

Joint General Member and Steering Committee Meeting

Location: Stayton Community Center

Date: November 12, 2015

Time: 6:00 to 7:30 PM

Attendance:

Role Call for Quorum: Brent Stevenson (Water Control District –Vice Chair), John Caruso (Marion County – Secretary/Treasurer), Jan Irene Miller (At Large - Landowner), Lawrence Schwabe (Grand Ronde Tribe); Suzette Boudreaux (Little North Fork Sub-basin), Chris Kowitz (City of Salem Alternate)

General: Dave Carpenter, Chris Wagner, Jamie Sheahan-Alonso, Jim Bayuk, Vince (OSU Student)

Council Coordinator: Rebecca McCoun

Santiam Project Coordinator: Joe Thompson

6:09 PM **Steering Committee Meeting Called to Order**

Roll Call for Quorum: Quorum confirmed.

Council Mission Read

Introductions

6:15 PM Brent brought the October 2015 minutes to the floor. John Caruso moved to have the October 2015 minutes adopted. Brent Stevenson 2nd the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor and the October Minutes were adopted.

6:12 PM **Public Comment and Announcements**

Rebecca announced that Tom Fencl (Middle Sub-basin Representative) will be stepping down from the board. December will be his last meeting. He is one of the original founding watershed council members.

Rebecca asked Dave Carpenter if he would be interested in joining the NSWC Steering Committee. With Tom leaving the council will have two vacancies open: one At-Large Position and one Middle Sub-basin Position. Rebecca will send Dave information on the requirements to be on the steering committee.

6:25 PM **Presentation**

Brent Stevenson, Santiam Water Control District Manager provided the council with an update summary on the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Drought Planning Grant they were awarded this fall. The Santiam WCD board just approved contracting GSI Water Solutions to help develop a contingency plan for the watershed. The next steps involve forming a drought planning task form and detailed work plan. A stakeholder meeting is tentatively planned for early 2016. They have 2 years to develop a drought contingency plan for the North Santiam Watershed. Brent and/or Rebecca will provide the council with regular updates throughout the planning process.

6:45 PM Progress Reports

Treasurer: John Caruso noted he had just received the October 2015 financials and had not yet had a chance to review them.

Operations: John Caruso provided the group with a brief summary of the activities from the last Operations Meeting held October 28, 2015.

Operations Meeting Summary:

1. At the last Operations Meeting, Rebecca reported the current NSWC By-Laws allow for two options for the Secretary and Treasure Positions. It states in both “The Council can choose to combine Secretary/Treasurer when deemed appropriate.” Rebecca suggested possibly revising one sentence in the NSWC Policies. Under Section 5. Officer Roles and Responsibilities...remove the words “three persons.”
2. Rebecca noted the recent ODEQ news release regarding the Freres Lumber violation. It was suggested she contact ODEQ and/or Frank Freres regarding offering assistance.
3. Rebecca brought Suzette’s email regarding high arsenic levels in the Little North Santiam wells up at the Operations Meeting.
4. John Caruso reported he attended the Network Fall Gathering. He was a bit disappointed that no handouts were provided at any of the presentations. He would have liked to have had something to take home and read.

Council Coordinator:

1. Rebecca reported to the council that four Chemeketa Biology 101 college student volunteers come out to Bird Haven on Saturday, November 7th to help seed a meadow at Bird Haven. Volunteering on a restoration project was a requirement they had for the class. They each needed to put in 3 hours of volunteer time. Jan Irene did a great job providing the students with background on her meadow restoration project. Jan Irene also did an amazing job relating the restoration work we were doing with each of the student’s professional interests.
2. BEF submitted an Arbor Day Grant on behalf of the Upper Willamette Model Watershed Councils and others working in the basin. The project could result in receiving funding to purchase trees and arborescent shrubs at over a dozen sites where large-scale ecological restoration is taking place in the Upper Model Watersheds. We will most likely only be awarded a portion of the total 500,000 plant ask. We should find out before the end of December if awarded.
3. Rebecca and Joe attended the fall Mid-Willamette Cooperative Weed Management Area meeting held earlier that day at the Salem BLM office. Our local mid-Willamette partners provided updates on the current weed issues. Ludwigia continues to be a big one.
4. Rebecca and Joe attended the Network of Oregon Watershed Council Fall Gathering – November 2 &3, 2015. The event offered some really good presentations. John Caruso was able to attend one day of the gathering.

5. Rebecca attended the Oregon Forest Collaborative Network Workshop – November 9 & 10, 2015. Rebecca reported how the workshop was very well organized and provided a lot of very useful information. Rebecca also reminded the council she will be submitting an OWEB Forest Collaborative Capacity Grant on Friday, November 13th.

7:20 PM **New Business**

Officer Elections: Suzette moved to keep the same officers as last year: Brad Nanke as Chair, Brent Stevenson, Vice Chair and John Caruso, Secretary/Treasurer. Lawrence Schwabe seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor. Officers approved for 2016.

7:30 PM **Meeting Adjourned**