



Luckiamute Watershed Council Board Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2022
Via web conference

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by George Grosch

Introductions:

Board Members: George Grosch, Britton Castor, David Ehlers, Jackson Stalley, Scott Youngblood
Staff: Kristen Larson, Amanda Brackett (through about 6:40pm)
Guests: Maya Cook, Jerry Paul, Richard Yerian

Approval of Minutes:

George Grosch, President

The December 9, 2021 minutes were distributed prior to the meeting (*Attachment A*).

- *The Board approved the December 9, 2021 meeting minutes unanimously.*

Committee Announcements: None.

Public Comments: None.

Mission Moments:

- Dave shared videos of a huge elk herd moving through his property recently. Estimated over 100 in the herd. Largest they have ever seen move through the J2E Tree Farm!
- Positive response to the Jan. 11 Sips 'n' Science. Interesting history, great speaker!

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Discussion, Attachments B & C

George Grosch

George had asked Board members to [read an article](#) (*Attachment B*) and review the engagement diagram (*Attachment C*). *Attachment C* shows a spectrum of community inclusion and engagement (provided to the Benton County HOPE board that George also serves on). George reflected on LWC's engagement work, our EDI efforts, and what the story in the article and the diagram might mean to the LWC. Discussion that the ED's reaction in the article was disappointing and cringeworthy. Reflection on the idea that thoughtless policy can be just as bad as intentional harm. The diagram reminded Jackson of historically poor engagement efforts by some agencies called the "Triple I" or inform, invite, and ignore (also DAD: decide – act – defend). These are not the examples LWC wants to follow. Discussion of communities: communities of nature and communities of people. As we deal with ecological challenges, we need to consider the different communities, how to interact, how to ask the right questions, how to listen.

Executive Committee

George Grosch

Karin Stutzman is nominated for Secretary for one-year term of 2022. No objections.

Proposed Action: Elect Karin Stutzman to Secretary. Approved by consensus.

Project Review Committee

Scott Youngblood, PRC Chair

Update LWC Restoration Goals, *ACTION ITEM, Attachment D*

- Scott provided updates from the December 2, 2021 PRC meeting. Scott was officially elected Chair of PRC, reviewed outline of 2021 Projects Report, and discussed the concept of and draft outline for Landowner Stewardship Guides. PRC members provided resources and examples of Management Plans. Reviewed PRC composition and discussed recruitment. Operational / PRC-centric meeting.
- PRC also reviewed LWC's Restoration Goals and proposed edits. PRC recommended revised goals as presented. Some word smithing and adding emphasis to beaver habitat; minimal changes proposed.

Proposed Action: Adopt revised Restoration Goals. Approved by consensus.

Urban Watersheds Program Development, Attachment E

Kristen Larson, Executive Director

Review summary of staff recommendations and Mid-Valley River Connections (MVRC) proposal concept

- In 2018, the LWC Board and staff went through a facilitated process to develop the current strategic plan (SP). Kristen reviewed the logic model that informed the SP. The Logic Model is included as Appendix A in the SP. The SP included a new focus area around stormwater in the Ash Creek watershed.
- In 2019 and 2020 the staff and Board reviewed the SP, reorganized internal goals, and prioritized the beaver focus area first, to be followed by stormwater.
- However, given the EDI trainings and learnings the LWC and MVRC have been working on in recent years, staff reflected that in the case of an urban program, we should reconsider our approach. Reflecting on the community engagement diagram reviewed earlier, rather than the LWC deciding the problem (stormwater) and solution (low-impact development), we should step back and reconsider our approach. The LWC should work to build relationships and meaningfully engage community members to determine urban watershed priorities and identify solutions.
- Staff had a half-day planning session in December 2021 to review the LWC's EDI work and develop recommendations around community engagement related to an urban watersheds program and climate change resiliency (*Attachment E*). Also in December, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) released a grant announcement with significant funding available for environmental health / climate change programs, including community engagement activities. The MVRC watershed councils each have priorities and programs that would fit under this work and seek to submit a proposal to OHA for the MVRC collective and individual efforts. South Santiam WC is applicant on behalf of MVRC. LWC's portion of the program would be staff and consultant time to work with community members and entities to develop an engagement plan. Focusing on latter part of 2022 and first part of 2023. This is all earlier and faster than Kristen was envisioning this work, but the OHA funding is unique and very flexible. Is also timebound within the current biennium (through June 30, 2023).
- Two key points for the Board:
 - This is a shift to pursue a wider community engagement process for an urban watersheds program (rather than focusing on stormwater).
 - LWC participation in the MVRC proposal to OHA for this work.
- Discussion. In the diagram Kristen showed relating water issues, climate change, and equity work, George would like to see the idea of Building Community and Resiliency reflected in the concept. He feels the LWC has an important role to play in building community and that building community is important to being resilient to the ecological challenges ahead. Other related concepts to building community and resiliency include emergency preparedness in events of floods, earthquakes.
- Discussion of Kristen's and staff's workload. Trying not to overwhelm. Kristen working to keep grant deliverable realistic and within time frame of latter part of 2022 and first part of 2023.
- Board approval to shift approach to community engagement and participate in MVRC proposal.

City of Independence Stormwater Master Plan Technical Advisory Team

- Kristen requested letters of support from Monmouth, Independence, and other entities for Ash Creek grant proposals to be submitted later this month.
- New Public Works Director for Independence included an invitation for Kristen to serve on the technical advisory team for their stormwater master plan update. Kristen would do this as an LWC rep. Are there any concerns? She needs to ask him about timing and time commitment expectations. George noted it is common for municipal processes to include external experts in advisory groups. No concerns except for managing workload. Kristen will follow-up with more information.

Finance Committee

George Grosch

November 2021 Financial Report, *Attachment F*

- George reviewed the financial report for November. There is one month left in the fiscal year. Kristen will be doing several reimbursement requests before the end of the year. There was about \$109,000 in



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income but also a lot of project spending as contractors invoiced for fall plant establishment and site prep work and invoice paid for wetland inventory work at Upper Luckiamute project site. About \$26,000 in net income for the month.

Establish a Maps Credit Union Account, *ACTION ITEM*. **Proposed action:** *Authorize opening Maps Credit Union account and authorize Executive Director to open the account.*

- The LWC will have a high cash position soon with the two \$50,000 CDs maturing in January and influx of reimbursement funds. Finance Committee recommends opening accounts at a separate institution for managing cash below insured levels but also having easy access. **Approved by consensus.**

FY 2022 Budget Development, *Attachment G*

- Kristen is not done drafting the FY 2022 budget. Attachment G summarizes types of funding, a list of pending grants, and some assumptions Kristen is building into the budget. New timeline is for the FC to review a draft at their January 31 meeting and bring a draft to the Board at its Feb. 10 meeting. Board can adopt at that time or review and wait until March 10 meeting to adopt if more information or revisions are needed. Spending resolution previously approved through the February meeting. No action needed.

Fundraising Committee (FRC)

Jackson Stalley, Chair

FRC Annual Report to the Board, *Attachment H*

- Jackson provided some highlights of the FRC annual report and discussed efforts to revise and revive the LWC's Business Circle program. Currently, only Jackson and Kristen on the FRC – we need helpers!

End-of-Year (EOY) Campaign Update

Kristen Larson

- Kristen provided the Board an update on donations received to so far in the EOY campaign.
- So far, underperforming compared to totals from prior years, but more time left.
- Seeing with increased monthly donors, there is increased revenue from a larger number of monthly donors, but those folks don't give again at EOY campaign. This is fine, just something to note.
- Next steps –
 - Staff will send out donor receipts for 2021 donations.
 - Suzanne will send out a thank you email including "it's not too late to give"
 - Next Board meeting, will assign contacts to follow-up with folks that were Friends of the LWC in 2021 but have not yet renewed.
 - FRC – to check in with Business Circle members in February to say hello, thank you
- General discussion around donors and connecting with people. New people moving in to the area all the time. Can LWC engage new residents somehow? Welcome to the watershed and resources on how to help people be a good steward? Can the LWC meet people / introduce the organization to people via Saturday markets? Have ambassadorships? Meet and greets? Some kind of Community Ambassador program to connect people o each other and to the watershed / LWC?
- Discussion to improve the ask at EnO events – remind people importance of unrestricted / LYW funding to the organization – they are different from restricted project funds and support the org. in different ways.

Executive Director Update

Kristen Larson, Executive Director

Monthly Activity Report/ Minutes Highlights, *Attachment I*

- Kristen touched on several items in monthly activity report. Things continue to be very busy!

- She will send out the annual Conflict of Interest questionnaire forms to each Board member via DocuSign. Please fill that out and return it.
- Working on closing out 2021. Is a multi-week process. Kristen wants to get the 990 done before May 15 deadline without having to request an extension to avoid continued confusion with the IRS.
- Several grant proposals due soon and site visit with OWEB review team for Upper Maxfield on Jan. 28.
- OWEB Board is working on adapting a resolution re: Climate Change and may initiate rule-making to incorporate climate change into grant evaluation criteria. Some concerns about how this plays out and limited engagement by OWEB staff with grantees and contractors. Tracking the issue and process.
- Coming soon, the LWC will renew PM contract with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF). Aligns with their fiscal year (April 1 – March 31). Raising rates and raising them more than had originally said they would. Kristen also has some concerns about limits on J.P.'s time lately. She and J.P. will be meeting soon to discuss the coming year and bigger picture. To come back to the Board at the March meeting.
- EDI Dialogue #3 – MVRC Propose to change from collective, in-person session to subgroups, remote.
 - Discussion. Remote is not ideal, but some folks not comfortable with in-person. Will be with one or 2 other councils in 2-hour zoom session. Board prefers to align with meeting night like the other sessions – 5-7pm with Maria and 7-8pm short Board meeting. Will also depend on schedule of the other council(s). TBD.

Topics for Future Consideration

Guest, Richard Y. introduced himself. He is a snowbird and leaves town over the winter. Will be back in Independence in May. Enjoyed the Sips 'n' Science events and wanted to learn more about the LWC.

Meeting adjourned around 8:05pm.