



Luckiamute Watershed Council Board Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2021
Via web conference

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by George Grosch

Introductions:

Board Members: George Grosch, Britton Castor, Karin Stutzman, Scott Youngblood
Staff: Kristen Larson
Guests: Joel Geier, Andrea Berkley, Matt Mallinowski, Judy Walrod Maule

Approval of Minutes:

George Grosch

The August 16, 2021 minutes were distributed prior to the meeting (**Attachment A**).
The board approved the August 16, 2021 meeting minutes unanimously.

Committee Announcements:

No committee announcements

Public Comments:

No public comments

Mission Moments:

- Interesting article recently on genetics of beaver and how they are tied to/unique to their watersheds via both Think Out Loud and an OPB article.

Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion and Road Relocation Application

Joel Geier, Guest

Joel shared concerns he and neighbors have with the land use application, then the board asked questions. Major points made include:

- Expansion of the Coffin Butte landfill constitutes a big land use change, building up ridgeline in the watershed. The project would extend the landfill across Coffin Butte Road. Footprint of existing landfill would nearly double. Project would form a near-continuous new ridge that connects from Coffin Butte to Tampico Ridge, which is the Luckiamute watershed boundary.
- The change in topography could change hydrogeology. There is concern over a potential increase of hydraulic pressure from the change in topography leading to an increase in contaminated landfill leachate, which could affect nearby wetlands. The existing landfill has been interpreted as driving groundwater flow westward under Soap Creek, with pollutants found to the east.
- There is already a permit that allows expansion of the landfill to the current quarry near the landfill. But the applicant wants to continue quarry operations/extraction longer before expanding the landfill. That area would remain available for further landfill expansion in the future.
- The impacted areas is part of the Soap Creek subwatershed. A lot of neighbors are concerned.
- Garbage from the landfill and truck traffic blows away and into adjacent areas.
- The landfill is large source of invasive weeds. Re-vegetation efforts have not been successful.
- Other landfills in the Willamette Valley are getting full or have uncertain futures, so will this be a location for garbage from other parts of the valley?
- One May 21 a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application was submitted and it was nearly identical to a 1994 application that was rejected due to public reaction.
- Public hearing was scheduled for Sept. 7; Soap Creek neighbors submitted written testimony; applicant (Republic) requested 45-day extension. Now Joel expects the revised app in late Sept/early Oct.



Luckiamute Watershed Council Board Meeting Minutes

- Joel recommends the LWC board familiarizes themselves with the issue and application at this time, including issues found in past applications. DEQ will have the opportunity to review the CUP application; this may be best chance for LWC to provide comment.
- Joel points out this is different than a typical land use application due to involvement of DEQ and possible big environmental impacts. Joel recommends listening to neighbors, who are largely opposed to the project and who are getting organized.
- Joel answered several questions from board members regarding hydrology, pollutants, road impacts, contacts with EE Wilson staff, etc.
- George asked Joel to please keep the LWC board informed as hearing dates or other major milestones are announced.
- Joel shared his powerpoint with Kristen for distribution to the board.

Executive Committee

George Grosch

EDI Training follow-up, process:

- During the next Executive Committee meeting, the EC will review notes from the EDI training and draft a sketch of a plan for next steps for 2022 and beyond.

Revised Authorized Signer Policy, **ACTION ITEM, ATTACHMENT C**

- Proposed revisions authorize use of e-signatures. Adjusts process for approving expenditures; 2 signers to approve expense over \$5,000 (sign the check request), but 1 signer on the check.
- **Action:** Approved by consent.

Revised Contracting Policy, **ACTION ITEM, ATTACHMENT D**

- Strikes one sentence about reporting contracting activity to the board.
- **Action:** Approved by consent.

COVID-19 Vaccination policy, **ACTION ITEM, ATTACHMENT E**

- Policy lays out requirements for COVID-19 vaccination for staff.
- The new federal law requiring COVID vaccination only applies to larger employers or federal employers.
- Kristen checked with legal hotline and there is a lot of precedent to support employers requiring vaccination. If an employee were to ask for an exemption, legal counsel recommended checking with a lawyer depending on the specific details of the situation, and to use the language "accommodation as require by law" to reflect a rapidly evolving legal landscape.
- Nonprofit Association of Oregon guidance says that if vaccines are no longer free an organization can state in its policy that it will cover costs, but this seems uncertain at this time and if that was the case in the future it could be revisited.
- Booster shots are addressed in the proposed policy language.
- Matt raised questions about potential liability of it is a mandate vs a state law, reflecting his experience of Oregon vs. Florida laws at this time.
- **Action:** Approved by consent.

Executive Director Annual Review Initiated

- Survey was sent to board members, please complete by Sept. 17, 2021. The survey is important but the specific comments are key to interpret how Kristen is doing and to provide meaningful feedback.
- George will collect results; Executive Committee will review with Kristen; Board executive session will be held to review results.



Luckiamute Watershed Council Board Meeting Minutes

Fundraising Committee

Kristen Larson, Executive Director

Committee recruitment, **ATTACHMENT F**

- Committee recruitment is difficult during Covid. Kristen sent spreadsheets to committees on brainstorming committee members/advisors and identifying who will make contacts with prospective members/advisors. Some committees are satisfied with their current makeup.
- The Fundraising Committee (FRC) does need more people involved. FRC brainstormed ideas on social, friendly people they know. Generating ideas and enthusiasm is the most important skill for this committee. Also creativity, such as taking ideas or items from elsewhere and modifying them for LWC fundraising purposes. There has been past work on the Business Circle idea, more to do in this area.
- Kristen would like a goal of 2 new members by end of year, with longer term goal of 4 new members.
- Kristen will follow up with a contact from Britton, and older Fundraising Committee members.

Finance Committee & Treasurer Report

George Grosch

June and July 2021 Financial Report, **ATTACHMENT G**

- No issues of concern from the Finance Committee in these two months. Good discussion on staff salaries during recent Finance Committee meeting. Lots of project expenses during this period as expected this time of year.

Executive Director Update

Kristen Larson, Executive Director

Monthly Activity Report/ Minutes Highlights, **ATTACHMENT H**

- Upcoming I-990 reporting to IRS for FY 2020.
- Credit-union forgave a second PPP loan. Waiting for final forgiveness from SBA.
- Big goal in near term is posting of the Monitoring Coordinator job description.
- The beaver project is really ramping up.
- 20th Anniversary Celebration Event – would like to postpone indefinitely. An Oct 9 event was planned but given recent spikes in Covid as well as perception of irresponsibility. No objections from board to postponing event indefinitely.
- Would like to highlight photo contest winners somehow, send Kristen ideas.
- Discussion of recent tagline and ideas for changing it. Discussion about nuances of ownership of land, which some may find offensive based on settler colonialist history, vs. stewardship of land, which most people would likely agree we all want to promote.
- In ED report there is a discussion about the Coffin Butte expansion and nuances of land use issues (County) vs environment issues (DEQ).
- There has been interest from local charter school and there could be a tie in to future STEM programs with involvement from LWC. For now there has been a walk and talk focused on floodplains and ecology with a contact from the school. It is important for LWC to ensure there is a relationship formed with administrators, not solely teachers as they tend to have more turnover.

Upper Maxfield Creek Large Wood Placement & Revegetation, **ACTION ITEM, ATTACHMENT I**

- BLM and private landowners did some past enhancement work at the site, and LWC plus others won a Public Land Stewardship Foundation award for the project. Later, large wood enhancement by BLM took place, with even more in 2020. Netmap analysis shows the large wood project area ranked #17 in priority.
- Proposed site is downstream of the past in-stream work; NetMap ranks as #3 in priority. Also includes past road realignment project area – some invasives established in old road and should be addressed.
- There has been recent interest in adding more large wood in this area, paid for by landowner, who is also willing to help with revegetation expenses. A grant application would cover large wood on



Luckiamute Watershed Council Board Meeting Minutes

- nearby properties. Kristen is reaching out to nearby community with high stream temps to seek out revegetation opportunities. Some dumping to address as well.
- There are a lot of logs available from Santiam area that could work; working through details now.
- Scott mentioned County staff as potential resource. BLM staff are trying to establish a Dump Stoppers program as maybe a source for addressing dumps.
- There could be some mitigation money available from elsewhere that could be applied to cover some project costs, but unknown on timing or chances of it coming.
- **Action:** Board approved submitting grant application, if needed, for Upper Maxfield project.

Topics for Future Consideration

- Send any topics to Kristen prior to next meeting.

Meeting adjourned around 8pm