

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

North Santiam Watershed Council

August 15th, 2023

**DRAFT**

## **Our Mission:**

*Providing opportunities for stakeholders to cooperate in promoting and sustaining the health of the watershed and its communities.*

### **Directors Present:**

- Suzette Boudreaux (Director - Little North Fork Subbasin Representative – President)
- Jan Irene Miller – (Director – Lower North Santiam Subbasin - Secretary)
- Kathy Bridges – (Director – At Large - Treasurer)

**Directors Absent:** Rebecca McCoun, Brent Stevenson

**NSWC Staff Present:** Brandin Hilbrandt (Executive Director), Amy Knutson (Office Administrator)

**Santiam Shared Staff Present:** Marie Heuberger (Wildfire Adapted Communities Specialist)

**Technical Partners:** Elijah Welch (City of Salem – PW Water Quality Division),

**General Members & Guests Present:** Grady McMahan (Lyons Resident and Retired-USFS Ranger), Michael Bradley (City of Stayton), Kevin Dial (Santiam LTRG), Sarah Allaben (Mt. Adams Resource Stewards, and Videographer)

### **Approval of June 2023 board meeting minutes:**

Item was initially tabled until quorum, at 6:02pm.

Quorum at 6:46pm - Jan Irene made a motion to approve the July 2023 meeting minutes. Kathy seconded the motion. No discussion. All in favor and July 2023 minutes were adopted.

### **Website Discussion:**

The website is needing maintenance, reviewing, and updating; Suzette discussed the need for a short video on the Councils and the work it does in the community. Sarah Allaben has created a video for another nonprofit, and provided insight of the initial process. Facebook is up to date with social events. Website needs to update to keep avenues of outreach open. FAQ needs review. Brandin and Amy have met with Fiona to review maintenance on the backend of the website. Staff will continue to work on updating as time allows.

**Executive Director Update:** See attached.

**Wildfire Adapted Communities Specialist Update:** See attached.

**Discussion After Staff Updates:** Kathy asked about capacity building; Brandin is researching and exploring avenues of funding for building staff capacity.

Grady McMahan inquired about John Neal Park degradation of habitat and wildlife, and if the Council is working in the area. Mentioned that more signage in the park would be beneficial, as

education of projects and efforts. Brandin contributed updates on efforts of aquatic invasive activities done this year, and efforts the council has done over time. She will be looking into additional funding for future restoration and weed management and looking at weed-pulls and more volunteer events.

**Announcements:** Suzette revisited the request for inquiry of the subdevelopment and Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) within the City of Lyons. Suzette and Brandin have been reaching out to look for someone to present on these plans, on the 3-basin rule, and development rules, as well as the NSSA sewer project plan update. Presentations will most likely occur over the next several months. Board members are looking for more information.

Brandin brought up events that Woody Jackson shared in relation to SOLVE. The board supports promotion of the events.

Dr. Emily Fairfax will present on beaver efforts on wildfire restoration and will be attending the September board meeting.

**Adjourn**

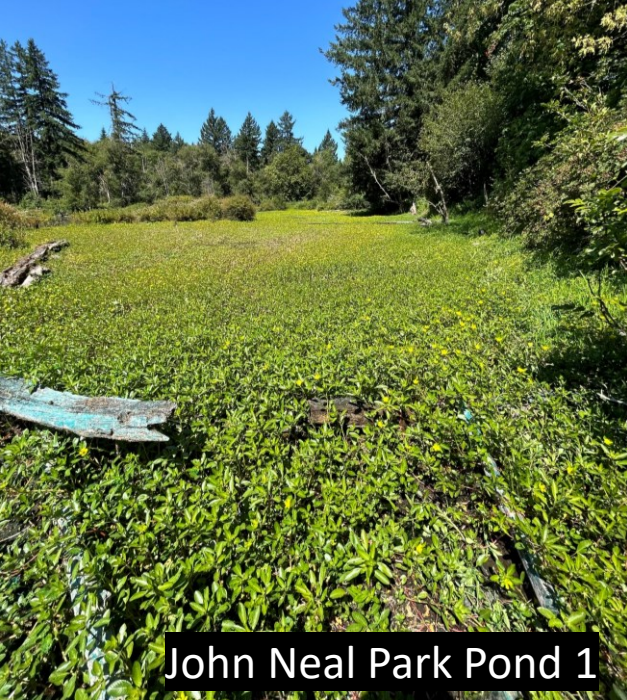
**Next Meeting:** *September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

# August Board Meeting: Project and Council Operations Updates

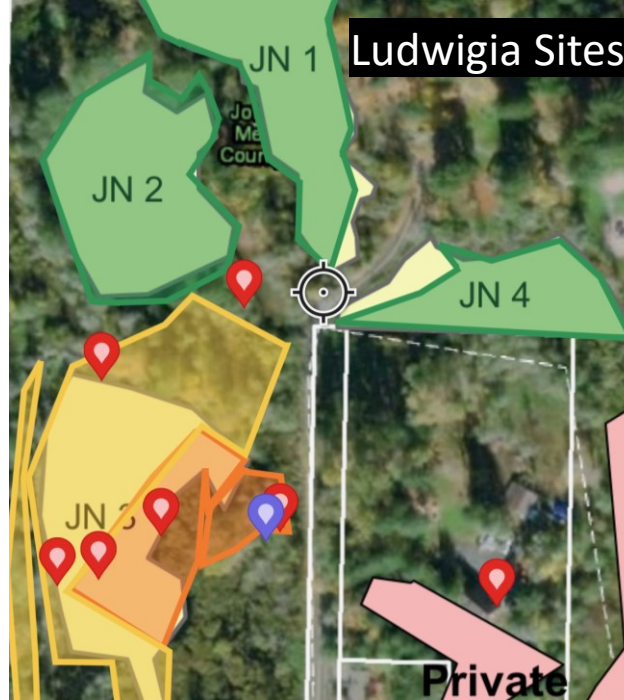
---

Brandin Hilbrandt  
Executive Director Updates  
August 15, 2023





John Neal Park Pond 1



# Landowner Restoration

- **Aquatic Invasives Phase 3 Grant** – 6 full days of treatment at John Neal Park, City of Lyons Ponds, Brand Pond with IRM.
  - 2 days of manual treatment at Chahalpam Pond and Alder Creek Pond.
  - Received LOAs for Vavra, Mill City – Marion County Pond, Trexler Pond
  - Requested extension to incorporate another season of treatment
- **Bear Branch** – weed treatment in areas of high Scotchbroom and blackberry, outside of riparian corridor. We're in the last year of project activities. Grant ends May 2024
- BLM conducted **Panther Creek** Cultural Survey at the beginning of July.
  - Considering if this is a good potential for NOAA Fish Passage Grant Application with MVRC
- Wrapping up Marion SWCD **LAP Grant with Barnes**; End-of-Project Site Visit set for next week.
- **EDRR** Fall treatment activities scheduling – including knotweed, meadow knapweed, false brome in fire perimeter
- Meeting with Marion County on subcontract for additional weed treatment (EDRR) on private lands near county parks
- **Postwildfire Riparian Restoration** – fall treatment planning
- **Knotweed treatment in partnership with MVRC** – includes Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Chahalpam site and a landowner across the river from Chahalpam.
  - Roughly \$2500 for knotweed treatment.



IRM Crew



# Collaborative Partnerships

- Met with Brent and walked around Wilderness Park. Discussed restoration goals, removal of hazard trees, and viewed intakes and headgates of Salem and Stayton Ditches – July 19<sup>th</sup>
- Chahalpam Project Tour with Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde – July 21<sup>st</sup>
- **Partners of the North Santiam** - July 26<sup>th</sup>, focused on Monitoring Framework input
  - Upcoming meetings will be held September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1-2pm.
- August 8<sup>th</sup> - Tour of **USFS – Detroit Ranger District Breitenbush Floodplain Restoration Project**. Met with Hydrologist, Botanist and Arch Team
- **Council of Water Leaders – August 10<sup>th</sup>**
  - Presented with GSI on Partners of North Santiam efforts on Smartsheets & Monitoring Framework. Call for partner input.
  - GIS Database of Projects – potential future TA application for PNS
- **Mid-Valley River Connections - NOAA Fish Passage RFP (Due Oct 16), and NOAA Habitat Restoration RFP (Due November)**
  - MVRC Partnership is submitting a collaborative application
  - Met with City of Salem Planning and Marion SWCD on potential projects for Fish Passage
    - Potentials are discussions for Bennet Dam; engineering and stakeholder engagement for Waller Dam assessment located on Mill Creek
    - Will meet with Marion County on potential Culverts.



Tour of Breitenbush Project



N. Fork of the Breitenbush



## Council Operations & Other Updates:

- 2023-2025 Council Capacity Grant
  - Additional funds of \$34,000 to make a total of ~\$166,000 for next biennium
  - Drafted Annual Report for 2020/2021 needs reviewing
  - Waiting on CPA for 2021/2022 990 finalization; Vicki now has access to QB Online
  - Almost all documents for 2022/2023 have been scanned to Ascension
- Next Council Capacity Grant – review and order of NSWC shirts
  - I'll resend the design
- Reimbursement of USFS Collaborative Agreements have been deposited
  - Deposits for Capacity for PNS, Council of Water Leaders
  - Panther Creek – extended for 5years
- Renewal of medical and dental insurance – met with Weis & Associates last week.
- City of Albany SEP – requested reallocation from Panther Creek to Post-Wildfire Riparian Restoration due to the City needing to expend it by the end of this year.



Near Lower Bennett Dam



# Public Education/Outreach Events

- **Santiam SummerFest – Downtown Stayton, July 29<sup>th</sup>**
  - Ruffled off native plants and a fish sample made by Marie.
  - Roughly 20 members of the public signed up for our newsletter
- **EarthWISE Sustainable Business Summit - Marion County – August 11<sup>th</sup>**
  - Had a booth during the early morning coffee networking hour.
  - Roughly 8 business members signed up for newsletter and one was interested in learning more about oak-savanna restoration on a property



## **WACS August Update**

### **Landowner Outreach**

- 20 July- Lebanon Farmer's market tabling: great amount of interest generated for the Santiam watershed councils. People really liked the handouts about invasive species.
- 8 August 2023- Tabled at a nitrate testing event in Lacombe, thanks to one of our board members. Very much worth the time.
  - Made ~50 contacts, 4-5 potential engagements in the Small Forestland Grant Program and/or firewise rebate program
- 11 August- Site visit for potential Small Forestland Grant Program participant.

### **Collaborative partnerships**

- 19 July- Toured Wilderness Park in Stayton with Brent and Brandin to talk about potential future projects.
- 21 July- Toured the Chahalpum site with Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
- 29 July- Tabled at Summerfest with Brandin, shared a space with Marion SWCD.
- 2 August- Attended monthly LTRG meeting
- 8 August- Meeting with ODF and Youth Crews of Linn County to discuss potential partnerships for building fire resilience.
- 10 August- Council of Water Leaders Meeting
- Continuing risk mapping and project identification for Landscape Scale fuels reduction projects in the North and South Santiam Basins

### **Upcoming Community Events**

- Art contest for K-12 kids in the North and South Santiam Basins. Working with Salem Art Association for logistics and potential partnership/presentation of art
  - Planning phases: Focus on wildfire prevention or teaching kids about wildfire resilience?
- 16 September or 23 September Scotch Broom Pull in the Canyon. Potential collaboration with Highway Fuel. Marion County Environmental providing weed wrenches.
  - Focusing specifically on private landowners in the Beachie Creek Fire Footprint who are struggling with Scotch Broom along their properties
    - Focusing on the 100ft surrounding structures, may expand depending on size of property/need/want?
  - Trying to get students from Regis and Stayton high school to help. Have not heard back from Stayton, planning in the works with Regis.
- Tabling in September for Farmer's markets in Lebanon and Sweet Home.

### **Other**

- 22 July- Defensible Space Workshop at the Oregon Garden in Silverton, Oregon. Excellent opportunity to network with landowners and learn more about home defense specific to building code.
- Lots of time this month identifying sites for/planning for the Small Forestland Grant to open.
- Learning more about fuels reduction treatments and how they vary based on environment.
- Continuing to work on posting a wildfire resources webpage for the North/South Santiam Watershed Councils



