



**Tualatin River Watershed Council  
Meeting Minutes  
March 1, 2023**

**Sector Representatives Present**

Bob Baumgartner	Local Govt and Special Districts (Sewer Districts) – Clean Water Services
Stephen Cruise	Local Govt and Special Districts (Counties) – Washington County
Rahim Harji	Local Govt and Special Districts (Cities) – City of Hillsboro
Rich Van Buskirk	Education Representative – Pacific University
Victoria Frankeny	NGO Representative – Tualatin Riverkeepers
Erin Poor	Community Member
Jon Pampush	NGO Representative – Trout Unlimited
Rodney Jacobs	Forestry Representative – Stimson Lumber

**Staff Present**

Scott McEwen	TRWC Executive Director
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**Guests Present**

Stephanie Beall	Oregon Department of Forestry
Maly Haghshenas	Joint Water Commission
Louis Macovsky	Wilsonville Resident
Robert Derber	Washington County Resident

**Welcome and Introductions**

Rich Van Buskirk, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:02pm. Stakeholders, staff, and guests introduced themselves and the sector they represent. The meeting was held in a hybrid format, with the in-person location at Clean Water Services Administration Office in Hillsboro.

**Review and Approval of the Agenda**

No additions proposed to the agenda.

**Public Comment**

- Louis Macovsky is interested in creating a watershed council in Wilsonville and is tuning into the meeting to find out more.
- Steph Beall commented that ODF put in a fish passage grant to install a bridge to replace a culvert in Beaver Creek.

**Approval of February 2023 Meeting Minutes**

There were no February minutes to approve.

**Updates from Council Members and Guests**

- Rahim Harji
  - Hillsboro is interested in hiring a sustainability and resiliency manager.



- Possibility for cleanup projects

along the floodplain.

- Bob Baumgartner
  - Clean Water Services has been issued its new watershed-wide permit.
  - Areas of interest for next permit cycle include increasing efficiency of stormwater management and incorporating the unpredictability of climate change in planning.
- Stephen Cruise
  - Washington County is replacing South Road bridge in the upper Tualatin.
  - County put in several funding requests to replace culverts throughout the watershed.
- Victoria Frankeny
  - Tualatin Riverkeepers just hired a Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator.
- Maly Haghshenas
  - Joint Water Commission is wrapping up funding opportunities and project planning.
- Jon Pampush
  - Trout Unlimited is looking to create educational program experiences.
- Rich Van Buskirk
  - Pacific University is looking into western red cedar dieback as a potential substitute for Oregon ash. Organizations and individuals have stopped planting ash due to the presence of the emerald ash borer.

### **Restoration Committee Report: How We are Integrating the RBA, NetMap, and eDNA into Conservation Prioritization and Action Development**

- Rapid bioassessment
  - Completed over 122 miles of snorkel surveys in 2022, including upper Tualatin, Gales Creek, Dairy Creek, and McKay Creek.
- Net map
  - GIS approach in identifying steelhead habitat and coming up with reach specific actions.
- eDNA
  - Four proposed focus areas for next round of eDNA
    - Pacific lamprey, western ridged mussel locations, fish passage barriers (5 locations), and steelhead.

All these will influence updates to Gales Creek and Dairy McKay Action Plans.

### **Re-Vote on Council Offices to be Captured in Meeting Minutes**

#### Nominations

Chair – Rich Van Buskirk

Vice Chair – Rahim Harji

Secretary – Victoria Frankeny

Treasurer – Lacey Townsend

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Bob Baumgartner moved to approve nominations. John Pampush seconded. **Passed unanimously via voice vote. Rich Van Buskirk served as proxy for Lacey Townsend and Tom Nygren.**

### **Strategic Planning Considerations**

The Strategic Planning process will begin in the next year. Council is considering consultant proposals and costs for contractors. Rahim Harji raised importance of including DEI work in the strategic plan.

### **Council Discussion on Committees**

Discussion on whether to revive past committees or create new ones. This would be flushed out further in the Strategic Plan. John Pampush and Rahim Harji recommend going through the Strategic Planning process prior to setting up possible committees. Rich Van Buskirk raised the possibility using possible committees as a prompt to influence the planning process.

### **Adjournment**

Rich Van Buskirk adjourned the meeting at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Victoria Frankeny, Secretary