



The Calapooia Watershed Council held their regular bi-monthly Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday 8/13/25, at the Albany Regional Museum, Albany Oregon.

The following members of the Board were present:

Jim Wagner Jim Merzenich Mark Running John Joiner Dee Swayze
Matt Mellenthin

The following members were absent:

Shannon Richardson Joe Deardorff

The following were also in attendance:

Collin McCandless, Executive Director
Alex Rice, Habitat Restoration Program Manager
Fiona Julian, Operations Coordinator (virtual)
Jane Hazen, Brownsville Community Member

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Minutes

Matt Mellenthin moved to approve the June 2025 minutes, Dee Swayze seconded the motion. The motion passed 6:0.

AGENDA ITEM: Education Program Update- Collin provided a limited update due to the Education and Outreach Program Manager being on leave. Fewer summer events than usual; program activities will resume when staffing allows.

AGENDA ITEM: Restoration Program Updates

Alex provided a presentation of current active projects, including a GIS map that pinpointed active, and potential new project sites. Alex and Collin reviewed the Albany Oxbows and Truax Island plans for the culvert replacements, berm removals and channel connections. Alex stated that the crossing at Murder Creek will also have the culvert replaced, and noted the additional current projects in the Albany area at Simpson Park, Periwinkle Creek, and Thornton Lake Natural Area. Alex explained the Tub Run Wetland Prairie restoration is still progressing well, with the landowner performing much of the work in partnership with additional agencies to create high quality bird habitat. Alex also noted that there were a couple of additional potential projects occurring near Harrisburg which are being discussed as to the

role CWC may play in those. Alex Rice mentions the potential beaver habitat restoration project on John Marble's property and the certification process for beaver coexistence practitioners. Collin and Alex discussed the challenges of securing funding due to the limited availability of grants and the impact of federal funding changes and highlighted the need for creativity in securing funding and the importance of community support and engagement. Alex mentioned the potential for additional funding through the DLCD green infrastructure grant and the focus on urban projects and mentioned the community engagement process for the Periwinkle Greenway restoration and the need for public input. Alex and Collin briefly discussed the current and upcoming grant efforts:

- **BPA 2:** Remaining berm obliteration & potential barrier removal connecting First Lake to Cox Creek (restoring several hundred acres of floodplain).
- **DLCD 2:** Continued Periwinkle work and education and outreach funding.
- **OWEB Winter 25:** 2–3 proposals – Continued Oxbows revegetation, Cox Creek–Oxbows connection, Periwinkle Park.
- **Grey Family Foundation** & exploration of new funding sources (Crocker Catalyst, Couch Foundation, Koontz connection etc.

AGENDA ITEM: Other

Community Member Jane Hazen asked if the Oxbows uplift would increase fish in the Calapooia. Collin replied that the relationship is connected as critical migratory habitat. Mark explained that the CWC expanded its service area years ago. Jane stated she had concerns about the Calapooia river and her observations over the past two years since she has lived along it. Jane asked to clarify that there are no current projects happening on the Calapooia river around Brownsville. Jane shared that she was interested in viewing a very detailed, comprehensive, and recently updated watershed health report that included “status of all forms of aquatic and watershed life from micro organisms, insects, fish to small birds, amphibians and mammals to raptors, migrating birds and large mammals” and human factors. Collin explained that he had emailed a detailed response to Jane earlier with contact info and links to various agencies, explaining that such a document unfortunately doesn't exist, and continued that data gathering is performed by different agencies focusing on different elements so independent compilation would be needed. Collin emphasized the high cost and time-consuming nature of obtaining certain data, noting that the necessary documents or information do not exist because they are expensive and hard to acquire.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a calm body of water, possibly a lake or a wide river, under a hazy, overcast sky. The water is still, creating a clear reflection of the sky and the distant shoreline. The shoreline is lined with trees and some low-lying vegetation, which are also reflected in the water. The overall atmosphere is quiet and serene.

Calapooia Watershed Council

Board of Directors Meeting
8/13/25

Icebreaker Question: “What’s one memorable outdoor experience you’ve had so far this summer?”

Calapooia Watershed Council

[Year End Financials](#)

2024-2025 FINANCIALS

Alex & Collin in the Upper Calapooia May 2025
*Fun Fact: OWEB asked for permission to use this
photo in their Council Capacity Grants
Presentation to their Board!*

An annual report by **Fiona Julian**,
Operations Coordinator

Education Program Update:

- Education Program Manager is currently on leave, resulting in fewer summer education events.
- In spring, reached **500+ students** through the Urban Ecology program at the Oxbows restoration site.
- Program impact remains strong despite reduced summer activity.
- Education Program Manager returning in fall for a more comprehensive update.

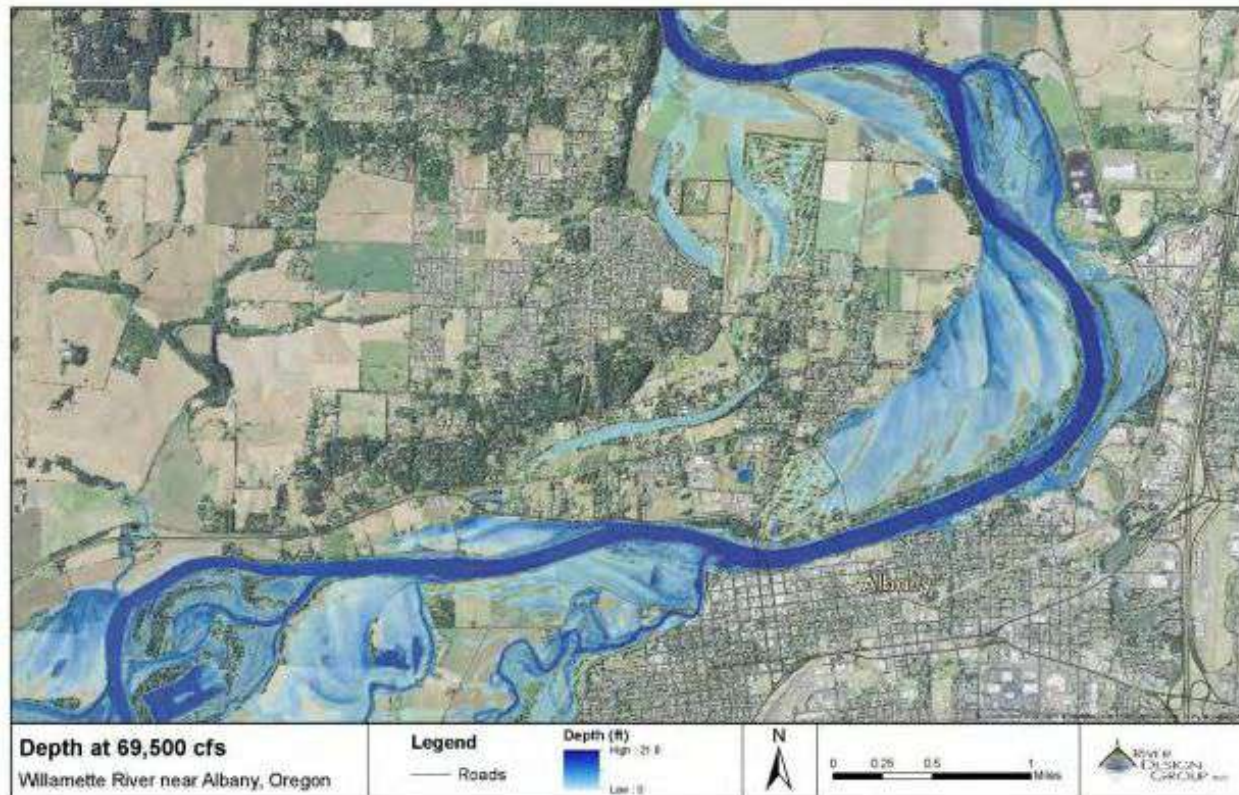
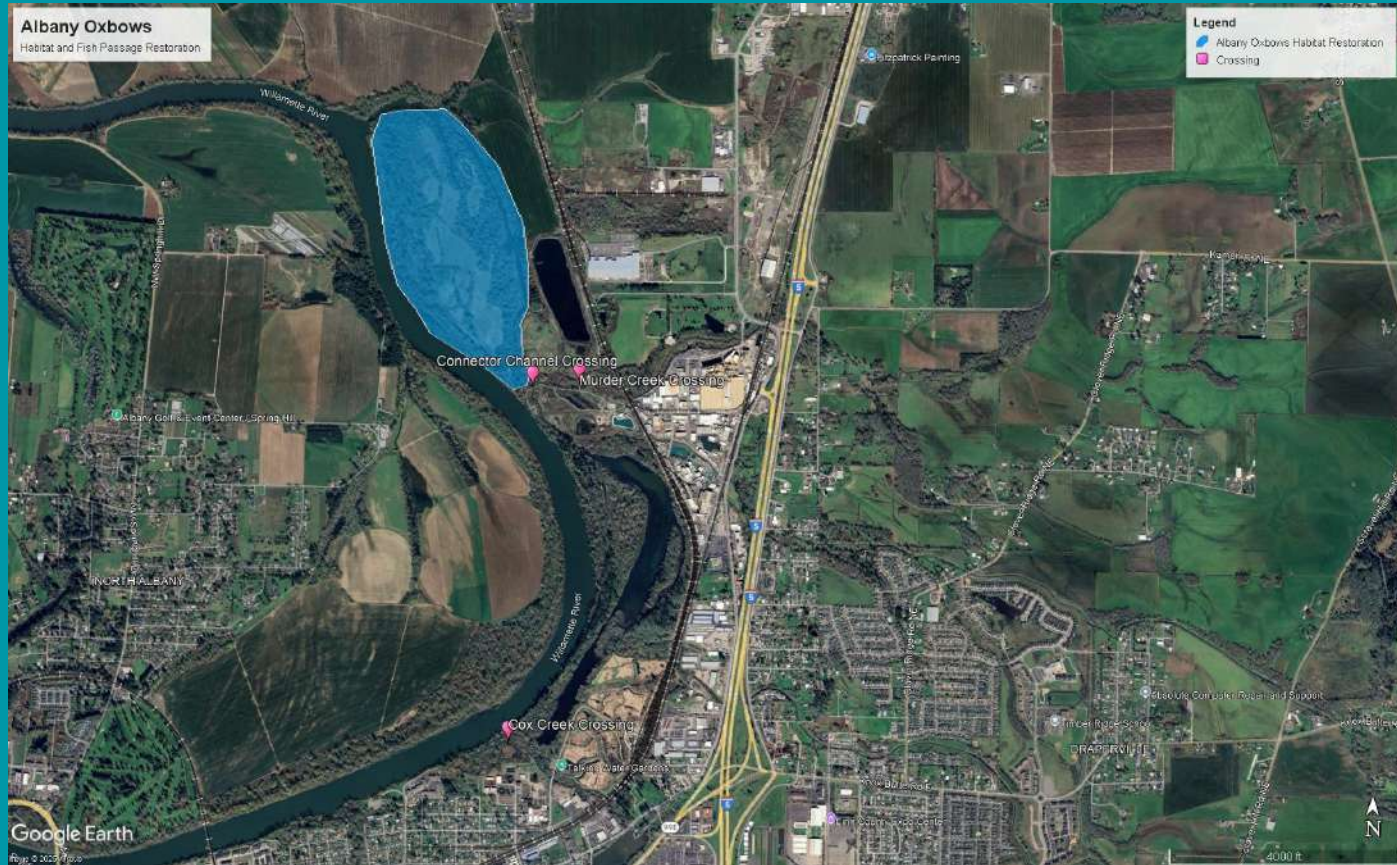


Figure 4-13. The predicted 2-year **inundation** map for the Willamette River from Bowers Rock State Park downstream to Springhill Road. The predicted 2-year flood potentially inundates floodplain environments through the project reach. Water surface elevations from the Albany gage and previous hydraulic modeling results from studies at Bowers Rock were used to verify the **inundation** mapping results.

Current Projects Map

Current Active Projects

Albany Oxbows



Albany Oxbows Habitat





Albany Oxbows - Crossings



Albany Oxbows - Cox Creek Crossing



Truax Island



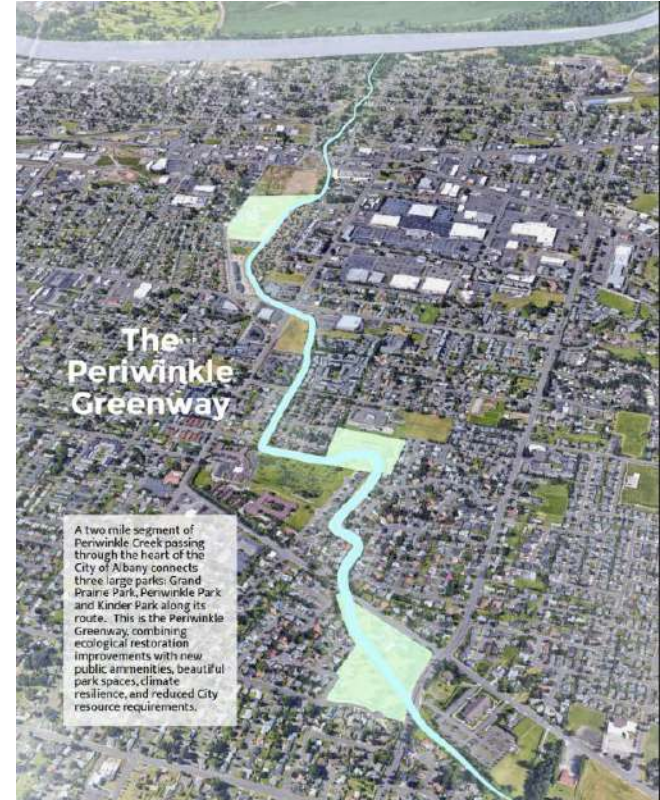
Map 1: Location Context

Truax Island: Willamette River Anchor Habitat



Periwinkle Greenway/Periwinkle Park Restoration

- Phoenix Habitats
- City of Albany
- Designs paid for by SEP moneys
- DLCDC Community Green Infrastructure Grant
- OWEB Restoration Grant







Vegetation Master Plan Diagram



- | | |
|--|---|
|  Recreational Lawn |  Flowering Shrub Meadow |
|  Mixed Oak Woodland |  Riparian Lake Edge |
|  Wildflower Pollinator Meadow | |

Thornton Lake Updates



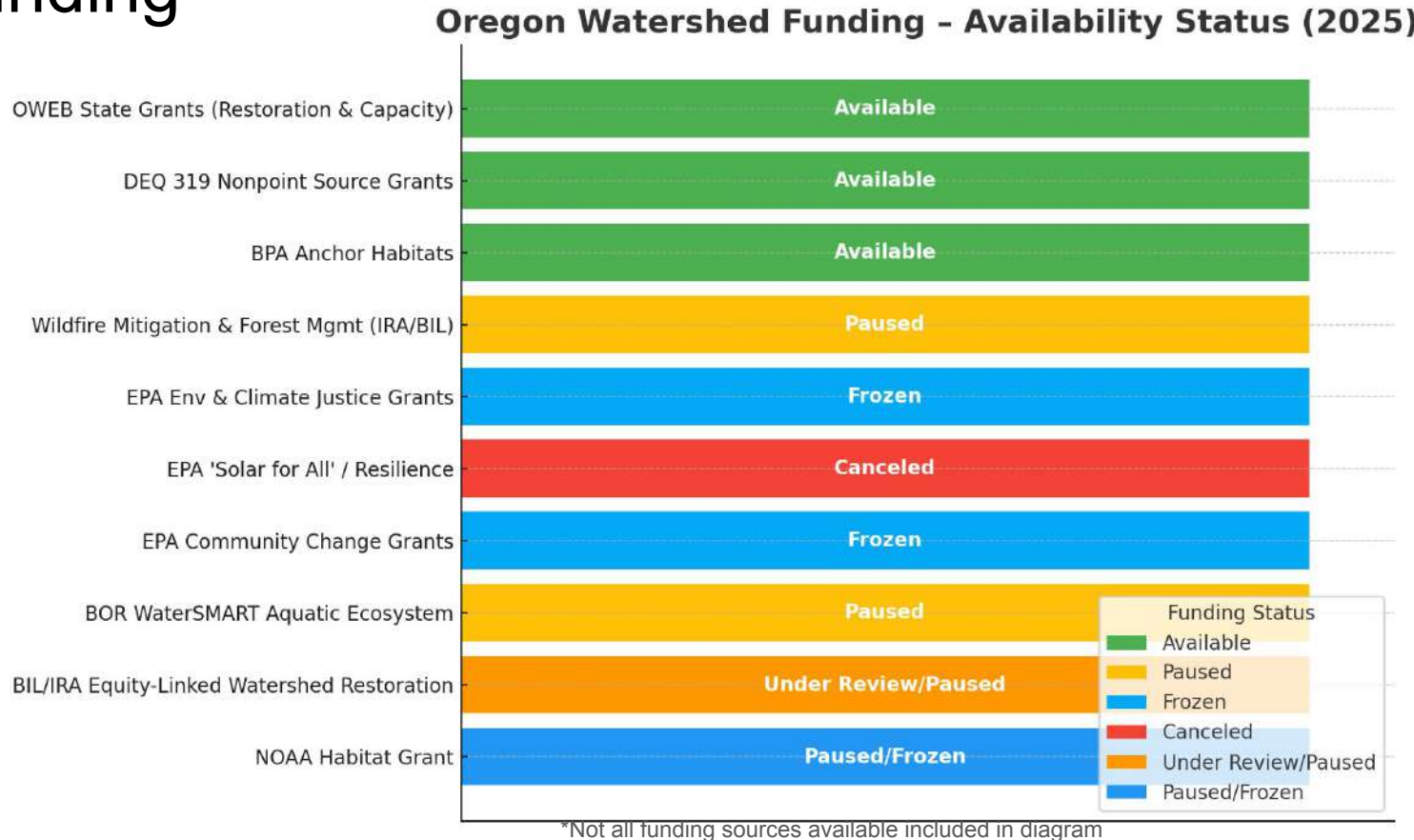
Grants & Funding

High Workload: There is a significant and ongoing emphasis on grant writing at the council.

Fewer Funding Sources: This increased effort is a direct result of a decrease in available federal funding.

Intense Competition: With fewer grants available, many organizations are competing for the same funding, making the process highly difficult.

Essential for Operations: The high-effort grant writing is necessary to secure the vital funds needed for the council's watershed programs.



Current Applications

BPA: Remaining berm obliteration & potential barrier removal connecting First Lake to Cox Creek (restoring several hundred acres of floodplain).

DLCD R2: Continued Periwinkle work + education and outreach funding.

OWEB: 2–3 proposals – Continued Oxbows revegetation, Cox Creek–Oxbows connection, Periwinkle Park.

Grey Family Foundation & exploration of new funding sources (Crocker Catalyst, Couch Foundation, Koontz connection).