

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

North Santiam Watershed Council

May 16, 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)
- Brent Stevenson – (Director - Water Control District Representative – Vice President)
- Jan Irene Miller – (Director – Lower North Santiam Subbasin - Secretary)
- Kathy Bridges – (Director – At Large - Treasurer)
- Rebecca McCoun – (Director – General Representative)

### **Directors Absent:** None

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

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

**Technical Partners:** Elijah Welch (City of Salem - Watershed Coordinator), Becky Pineda (Marion SWCD)

**General Members & Guests Present:** Kevin Dial (Santiam Long-Term Recovery Group)

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

Rebecca made a motion to approve the April 2023 meeting minutes. Brent seconded the motion. No discussion. All in favor and April 2023 minutes were adopted.

### **Board Assessment:**

The board discussed the recent 2023 self-assessment results. The recent staff turnover, and with the last few years of focusing on post fire recovery, the review scores were less than before in some categories. The board discussed ways to strategically address the issues identified in the self-assessment. The board agreed there is a need for more board members and needs to push recruitment. Discussion included approaches and thoughts on how to address the need to update the action plan, the organizational strategic plan, and the fundraising plan. The board agreed with post-fire recovery we have hit a reset button.

Brandin brought up purchasing QuickBooks Online. Discussion followed. It was determined that more information is needed.

Annual 990 and NSWC annual report status were discussed.

**Executive Director Update:** See attached.

### **Announcements:**

Brent noted there will be a public scoping meeting for NEPA. They are going through the effort for a piping project, which the Santiam WCD will be working on with NRCS. Meeting will be held May 31, 2023, at 6 p.m. at the Turner Tabernacle.

North Fork Road is still closed and will be until possibly Labor Day.  
Suzette mentioned roadwork and flagging zones occurring on North Fork Road  
Kathy Bridges Farm Tour

**Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** *June 20, 2023*

## NORTH SANTIAM WATERSHED COUNCIL: ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

## Restoration Project:

1. Post-Wildfire Riparian Restoration Project – mulching occurred at 7 sites where exposure to sunlight was highest risk on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. Mechanical treatment of blackberry occurred on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 3 sites
  - b. Finalizing progress report and next funds request by this week. Receiving this next fund request with help pay
2. Met with Rosario to coordinate EDRR (Early Detection Rapid Response) treatments, and for Riparian Restoration sites – spring treatment
  - a. MSWCD and Marion County collaboration for June 4<sup>th</sup> event – Weed Wrangle,
3. Met with Jim and Linda Sandners of Bear Branch for lunch. Chemical treatment occurred mid-April within the riparian corridor
  - a. Touch base with USFW about scheduling a tour to review past activities, and schedule mowing – May 18<sup>th</sup>
4. Final post-monitoring report turned in to OWEB for Snake Deford Confluence Project at the beginning of May
5. Post-monitoring photo-documenting with Cal-San project (Bear Branch – Duzer Trust)
6. Still working on Panther Creek – hung up on cultural survey
  - a. BLM has been helpful with keeping me updated about whether or not the cultural team could do the survey
  - b. Marion County could possibly help with construction with IGA
7. EDRR/Marion County Parks Partnership
  - a. Marion County Environmental has set aside \$25,000 to assist with weed treatment and outreach to residents near their parks
  - b. We need IGA to receive funds
8. Meeting with IRM to start planning for Aquatics Invasives Project treatment along Lyons/Mehama – Mid-Santiam area of Ludwigia and YFI

## Collaborative Partnerships:

1. Completed all reports for One-Tree Planted for funds request of roughly \$81,000 for Douglas Firs and WRC planted this season – will go towards BEF invoice.
2. Partners of the North Santiam – met with GSI Solutions and BEF on Smartsheets project integration – should be drafted by June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting
3. Attended “What’s Up Santiam” coordination meeting with USFS and South Santiam. USFS Willamette Forest has a forest-wide funding opportunity for fuel breaks implementation.
4. Mid-Willamette Beavers Partnership – massive mail out event scheduled for this Friday. Sending roughly 200 landowners throughout the NSWC on participating in river surveys to occur this summer. LWC, CWC, Mary’s River WC and SSWC doing the same in their own basins
5. USFS Partnership reports have been signed by Suzette – waiting for Darrin to sign and upload, then will submit invoices to the 3 partnership grants

## Landowner Restoration:

1. Site Visit with landowner on Santiam Way, and Marion SWCD about erosion concerns, riparian planting and weed treatment on May 3<sup>rd</sup>

## NORTH SANTIAM WATERSHED COUNCIL: ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

2. Landowner near Mill Creek in Salem – coordinated conversations with City of Salem about her concerns
3. Met with Barnes relating to their MSWCD LAP grant and reviewed documentation for finalize the grant and reporting at the end of the month
4. Landowner reached out about knotweed near Niagara Heights, Gates – we have extra funds from OSWB grant in partnership with LWC, SSWC, CWC – so will treat this summer
5. Landowner reached out about native seed

## Other:

1. Met with Ascension and Rebecca – handed of 2022 files for 990. Discussion opened up about Quickbooks Online
  - a. Received access for sharefile, along with Amy
  - b. MSA sent to Ascension
2. Amy has been working on cleaning/consolidating monthly payments, filing system, invoice payments since she's returned to help
3. I have put together drafts of 2020-2021 Annual Report, and 2021-2022 Annual Report – waiting for 990 to input financials
4. Tim Ernster reached out about presenting on USACE flow operations again – quarterly? June 16<sup>th</sup>?
5. Dr. Emily Fairfax outreach to do a presentation on beavers, and wildfire, drought and climate change research (<https://emilyfairfaxscience.com>)
  - a. Do we want to bring back presentations when the time seems right?
6. Rebecca has been phenomenal with training and guidance during transition

## Past Events:

- Participated OWEB Small Grants Review Team with MSWCD
- Interviewed WACS position – Marie came onboard May 8<sup>th</sup>!

## Upcoming Events:

1. EDRR and Marion County parks tour – coordination of future treatments and projects
2. Wildfire and TMDL Tour with ODEQ Water Quality Commission at Packsaddle Park on May 19<sup>th</sup>
3. Council of Water Leaders – May 30<sup>th</sup>
4. Council Capacity – July 25-26 is the award date for applicants; we have until July 31<sup>st</sup> to spend the current Council Capacity grant

## **Introduction**

Hello! My name is Marie Heuberger. I previously interned for the North Santiam Watershed Council in the Summer of 2021, working on EDRR surveys and post-fire recovery efforts. I feel so incredibly lucky to be working with the North and South Santiam Watershed Councils, and it means a lot to me to be able to work in a position where I know I will be able to grow my skills. This is my second week as the Wildfire Adapted Communities Specialist. Here's what I've been working on:

### **1. Building my messaging**

- a. This is a new position. I am trying to build my messaging with a blend of the newest available science, community and professional input, and personal experiences with the communities I serve. In the coming weeks, I am looking forward to expanding and confirming my messaging. Please feel free to reach out to me if you would like to talk more about this!

### **2. Outreach**

- a. I love community engagement! Currently, I am scheduled to table at the Stayton Farmer's Market the last two weeks of June and the first week of July, providing information about the watershed councils, as well as fire awareness and fire preparedness. This will likely help me reach constituents of the North Santiam, but may also extend to community members that live across the bridge, in South Santiam territory. I am hoping to have similar success tabling at the Lebanon/Sweet Home farmers' market, though I do not have dates solidified for this yet.
  - i. Tabling will also include a fun interactive firewise game where participants will be able to move around a diorama of a homestead to make the "property" more firewise. This diorama is being made using all recycled materials and yard debris (plus some hot glue and clay).
- b. Social Media outreach! I created a newsletter for the North and South Santiams for Wildfire Awareness Month. In this post, I also introduced myself and my position, and invited folks to reach out to me if they were interested in having a survey done on their property to identify where fire resiliency can be improved! While doing this, I have also created a survey sheet and am working on survey protocol. I am hoping to complete surveys using ArcGIS's "survey123" program, which will eventually help identify how communities are being served by my position.

### **3. Other**

- a. I have attended meetings in the South Santiam with Cascade Timber Consulting and the Linn County Planning department. Linn County is currently revising their

Community Wildfire Protection Plan and is interested in how watershed councils fit into this. This is a complex project that involves many entities, and I am still working to understand the scope of the project. If any of you are interested in more information about this, feel free to call me or email me in the coming weeks and I can provide more concrete context!

- b. I am continuing to expand my understanding of wildfires and what it means to be wildfire adapted. I am using several resources to do this, and have created an excel sheet for myself with fire resources broken into four different categories (social-oriented, environment-oriented, public health-oriented, and management oriented).