



Calapooia Watershed Council

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday October 9th, 2024

The Calapooia Watershed Council Board of Directors held their usual bi-monthly meeting at Pioneer Park, Brownsville.

The following members were in attendance:

Joe Deardorff Matt Mellenthin Mark Running Dee Swayze
Jim Wagner

The following members were absent:

Jim Merzenich Sharon Crowley Shannon Richardson John Joiner

The following were also in attendance:

Kristen Daly, Youth Education Program Manager
Alex Rice, Habitat Restoration Program Manager
Collin McCandless, Executive Director
Fiona Julian, Operations Coordinator

Collin McCandless presided over the meeting, Fiona Julian recorded the minutes.

AGENDA ITEM: First Quarter Financials & Audit

Fiona explained that a Financial Audit is underway and was obtained in order to prepare for a potential federal audit as a result of the NOAA grant. Fiona stated that the goal was to identify any findings in order to resolve and be in the best position when a federal audit is

required. Fiona continued that she had met with the auditors several times during the process, and was informed that things were looking good. Joe asked where the funds were coming from to pay for the audit. Fiona responded that it is a combination of grant admin and capacity funds.

AGENDA ITEM: Habitat Restoration Update

Alex stated that he was talking with the City of Albany regarding culvert replacement preparations and that APES (permitting) from RDG had been submitted to NOAA. Alex explained that the next steps will be the archeological assessment of the project site which will be handled by RDG.

Alex discussed that he met with OPRD regarding Truax to get the cultural clearance process started, and that he had led the BPA review team site tour and stated that they had concerns with the phasing and breach location as the original NOAA grant application was paired down due to wanting further analysis. Alex stated that it looks hopeful the BPA grant will ultimately be funded. Dee asked what else BPA wanted, and Alex replied just more analysis as to why the breaches were chosen over others. Matt asked if BPA asked about any toxins and Alex explained they did but that the project areas are nowhere near the problem site, and that it was mainly ground disturbance in the project areas but that anything found in the soil needs to be listed that it is not of significance.

Alex informed that he was working with a contractor at East Thornton Lake and had completed the broadcast application, and that the City of Albany has agreed to mow the area which reduces expenses. Joe asked if the project would involve riparian expansion or oak woodland restoration and Alex responded the focus would be on oak woodland restoration to benefit turtles following herbicide treatment and prairie seeding. Joe stated that the City of Albany may be able to help with ring sprays.

Alex also mentioned a new restoration project on a private property of camas meadows in Crawfordsville that has a seasonal creek, where we will install small beaver dam analogs to benefit the camas. Partnering with Institute for Applied Ecology, who will hold the grant.

AGENDA ITEM: Education Update

Kristen stated we were at the tail end of Salmon Watch and had completed six trips so far. Kristen explained that while most of Salmon Watch was held at River Bend, she was contacted by Timber Ridge and due to the large number of students they wanted to

participate, she would be going to their school to perform the program for two sessions. Kristen discussed that the South Albany High School Special Education teacher had connected with her and would be new participants to Salmon Watch. Kristen also explained that SSWC has ten remaining trips that CWC would be assisting with from Harrisburg which is a growing community with seventy students wanting to attend. Kristen continued that four hundred and forty-four students were served at the CWC Salmon Watch program this year, and SSWC's trips will increase that number by approximately five hundred more students. Kristen stated that we had hired eight seasonal staff this year for Salmon Watch with four of them being returning employees. Kristen continued that she had received fantastic feedback from teachers about the staff. Kristen said that she had added an art component to the salmon dissection station this year which was successful in supporting the students who didn't want to participate in the dissection.

Kristen explained there were just two more fall snorkeling trips, Timber Ridge Eco Explorers had about thirty students; an AP environmental science class from West Albany brought 25 out to River Bend. Kristen commented how she has observed students becoming teachers. Kristen stated that there were only ten snorkeling trips this year for various reasons but received a lovely card from the J St Volunteer Coordinator with whom they've been working with for three years.

Kristen shifted to Salmon Watch, explaining that the South Santiam Hatchery provides the salmon for the fish dissection each year, and that this year they have been instructed not to throw the carcasses into the rivers due to the anesthesia used on them which the FDA has not yet decided if the carcasses contribute to stream enrichment as is otherwise accepted. Kristen continued that we have been asked to return the carcasses to the hatchery for them to convert to fertilizer. Kristen shared that Shannon suggested getting a chest freezer to store them until delivery. Kristen stated that all the seasonal educators are planning to return the Spring for Urban Ecology, and she was working to get South Shaw to participate in the program.

Collin shared that he had been contacted by Dev Brazel at Timber Ridge. Dev was thinking of introducing a fly-tying lesson to his TREE class.

AGENDA ITEM: Board Meeting Presenters

Collin reminded everyone that last time we had met in the park, we had talked about presenters at board meetings and that Jim Merzenich stated he was going to reach out about

that but he had not heard back from him yet. Collin continued that the topic of the proposed solar farm was a possible topic. Dee stated he would reach out to a contact. Matt suggested the Emerald Ash Borer as it would be good to know more about that, as well as talking to River Keepers regarding aquatic invasives, and said he would work on finding a presenter.

AGENDA ITEM: Other

Jim Wagner shared that for the last five years, he and a friend have been hiking Kings Valley in Lebanon, particularly enjoying the bottomlands trails in Corvallis and Albany where the trails are more like sidewalks by the Calapooia near the quarry. Jim continued that it would be neat to have a trail from Pioneer Park to Boston Mills, and that there is a dearth of trails in the valley but land ownership is an issue, and what did everyone think about a concept like that. Jim asked that if it could be figured out, would folk be interested in using them. Mark and Collin responded yes. Jim continued that metro areas show that these trails are used. Alex shared that ODOT came to Albany Transportation CommissionAlbany to Corvallis.

AGENDA ITEM: COI Vote for Matt Mellenthin

Collin stated that due to there not being a quorum at the meeting for the Conflict of Interest vote, a ballot will be sent via email to collect responses.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55pm.