



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

North Santiam Watershed Council

March 19, 2024 (6:00 to 7:22pm)

DRAFT

Our Mission:

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

6:00 pm Welcome, Statement of Mission, Introductions

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)
- Jennifer Mongolo – (Director – Natural Resources Specialist)

Directors Absent:

- Brent Stevenson – (Director - Water Control District Representative – Vice President)

NSWC Staff Present: Brandin Hilbrandt (Executive Director), Amy Knutson (Office Administrator), Marie Heuberger (Wildfire Adapted Communities Specialist for North & South Santiam Watershed Councils)

Technical Partners Present: Darrin Neff (USFS Detroit, OR), Mark Richardson (USFS Detroit District Hydrologist), Lawrence Schwabe (Grande Rhonde Tribal Hydrologist),

General Members & Guests Present: Shannon Richardson, (ED, South Santiam Watershed Council), Grady McMahon

6:03 pm Call to Order & Approval of February 2024 Minutes

Suzette called the meeting to order. We have a quorum. Suzette brought the approval of the February NSWC meeting minutes to the board. Kathy Bridges made a motion to approve the February 2024 minutes and Jennifer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were adopted.

6:04 – 6:25 Staff Reports, Attached Below

NSWC Executive Director Update – Brandin Hilbrandt

Highlights: Key Projects, Partners of the North Santiam Collaboration, North Santiam Basin Summit April 24th, Drought Contingency Planning, Community Engagement Events

6:25 – 6:37 Wildfire Adaptive Communities Specialist (WACS) Update - Shannon Richardson, (ED, South Santiam Watershed Council) reporting for Marie Heuberger (Wildfire Adapted Communities Specialist for North & South Santiam Watershed Councils)

Highlights: A timeline for how Congressional Wildfire Recovery funding became available for a shared grant funded person Marie Heuberger (Wildfire Adapted Communities Specialist for North & South Santiam Watershed Councils) to focus on community wildfire education and collaboration. The staffed position scope of work was shared in the meeting.

6:40-6:50 Breitenbush Floodplain Restoration Project – USFS Agreement Update

- Overview of USFS Breitenbush Floodplain Restoration Project with maps and photos
- Site Tour Date scheduled: Friday, April 19th.
- Project Scope and Timeline
- Next Steps: Review site, roles, and responsibilities before proceeding. Put on the NSWC Board Meeting agenda for April.

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6:50 pm: Financial Updates & Grant Status – Amy and Brandin

- Financial detailed reports now available with QuickBooks
- Finance committee meeting received a presentation from Jenny Brouch, QuickBooks consultant.
- Finance Committee financial request to the Board for allocating funding for continued advise and mentoring from QuickBooks consultant to help staff bridge learning gaps.
- 990 reports are in from bookkeeping service, and we will be filing 990 for 2022.

President of the Board put forth a motion to allocate a maximum amount of funding for the QuickBooks consultant of 15 hours X \$80/hour to be used as needed for staff learning and support. Kathy Bridges seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was adopted.

6:55 pm Grant Status

- An excel spreadsheet snapshot of the various grant timing and finances was shared.

7:01 pm Old School Youth & Community Center of Lyons

A dry-run meeting with nonprofit Old School facility director Barbara Johnson will occur this week with the expectation that the April 16th NSWC meeting will be both in person and/or online with Zoom.

7:02 pm – Branding Guide and Package Update

We have chosen the branding package from Kaitlin, the Chemeketa student and have made some key decisions about font for future use. Suzette and Amy will engage Kaitlin privately this week to request an estimate of her time to complete the minor changes to the branding guide and a new NSWC brochure. She has given us a rate of \$50/hr. as an independent contractor to

complete work we may need. Once we have received the branding guide and the brochure, our expectation is that Amy, our staff administrator will be able to use the branding guide to do whatever additional material we may need.

- Suzette put forward a motion that we allocate funds to cover 10 hours of Kaitlin's work. Jan Irene seconded the motion. With a question from Jennifer, we amended the motion to allocate a maximum of 15 hours and Jan Irene seconded the amended motion.

7:08 Open Floor for Announcements and Discussions

A discussion ensued to consider whether we might re-institute an executive operation meeting outside of the Board meeting. This would be for the purpose of supporting the ED and continuing to align the board, especially with the changes in people we've had over the last few years. Historically this is where the ED hashed over decisions that were pending and used the many years of experience in the Board to navigate forward.

Under consideration is either having a monthly offsite (Shari's? free pie) meeting or come at 5pm before the Council Meeting or alternate Board Meetings for the public with Board Meetings just for operations. There was also a suggestion to have a Quarterly rhythm of educational presentations that the public always love (like turtles of the PNW!).

Guest, Shannon Richardson shared that to align and clarify roles and responsibilities of the South Santiam Watershed Council Board and staff, they restructured their Bylaws when she was hired as ED.

Announcements

- Marion SWCD Events: <https://www.marionswcd.net/events/>

Adjourn 7:22pm

Meeting minutes will be posted on the website when they have been approved:

<https://northsantiam.org/north-santiam-watershed-council-documents/meeting-minutes/>

Next NSWC Board Meeting: April 16th

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88129665919?pwd=TEExYUE5OYzRwU1krdlg5MUdRUmZzUT09>



Executive Director Report

March 19th, 2024
NSWC Monthly Board Meeting

Landowner Restoration Program

Bear Branch Prairie & Riparian Restoration Project

Project Background:

Project was awarded in 2018 by Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration (OWEB) Funds

The property that this project is taking place on has been in the landowners family for 130 years and was used primarily for agriculture and forestry practices. The landowners' goals were to restore and conserve the land to natural conditions, and to create a legacy for his family.

To bring back to natural conditions for this area, it meant to:

- Restore remnant Willamette Valley wet prairie, oak savanna and oak woodland habitat
- Restore instream aquatic habitat complexity with large wood structures and reconnection of historic floodplain
- Restore ecological functions of the riparian and floodplain
- Work in conjunction with US Fish & Wildlife Service (EQIP), and Farm Service Agency – NRCS (CREP) sites.

Recent project activities:

- Site Visit with landowners and US Fish & Wildlife Service about additional habitat enhancement for beaver, and their pond.
- A site tour with Linn Soil & Water Conservation District Staff
- Celebratory Tour coordination and planning is in the works as the project ends December 2024.



(February 2024)

Collaborative Partnership Program

Advancing Partners of the North Santiam (PNS)

OWEB Project Background:

- Based on science-based references and plans created by agencies addressing natural resource concerns in the North Santiam Watershed, the PNS prioritized four main goals for the watershed: clean and ample water, robust aquatic habitats, healthy riparian systems, and healthy terrestrial habitats.
- This is ongoing efforts since 2017 and involves over 16 Partners within federal, state, local agencies and organizations and private landowners.

Where are we now?

- PNS has developed major elements needed for the next FIP application, including finalizing the monitoring framework, and for the Strategic Action Plan.

What is a FIP? It is acronym for Focus Investment Partnership. It's an OWEB investment grant opportunity that helps:

- Supports partnerships and implementation with up to \$12 million over 3 biennia (6 years).
- Initiatives must demonstrate clear and measurable restoration outputs and ecological outcomes that support limiting factors outlined in a federal recovery and/or state conservation plan(s).



Partners of
the North
Santiam
Mission

The North Santiam River Watershed is made more resilient by Partners implementing coordinated actions to restore ecological processes that maintain habitat for species while supporting and improving social and economic interests in local communities

- Next Partners meeting: **Thursday, March 21st with Partners, from 10:30-12pm (hybrid)** to:
 - Provide overview of the partnership history, drafted Resiliency Action Plan
 - The last FIP application (2018) submitted by NSWC
 - To help identify next step, like a 2025 FIP application approach, from Partners
 - Where do we see ourselves or what projects make sense in the next 5-7 years?

Advancing Partners of the North Santiam (continued):

Initiatives, Strategies and Implementation Actions within the Resiliency Action Plan

Exhibit 21. Initiatives, Strategies, and Implementation Actions

Initiative	Strategy	Implementation Action
Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement	Restore fish passage	Fish passage projects associated with water diversion structures
		Fish passage projects associated with road crossings
	Beaver restoration	Beaver habitat and beaver dam capacity projects; beaver mimicry or beaver reintroduction projects
	Enhance stream channel habitat	Instream structure installation (e.g., large woody debris) or other beneficial channel modification projects
	Reconnect floodplains and side channels	Floodplain and side channel reconnection projects
	Enhance riparian areas	Riparian reforestation
		Invasive species management
	Improve wildfire resilience of riparian forests	Fuels reduction
Prescribed fire		
Defensible space projects		
Protect priority habitats	Priority habitat acquisition or conservation easement establishment	
Flow Restoration and Source Water Protection	Improve water quality in reservoirs	Detroit Dam and Big Cliff Dam reservoir water quality improvement projects
	Promote agricultural BMPs	Agricultural BMPs projects
	Improve stormwater management	Urban and rural stormwater practices projects
	Upgrade septic systems	Septic system upgrade projects
	Improve water management infrastructure	Irrigation and municipal water management efficiency and conservation projects
		Dam management alternatives
	Improve hydrology and sediment dynamics	Drainage issues improvements
		Road decommissioning
Bridges/culverts replacement		
Enhance forest health, diversity, and wildfire resilience	Improve tree stand diversity	
	Fuels reduction	
	Enhance unique habitats and species	



Table below highlights effective monitoring metrics for Riparian & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement (Drafted Resiliency Action Plan)

Exhibit 44. Implementation Monitoring Metrics and Example Objectives/Targets

Implementation Actions	Example Objectives/Targets	Metric/Indicator
Fish passage projects associated with water diversion structures are implemented	By 20XX, X water diversion structures affecting fish passage are addressed, creating X miles of additional stream habitat.	Miles of stream made accessible to fish Number of water diversion structures affecting fish passage addressed
Fish passage projects associated with road crossings are implemented	By 20XX, X road crossings affecting fish passage are addressed, creating X miles of additional stream habitat.	Miles of stream made accessible to fish Number of road crossings affecting fish passage addressed
Beaver habitat and beaver dam capacity are improved; beaver mimicry or beaver	By 20XX, X beaver mimicry structures are installed	Number of new beaver dams Number of beaver mimicry structures installed

Collaborative Partnership Program (cont.)

North Santiam Basin Summit

- 13th Annual NS Basin Summit is scheduled for **April 24th, 2024 from 10:00-3:00pm** at the Salem Public Library
 - Save The Dates have emailed out
 - Please reach out if interesting in attending
- This is a forum to bring together watershed stakeholders and interested parties to hear and learn about what's happening the North Santiam.
 - Past Topics have covered fuel spill response, harmful algal bloom, wildfire response and recovery
 - Covers communications, science & technologies in the basin, legislature, restoration, and high-visibility projects such as the Detroit Dam Temperature Control Tower
- Our theme is: “Working Together for a More Resilient Future”
- Topics will include: Updates from US Army Corps, Oregon Water Resource Department, US Forest Service, Partners of the North Santiam, North Santiam WC, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Water Related Bills and Funding in Oregon Legislature, and more!

North Santiam Watershed Drought Contingency Planning

- Efforts relaunched this year to include reviewing and improving Drought Monitoring within the watershed.

North Santiam Watershed Drought Monitoring Report

February 2024

Climate Indicators

- ↓ Air temperatures (1-month departure from normal, °F): 2.2°F, Stage 2
- ↑ Precipitation (% of normal for the water year): 111%, Stage 0

Hydrologic Indicators

- ↑ Snowpack (% normal SWE): 52%, Stage 2
- ↑ Detroit Reservoir (% above water control diagram): +45.6, Stage 0
- ↑ USGS 7-day stream flow (class, percentile)
 - N. Santiam @ Greens Bridge: Above Normal
 - N. Santiam @ Mehama: Above Normal
 - N. Santiam below Boulder Creek: Above Normal

Environmental Indicators

- ↓ Water temperature (°C above TMDL): Stage 0
 - N. Santiam @ Greens Bridge: -5.4°C
 - Little N. Santiam @ Elkhorn: -6.1°C
 - N. Santiam below Boulder Creek: -12.9°C
- Wildfire hazard rating: Low, Stage 0

Socioeconomic Indicators

- Detroit Reservoir boat ramps served: N/A
- ↑ Salem water supply availability (7-day discharge in cfs at Mehama gauge): 9,823 cfs, Stage 0

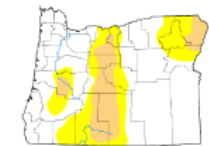
Future Trends

- Temperature outlooks: Above mean, trend worsening
- Precipitation outlooks: Below mean, trend worsening
- Detroit Lake inflow forecast: 95% of median, neutral

Summary




- Monitoring stage has been downgraded to Stage 0: No Drought
- The indicators faring the worst are Snowpack and January Air Temperatures, which both scored at Stage 2. All other indicators scored at Stage 0.
- Future trend indicators show the conditions may be worsening. NOAA's 1-month and 3-month outlooks forecast above mean temperatures and below mean precipitation. The Detroit Lake inflow forecast through September is 95% of the median (up 5% from last month).



US Drought Monitor for the NSW is at Stage 0 (No Drought).

Community Engagement Program

Upcoming Event: David Lewis Presentation



AUTHOR TALK & BOOK SIGNING

FREE MARCH 26
6 - 8 PM

CHEMEKETA C. COLLEGE
MAIN CAMPUS, SALEM
AG SCI BLDG #60


Dr. David Lewis, Grand Ronde Tribal member, OSU Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Indigenous Studies, and author, will share environmental history of the mid-Willamette area including Lake Labish and discuss native approaches to conservation issues.

The lecture will be followed by a book signing. Bring your own copy of Tribal Histories of the Willamette Valley, win a copy, or purchase it at the event.

TRIBAL HISTORIES OF THE
WILLAMETTE VALLEY

DAVID G. LEWIS

EVENT PARTNERS



RSVP
marionswcd.net/events

Bat Box Day of Fun Event

Date: TBD, aiming for early June

Location: North Santiam Recreation Area

An event in partnership with Marion County Environmental Services

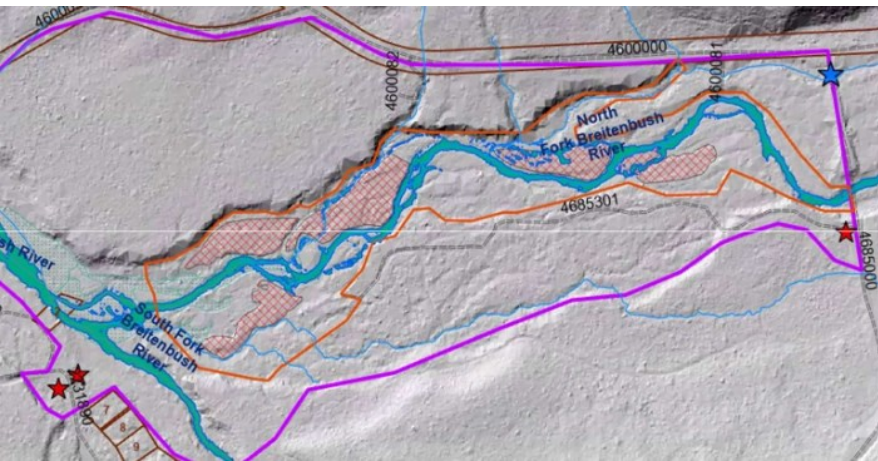
Objectives will cover the importance of postfire habitat restoration of Oregon Conservation Strategies species (8 bats are listed)

Activities will include building 30 Bat Boxes, a pollinator “moon garden” walk-and-talk

Macroinvertebrate, and Water Quality stations

Sustainable logging & tree climbing demo

Pack It In, Pack It Out component



USFS Breitenbush Floodplain Restoration

- **Site Tour Date: Friday April 19th, 2024**
- Project Overview:
 - NEPA and Project Design have started with USFS National Team per Mark's update in March.
 - This team could also assist with outreach to local communities, (tours, science pubs, fundraising, as possible options)
 - Implementation aimed to occur 2025, over 1-month
 - Implementation activities include Cut/Fill, Large Wood Placement across floodplain area
- Goals of the Project:
 - Identified as an Essential Project for our Priority Watershed (2017)
 - Improve fish habitat for ESA-listed species (spring chinook salmon)
 - ODFW and USACE efforts for bull trout reintroduction into the Breitenbush Watershed
 - Improve fish habitat for all native species – deep pools, log jams, side channels, healthy distribution of sediment size (cobble, gravel, silt)
 - Enhancement of Beaver habitat
 - Improve water quality – stream temperature, sediment filtering
 - Create resilient habitat for the future (climate change, flood mitigation)
 - Raise water table in floodplain - healthy distribution of riparian vegetation

General timeline (with 2025 implementation)

	2024												2025													
	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November				
Agreement development (USFS and NSWC)	█																									
NEPA (USFS)	█																									
Consultation - fish, wildlife, cultural (USFS)	█																									
Permitting (USFS)								█																		
Project design (USFS)	█																									
Contract RFP development (USFS and NSWC)							█																			
Contract RFP (NSWC)											█															
Contract Selection/Award/Final contract (USFS and NSWC)												█														
Pre-implementation layout (USFS and NSWC)														█												
Contract Implementation (USFS and NSWC)																	█									

*** Decision date for NSWC involvement? April 2024? In order to submit Agreement by July 2024.**

Next Steps:

- Meeting with the Project Manager (at the time) for the Coal Creek, and Staley Creek Floodplain Restoration Projects (2018).
 - USFS worked with Middle Fork Willamette WC 100% involvement as part of their agreement. Mark & I agree this would be ideal for USFS-NSWC partnership.
 - We discussed learning lessons, navigation and timeline of RFP, pre-bid site visits, contractor bidding, considerations, etc
 - It was brought up of a match-reduction labor, and if 5% could be approved?
 - OWEB grant can help cushion match
 - Need to determine roles & responsibilities (shared vs individuals) between USFS & NSWC if in support.
- The National Team should have 2 designs by mid-Summer 2024. They will be visiting, if we agree to proceed, I will be attending this visit.
- McKenzie WC and McKenzie River Trust – good resource avenue as they have current projects underway.
- Open for Discussion and Questions