



Luckiamute Watershed Council Board Meeting

June 8, 2023 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., In-person at J2E Tree Farm

Minutes

Attendance

Board: Dave Ehlers, George Grosch, Jay Tappen, Jackson Stalley

Staff: Maya Cook (minutes), Kristen Larson, Jonah Nicholas

Public: Phil Sollins, Ashley Almon

CALL TO ORDER – George Grosch

Introductions – Guests, Board Members, Staff

May 18, 2023, Minutes **APPROVED**

Mission Moments:

- Dave’s wetland prairie restoration was amazing!

Education and Outreach Committee Report – Dave Ehlers

- Review of 2021-22 Love Your Watershed celebrated 20th anniversary & focus on the history of the watershed.
- Thanks to Kristen McAlpine for her work on the committee while she defended her MS, and to Kendra Callahan who moved on to Greenbelt Land Trust
- Efforts to engage the community more
- Unable to repeat the Butterfly & Moth walk in 2023 but hope to return in future years.
- Soap Creek involvement will be good for the organization – they do a lot of work & projects would help engage.
 - A lot of potential engagement with Beaver Partnership, great return on survey agreement
 - Haven’t previously engaged because they haven’t been a big priority for restoration efforts and they have warm, turbid water with multiple barriers & poor quality (e-coli, etc)
 - Focus on salmon & steelhead is starting to shift.
 - Letitia Carson Legacy Project is there
- More participation than ever on zoom & in-person for Sips ‘n’ Science
- Review of volunteer activities, LWC events, partner activities
 - Kristen adds:
 - there was a big change in the most recent Bilingual Bird Walk (June 3, 2023) in terms of how we approached outreach, and it was led in Spanish & translated to English when needed. Ramón Martinez was a great help & while he was sadly laid off by City of Independence, he was hired by Farmworkers Housing organization running Colonia Amistad
 - Cultural Fire Presentation is a learning & training opportunity for tribal youth & their families - multigenerational participation is the priority; we’re following their lead, so it’s not a general public event, though if there is any space available, they may open up to interested landowners.
- Review of upcoming events & activities.
- Tours are how we show people what we’re doing. It’s way more powerful than any video.
 - A lot of activities are “friends only” – we should be duplicating back-to-back, to stop turning people away, particularly the potential for new engagement.
 - Friends get early registration, but as a result they often fill up all the slots. Maybe they only get a few “first dibs”, or we hold back 50% of seats for friends – but how would that be managed?
 - Long Tom did lottery style, which was still weird
 - Added second tours go easier than first, because kinks are worked through.
- Ashley asked about partnership with Christmas Storybook Land & was referred to South Santiam WC since it’s in their basin.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and Board Recruitment – George Grosch

Discussion: outreach and engagement and Board recruitment

- 5 steps in [Diversity in Governance Toolkit](#)
 - Starting the conversation – we’ve been doing that well
 - Developed a Board diversity policy
 - Conducting Board outreach & recruitment – where we are now & the point where a lot of orgs stall.
 - Defining the process is valuable regardless. What do we need? What are we good at?
 - Appendix 5 Board capacity survey. Governance committee will be reviewing the skills we do & don’t need for our org; look for an online survey.
 - Might be worth doing as individuals and as a Board. If nobody feels qualified to do a thing, then we need to know.
 - Alternative to “weakness” – maybe comfort with doing/leading, or things that people don’t WANT to do because they’ve done it as a job.
 - Opportunities for EnO to work on Board outreach
 - Professional organization recruitment, churches, WOU, etc.
 - Advertise events in newsletters (e.g. NAACP), church bulletins, [Mom Magazine](#), etc.
 - Regularly attend other organizations meetings & events, support & listen
 - Creating an effective Board
 - Keeping on track
- Governance Committee will be back with more on this topic

Finance Committee & Treasurer Report – George Grosch

- April 2023 Preliminary Financial Reports
 - Solid position, healthy balance, just got recommended for full funding for OWEB Capacity grant. Won’t be passed until July OWEB Board meeting in late July.
- Moving forward with budget, on track for 34% into the year
- Change in meeting frequency will change how we present financial information – 2 new months + the month seen at the previous quarter.
- Still haven’t closed books on 2022 due to unbilled revenues, payroll transition issues, etc.
 - Judy Beebe is coming in to sit down with Kristen for a few hours to clean up & get it functioning.
- Good practice: always read the minutes of the Finance Committee before the Board meeting.

Executive Director Update – Kristen Larson

- Love Your Watershed (LYW) Campaign quiet phase is intended to get us 2/3 of the way to the overall goal. In addition to Willamette Habitat Restoration (WHR) fund not renewing support this year, we lost out on another grant (Spirit Mountain small grant). Major donor appeal response very low so far. Other grant funds take time. We used McMenamins \$1k for seed also. Usually we start with \$12k for \$18k goal; not likely to get there. We might be able to do a \$10k goal.
 - Decided earlier this week to put it on pause and retool, so of course right after:
 - we got a few major donations, and a \$2500 grant.
 - Restoration project grants do include funds for tours, which we could also use.
 - Still unsure whether to pause, or to go for a “lite” version
 - Downsides of going lite? Labor time & effort for smaller return, maybe, but \$10k is still good money to have on hand.
 - Won’t break us if we don’t, but we have an annual established cycle plan endorsed by experts. What impact of not doing?
 - Not that much, really
 - Though expanding our community efforts is going to take some of that funding
 - With few donations we’ve gotten, we’d reach out to donors to explain hold, allocation, & future plans.



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- George: LYW was great during pandemic years (and grants were flowing), but this may have reached end of life. If there's no enthusiasm & energy to run it, then it's not worth doing.
 - Some general sense that it might be time to just try to do something different.
- Dave: why do people give money? I know why I do, but.... Basically people are going to do what they're gonna do. Maybe plans, maybe not.
- People give to people, get endorphins for good causes, helping the environment, etc.
- Fundraising Committee: working toward review, reflections, and recommendations (over several months)
 - Working through past plans, what we learned, we tried, what did/didn't work & why, brainstorm new ideas.
- Urban Waters updates – reaching out about project, going slowly because it's a hard time of year to schedule.
- LWC Events
 - June 15 Upper Luckiamute Tour head count
 - June 24 Paddle Day – Buena vista boat launch closed. We can do a reach upstream nearer Corvallis, but not connected to our service area. A fun day on the river area but wouldn't be able to end in Independence. Postpone to next year when Buena Vista is open.
- Always feel welcome to reach out with questions!