



Luckiamute Watershed Council Board Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2021

Via web conference

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Wendy Hudson.

Introductions:

Board Members: Wendy Hudson, Dave Ehlers, George Grosch, Karin Stutzman, Scott Youngblood
Staff: Kristen Larson
Guests: Judy Walrod Maule, Maya Cook

Approval of Minutes:

Wendy Hudson, President

The April 8, 2021 minutes were distributed prior to the meeting (Attachment A).

The board approved the April 8, 2021 meeting minutes unanimously.

Committee Announcements: None

Public Comments: None

Mission Moments:

Dave had a Bird Walk on the J2E property May 8. Judy and Maya were in attendance. Scouting visit they saw / heard 52 species. Great guides. Thanks to the guides, Tim and Jim! Was a pleasure for Dave to have visitors on the property and share!

And news bit done by KGW8 on J2E Tree Farm. Nicely done. Available on YouTube.

Karin Stutzman's property drains to Jont Creek and Luckiamute River – had CTGR reps out and Suzanne. Walked around Western Skies Ranch, looked at native plants in conjunction with how Karin manages her property. Was cool to see all the plants on her property through the lens of Tribal member and cultural perspective – indigenous uses of the plants. Polk SWCD, CTGR, and LWC making video showing cultural practices CTGR use and native plants they use and value. Spent three days total – 1 day at Noble Oaks in Polk County, CTGR Plants for People nursery at reservation, and visit to Karin's ranch. Videos should be ready in a few weeks.

Board Trainings/Discussions

Scott Youngblood

Nonprofit Association of Oregon (NAO) Guiding More Good

- Scott also attended the NAO Conference.
- Attended two session and the keynote speaker. Thought the keynote speaker was fantastic – has listened to this at least four times since the conference. YouTube link is available on LWC Members Only site.
- Internal Controls for financials – many that we could do we are doing that are appropriate for an organization our size.
- Keynote speaker – Highly encourage everyone to listen to it. Ideas that nonprofits should make money, can pay staff well.

- Maria Chavez – Haroldson – ways to manage having difficult conversations and find consensus in conflicts.
- If accounting video is available – would be good to see.
 - **Kristen will check on availability of YouTube video.**
- George re keynote – nonprofits and opportunity to build community and tools to build community.

Restoration Updates

Kristen reviewed a presentation with some updates on LWC’s restoration activities. The review focused on the LSNA Floodplain reconnection (2020 – 2021 flooding, 2021 planting), S. Fork Pedee (gravel accumulation behind large wood structures and ice storm impacts), and Upper Ritner Creek (beaver activity, cuttings installed over the winter in 2-acre patch formerly covered in reed canarygrass). Wendy commented she is once again impressed with how much on-the-ground work is going on.

Polk SWCD – has access for wholesale plant prices – anytime. PSWCD Board is interested in getting more plants on the ground in Polk County.

Committee Updates

Wendy Hudson, President

Executive Committee

June 10 Board meeting cancelled.

July 8 meeting combine EDI training, with one-hour Board meeting. Board meeting will be early, 5-6pm, followed up by a 6-8pm EDI training with Maria Chavez-Haroldson of EDI Consulting.

Governor’s update re: vaccinations. State looking at “as good as will be by the end of June.” CDC came out today – if vaccinated don’t need to wear masks. If outside, all could be comfortable with being in person. EC and staff will continue to monitor the situation and guidance.

Discussion of where could we do July meeting? Online or not. One option Kristen is exploring is Indy Commons, a co-working space in downtown Independence with meeting space available and working on a hybrid meeting set-up (mix in-person and remote). Another possibility is LSNA at office. Power available at the parking lot. Could move picnic tables over. Will wifi work in the parking lot? **Scott will check.**

FRC

Love Your Watershed (LYW) Campaign launch – spring campaign is one of two annual campaigns (other is End-of-Year (EOY) campaign). Helps support Education and Outreach (EnO) program which we call the LYW Program. Funds staff and other EnO costs. Major Donor kickoff to seed the event, and then public e-campaign during month of June. Campaign ends at end of June. Named the fish, Pedee. Work to reach goal of \$20,000 by the end of the campaign.

20th Anniversary Event planning. Uncertain if people willing to come to in-person events. In stage of planning with FRC where we don’t know how summer / fall will unroll. Tentatively planning fall 20th Anniversary Celebration at Emerson Vineyards. October 9, 1-4pm. Will make decision at end of July about go / no-go.



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Governance (George)

Revisited from April meeting. Governance Committee (GC) and Executive Committee (EC) recently discussed prioritizing recruitment for committee members as part of LWC efforts on our internal goals. Discussion around potential to recruit for two types of committee members – “working” members are those who attend all meetings and help out on action items between meetings and “advisory” members. Advisory members are people with specific skills or expertise the committee would call on for help with specific things. Advisory role is less commitment but potential to engage new people and tap into local experts. Attachment C is a table for committees to review at their next meetings to start identifying candidates. **Kristen will distribute the Excel version after the meeting to committee reps.**

Finance (George)

Financial Report for March (25% of the fiscal year). See attached D.

Temperature Monitoring Program Update

Kristen Larson, Executive Director

Kristen reviewed key points in Attached E covering program summary, 2020 results, and next steps. Summary of the monitoring grant submitted to OWEB on April 26. Discussion of interim capacity with the Monitoring Coordinator position vacant while the LWC waits to hear if we are awarded the OWEB grant or not. If we get the grant, Kristen will recruit and hire to fill that position by the end of 2021. For now, working with BLM funding with Aubrey and volunteers covering field work. Kristen will be seeking a contractor help to assist with data processing and web services.

Discussion of opportunities for interns and university student help. Maya Cook commented that many students seek practical experience and some programs at OSU have an internship requirement. She used to work at Rutgers University in NJ and managed interns – can offer help / advice on how to utilize interns most effectively. LWC has had mixed success with interns in the past. Kristen continues to learn the best types of tasks / projects to assign and how to oversee / guide interns. Is an opportunity to give underserved youth opportunities for experience. Especially if we can offer paid internships.

Karin discussed potential Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA) funding might be an option. ODA provides monitoring grants for Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA). In Polk County these are focused on Ash Creek ag areas. About \$25K / year for 4 years. Potential for funding monitoring interns? LWC is not currently prioritizing monitoring on Ash Creek, but it is good to know of this potential funding source.

Maya is available and interested to volunteer on temperature monitoring field work. Scott said Vanessa can help, too. **Scott will send Kristen her contact info. Kristen will follow-up with Maya and Vanessa.**

Monitoring data and the data viz website – are an opportunity to engage students in STEM education opportunities.

Executive Director Update

Kristen Larson, Executive Director

- See Attachment F.
- Discussion around current drought. Luckiamute River is breaking daily low flow records at the USGS gage. The gage has 86 years of data.
- Staff are thinking about communications around water conservation. Discussion of coordinated efforts with the cities rather than only the LWC trying to promote water conservation. Polk SWCD would like to be engaged in this.
- Discussion around messaging. Maya noted that many people move to the area from outside the region and may want to manage their properties in sustainable ways, but don't know the best way to do this. Opportunity for ongoing / annual education on conserving water, using native plants, stormwater, etc. for new residents. Example, if a lawn is established, it can go brown over the summer and won't die. Possible tag line, "Brown is the new green."
- LWC can continue to include water conservation messaging in our BTS and quarterly newsletter. Promote water conservation and using native plants in newspapers.

Topics for Future Consideration: *None*

Meeting Adjourned 7:51pm