photos soon. It looks to be an active area and Stimson is trying to figure out how to mitigate this. It's the largest slide he's seen in 23 years. Rodney offered folks to come look at the site and proposed a date. Stimson would like assistance finding a solution and minimizing impact.
- Jan Wilson (TRK) went to look at the site soon after complaints came in. TRK's primary concern is for the fish species in Gales Creek. TRK would like to see fish and wildlife agencies be involved and engaged.
- Bob Baumgartner (CWS) said this is not a regulatory issue for CWS since it's outside their service area, but are concerned due to water quality issues.
- Anne McDonald (CWS) gave a bit of advice, saying the best place for silt is on the floodplain. If the downstream is well connected to the floodplain, this will reduce impact. This could be part of a natural process, but need to interrupt the pathway.
- Steph Beall (ODF) said that the first slide was located on March 25. A geomorphologist has reviewed the site and ODF is waiting for the summary. They are in contact with Stimson.
- There were some questions about logging, replanting, and logging roads. Rodney explained that the site was last planted in 2013. The road was removed in 2014, but was way below the slide.

### **Restoration Committee Site Visits**

The committee will visit the Chicken Creek Restoration Project and Metro's Beef Bend Project on April 14. All Council members are invited to attend and Scott will send details.

### **Transition to Hybrid In-Person/Remote Meetings**

Scott brought up the possibility of beginning hybrid meetings in CWS' Tualatin Room starting as early as May. There were no comments from Council members.

### **Proposed New Council Members**

- Nonprofit Sector Representative: Jan Wilson, Tualatin Riverkeepers (replacing Ashley Short, Tualatin Riverkeepers). Stephen Cruise moved to accept Jan Wilson as the representative for the nonprofit sector. Rahim Harji seconded. Bob Baumgartner voted yes as proxy for Greg Mintz. **Passed unanimously (via voice vote).**

- Forestry Sector Representative: Rodney Jacobs, Stimson Lumber (replacing Dave Sweeney, Stimson Lumber). Simon Christensen moved to accept Rodney Jacobs as the representative for the forestry sector. Rahim Harji seconded. Bob Baumgartner voted yes as proxy for Greg Mintz. **Passed unanimously (via voice vote).**

#### **Website Launch – Scott McEwen**

Scott previewed the new Council website with the group.

#### **Presentation: Basin Wide Rapid Bio-Assessment – Scott McEwen**

During the 2022 field season, the Council will complete a basin-wide rapid bio-assessment with funds from TSWCD, CWS, and the Bureau of Reclamation. Scott went through the project timeline and activities. This will be the first basin-wide survey since the 2013-14 period.

#### **Presentation: Translating NetMap Ground Truthing to Project Work – Sam Sharka**

Over the past year, the Watershed Council has partnered with the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District to hire the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to identify key anchor habitats for Steelhead using the GIS platform known as NetMap. The field validation of the NetMap analysis, combined with the rapid bio-assessment work described above, will provide the Council and all the partners with a high level of confidence in where the most important habitats are found to protect and restore. In addition to this crucial function, the ground truthing has also identified a couple of high priority restoration projects. One project is on Witcher Creek on Stimson property, and the other project is on Coffee Creek in the headwaters of Gales Creek.

**Adjournment** Bob Baumgartner adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lacey Townsend, Secretary