



Luckiamute Watershed Council Board Meeting

May 18, 2023 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

at Western Skies Ranch

Minutes

Attendance

Board: Britton Castor, Dave Ehlers, Nick Hazelton, Karin Stutzman, Scott Youngblood

Staff: Maya Cook (minutes), Kristen Larson

Public: Sharon Safina, Ashley Almon

Call to Order & Introductions

April 13, 2023, Minutes APPROVED

Mission Moments:

Scott saw the whitest iris tenax he's ever seen

Karin's Wildflowers are just starting to bloom

Kristen for BLM promo video, went to SF Pedee with Douglass, Tony, & Jennifer, while Deborah interviewed & videoed. Saw coho, steelhead, caddis flies, etc. young coho & steelhead may look the same, but learned: if you throw a stick in the water, coho will go at it like it's a bug, but steelhead dart away.

Nick has been researching Luckiamute-Kalapuya sites & believes the original reservation site was just up Tarter Rd from Western Skies Ranch. Noted a large old tree in one of Karin's fields that is bent in the manner of a Trail Tree.

Britton: Shared LWC info in response to Falls City FB complaints about knotweed. No pro-knotweed complaints (yay!). Kristen noted that we have funding to do some spraying. Some spotted by the HS.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) – Karin Stutzman

As we look at how to do EDI in the watershed, we're looking at how to get beyond our privilege & bubble and make new connections & engagement. Letitia Carson Legacy Project is local to Soap Creek.

- She never did get her land back, even though she won the lawsuit. We talked about it at the last meeting & shortly after the digital collections went up online
 - LCLP Digital History Collection is live: <https://letitiacarson.omeka.net/>
 - and includes 8 interactive exhibits: <https://letitiacarson.omeka.net/exhibits>
 - Review and reflect on this historical legacy in the Soap Creek watershed

Discussion

What kind of help do people need? How to buy land? How to afford? Where to begin without assumptions & saviorism. The knowledge Karin brings is how to jump through the hoops to acquire a farm loan, but is it part of our mission? Looking for opportunities where it makes sense, e.g. Smithfield Oaks burn.

Nick: Polk SWCD hosting cultural burn, which might lead to more usage. It's become more tribe-focused because that's what they want. Bilingual Bird Walk is another good example.

Ashley recommended school district involvement, meet with superintendent to coordinate participation & engagement.

Kristen: What about engagement with Black Oregon Land Trust (BOLT)? Outreach to tell them about what we do & how to serve. They're still very new & establishing, so being present to listen & learn and show up over the long term. Being there consistently without asking for things but be there to engage & understand without extractive reason.

Karin: It takes a lot of work to build relationships & gain trust. Keep abreast of what's already out there, pay attention to legislation (or lack thereof).

Ashley: Suggests stewardship & sustainable land use as main criteria. Focus on education & awareness.

Nick: Our demographics are changing. We just need to keep building relationships & bring attention to what's happening, show up/be present.

Dave: going to NAACP meetings to establish to relationships & be present.

Britton: also diversifying board. As we build connections we'll attract new relationships & interest in board work.

Governance Committee – Nick Hazelton

1. Rickreall Watershed Council (RWC) update: they're very interested in going forward. They have not been active since 2020. We need to be careful and go slowly to manage scaling up capacity.
 - No threat to 501(c)3 status, but there would be administrative work to update bylaws, etc.
 - Their end is straightforward: they lost their capacity grant, they were never a nonprofit, no employees. Too small to revive capacity grant on their own, so they'd have to share with Glenn Gibson - but RWC don't want to revive, they want someone else to serve. LWC merging with Glenn Gibson is a whole different conversation – not on the table here.
 - Challenges:
 - Mercer Dam & reservoir source. Dams are new to us, drinking water sources. It opens up new funding avenues re drinking water, while making others unavailable.
 - LWC does not have strong ties to the City of Dallas.
 - One RWC Board member has very specific focus on fish; if engaged, will bring his priorities.
 - They have coho & lamprey. Dallas wants to move & enlarge the dam.
 - It's a lot of additional area to take on – literal mission creep.
 - They had no strategic plan, & 1 PT director shared between both RWC & GGWC. Limited capacity even when they did have staff.
 - Benefits:
 - Rickreall would no longer be orphaned river & it's important as the sole supplier of water to all of Dallas.
 - All of Dallas would be fully incorporated to LWC service area (but also vastly increase our constituent population, thus complicating engagement, pursuing donors & volunteers, etc.)
 - Includes Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Ackerman ODFW land, etc.
 - Timing:
 - No urgency, but biennium & new strategic plan makes it somewhat sensible to act soon (on the other hand: capacity concerns)
 - If we do this, it will need to take years.
 - Do we want to continue the conversation with them? How should we update them?
 - Currently too much for our capacity. Agreement to pause for now & revisit later.
 - Outcome of waiting: status quo (still orphaned), other orgs like SWCDs take on some of the load. Kristen will notify the RWC reps from the meeting.

2. Reviewed updated Governance Committee Description

ACTION: revised GC description adopted by consensus.

Executive Committee – Karin Stutzman

To improve Kristen’s work-life balance, we’re looking to try every other month board meetings, with committee meetings in the alternating months between – except Finance committee would remain monthly, & Project Review Committee would remain quarterly.

- Rationale:
 - Less administrative time on meetings & prep.
 - It makes each individual meeting more important.
 - In case of Board emergencies, the Board can take action by email. For time-limited discussion, we can call a special meeting.
 - RiverKeepers have recently moved to that schedule as well & like it a lot.
- Feedback:
 - makes sense, gives more time to consider, more opportunity to dig deeper.
 - Might open up time for activity participation in other ways
- On the administrative side, bylaws say “will strive” so no violation in not meeting every month.
 - decision to not amend bylaws just yet – we meet in June & August already, so we would just skip September, November, & January on trial basis, then check back in February.
- What does success look like?
 - Better workload, improved quality & substance in between.
 - A lighter commitment might also make it easier to recruit new board members.

ACTION: Approved bimonthly on a trial basis by consensus.

Finance Committee & Treasurer Report – Britton Castor

March 2023 Preliminary Financial Reports for Q1.

- Last meeting, we agreed to continue meeting monthly to monitor the finances. Will report at bimonthly meetings on a “rolling quarter” consisting of the normal month + 2 preceding, should provide a good snapshot.
- Discussed health insurance plans. Committee decided that LWC would continue to pay for the “good” base plan, but upgrades to better plans would be paid for by staff. Staff decided to stick with what we have, but we’ll continue to evaluate & discuss in future years.
- Year-Ends are still in the process of being wrapped up, there will still be some minor changes.

Executive Director Update – Kristen Larson

- Jonah has been on board for a month, will come & meet everyone at J2E at June 8 meeting
- OWEB grant done in May – big lift first time through with Ross.
- PRC meeting hosted a good talk on basic water rights with Watermaster Joel Plahn. Opened it up to other orgs & recorded it for training & information purposes.
- Payroll transition bookkeeping is still a mess, but we’re getting close, building procedures.
- Extension for 990 done, due November 15 but will be done well before then.
- Email hosting transition: Maya has it underway.

Upcoming Meetings

- June 8 In-person at J2E Tree Farm, optional pre-meeting tour at 5pm
- August 10 at Happy Workers Club, possible BBQ beforehand

Projects

<i>Application Pending</i>	<i>Design & Permits</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Maintenance & Monitoring</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) – for ongoing Ash Creek PE and deer protection work ¹	River Network – Community Led Research Project (Urban Watershed Engagement Program)	REVEG: LSNA Phases IV & V, MMT MW “LP3” Reveg & Fencing, Maxfield Creek Reveg, S. Fork Pedee, Upper Ritner RCG, J2E, Expand the Benefit Site 2 (Little Lucki); Lower Luckiamute Floodplain Forest Enhancement	REVEG: LSNA Phases I - III; Upper Luckiamute Phases I & II; Fencing/Reveg; Ash Creek; Expand the Benefit Site 1 (Luckiamute)	1 – Submitted in March; notice in May.
ODA Weed Board Grant – MVRC Knotweed Control (LWC is applicant on behalf of MVRC) ²		<u>IN-STREAM:</u>	Instream Projects: Maxfield Creek Phase II, Side Channel, Bridge Piers Modification; Upper Price Creek, Wolf Creek, Upper Ritner, S. Fork Pedee, J2E, LSNA Ph. 4 (Floodplain Recxn), Upper Luckiamute Large Wood Placement, Upper Maxfield Restoratio1n, S. Fork Pedee Upper Culvert (BLM-led)	2 – Funded! Waiting for executed grant agreement.
OWEB Technical Assistance (TA) grant, Miller – W. Fork alternatives analysis and project development ³		Love Your Watershed Program (EnO committee)	OWEB TA - NetMap Modelling and Field Surveys & MW Culvert Assessment	3 – Submitted May 1. Zoom presentation sometime in June; rankings in August/Sept.
2023 – 2025 OWEB Council Capacity ⁴		Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership		4 – Submitted in March. Award expected in July.
Willamette Habitat Restoration (WHR) Fund – Love Your Watershed Program ⁵		Luckiamute Basin Knotweed Control		5 – Submitted. Declined.
TNC – PGE Salmon Habitat Support Fund, for additional MVRC TA / Miller – W. Fork project development support ⁶		OWEB Technical Assistance for Project Development (MVRC Regional TA grant)		6 – Due May 19