



**Tualatin River Watershed Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 7, 2022**

**Sector Representatives Present**

Tom Nygren	Forestry Representative – Washington Co Small Woodlands Assoc.
Bob Baumgartner	Local Govt and Special Districts (Sewer Districts) – Clean Water Services
Lacey Townsend	Local Govt and Special Districts (SWCDs) – Tualatin SWCD
Stephen Cruise	Local Govt and Special Districts (Counties) – Washington County
Rich Van Buskirk	Education Representative – Pacific University
Victoria Frankeny	NGO Representative – Tualatin Riverkeepers
Erin Poor	Community Member

**Staff Present**

Scott McEwen	TRWC Executive Director
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**Guests Present**

Stephanie Beall	Oregon Department of Forestry
Maly Haghshenas	Joint Water Commission
Briita Pajunas	Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
Brian Creutzburg	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

**Welcome and Introductions**

Bob Baumgartner, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:01 pm. Stakeholders, staff, and guests introduced themselves and went through a brief icebreaker. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

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

**Partner Thank You.** Scott recently attended a meeting of the Tualatin Chapter of Trout Unlimited to give a presentation. Trout Unlimited graciously provided the Council with \$1,000. Scott took a moment to express a thank you for this donation.

**Approval of November 2022 meeting minutes.** Stephen Cruise moved to approve the minutes as presented. Victoria Frankeny seconded. **Passed unanimously via voice vote. Bob Baumgartner was proxy for Rahim Harji, Greg Mintz, and Jon Pampush (yes votes).**

**Council Officers**

The Steering Committee recommends postponing the election of Council Officers for a couple of months to go through the transition with Samantha leaving, hiring a new Project Manager, and beginning the Strategic Planning process. **Bob Baumgartner moved to postpone election**



of Council Officers a couple months. Lacey Townsend seconded. Passed unanimously via voice vote. Bob Baumgartner was proxy for Rahim Harji, Greg Mintz, and Jon Pampush (yes votes).

**Presentation: Focus Group Research to Guide Equity Action Planning – Briita Pajunas**

- Briita gave an overview of focus group research, which was conducted through a partnership with Tualatin SWCD, CWS, Stamberger Outreach Consulting, Community Engagement Liaison Services (CELS). There were eight focus groups with communities of color in Washington County. These focus groups were recruited and facilitated by CELS liaisons.
- What the group learned from the focus groups:
  - Focus group participants highly value parks.
  - Urban development, industry pollution, and air pollution were self-reported top concerns.
  - Info on drinking water, water treatment, and stormwater pollution were new to many participants.
  - Most never hear of the SWCD and very few heard of CWS.
  - 66% of participants are renters and felt most programs offered by TSWCD and CWS were not applicable to them.
  - Most popular topics of interest were natural vegetation, gardening, water conservation, and soil health.
  - Common program recommendations included increase youth environmental education, increase farmers markets, and community gardens.
- Some of these results went into developing the Draft Equity Plan, which Scott will go through next. It will be important to continue work with these focus groups to work effectively with communities of color in Washington County.

**Review of Draft Equity Action Plan – Scott McEwen**

Scott went through some definitions for the Plan, followed by slides of a summary of the Plan. There are five Equity Drivers, each with an equity goal and a list of strategies under each goal. Bob Baumgartner suggested the Council members choose some actions to get started on. It was suggested that first steps be recommended by the DEIJ Committee at their next meeting.

**Presentation: Preliminary eDNA findings and Planning for Next Summer – Scott McEwen**

- The 2022 pilot eDNA study started with an interest in the extent of Pacific Lamprey in the Tualatin River Basin via the Tribes. Several other species were added to the study by CWS and ODFW. Species included in the study:
  - Pacific Lamprey
  - Steelhead
  - Coho
  - Cutthroat
  - Western ridge muscle
  - Western pearl shell muscle



- Lampetra (resident lamprey)
- River otter
- Scott went through some high level findings. Many of the sampling sites were near or above Balm Grove. A map for each species was shown, along with whether the species showed up as negative or positive at each site.
- Some examples were given as to how we can use this eDNA data in management decisions going forward.
- The Restoration Committee will discuss eDNA monitoring plans for next summer.

**Adjournment** Bob Baumgartner adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lacey Townsend, Secretary