

North Coast Watershed Association
Board of Directors Meeting minutes
December 14, 2016
818 Commercial
Astoria, OR 97103

Members Present: Ty Williams ODF, Chris Farrar, Tessa Scheller, Carla Cole, Mike Seppa, and Scott Rekate. Absent: Mark Garrigues, Katie Voelke remains on maternity leave

Staff: Brooke Stanley. Absent: Peggy Coreson

Carla called the meeting to order at 12:11 and asked for introductions as we unanimously welcomed a new rep from ODF. Brooke noted the features of our new facilities that include storage and a new refrigerator. Mike noted personnel changes at CSWCD and considerations for NRCS staff.

The minutes were approved by motion with a spelling correction; Mike/Chris, passed unanimously. Brooke updated us about the potential need to find a new fiscal contractor. Overdue notices suggest we may need to train a new person for our financial accounting and that this may allow us greater capacity.

Council self-evaluation requirements were discussed and questions will be distributed by email and discussed at next meeting. Brooke reviewed and added detail to her report. New funds have been acquired for the Alderbrook project. She has been able to increase her hours and contract part time assistance. Pollinator species and riparian area plantings continue. We discussed the process for acquiring these funds.

Coho and cocoa will happen again this year after the holidays when holiday trees are placed in stream flows as small woody debris on Jan 21st. The John Day River culverts design alternatives and potential for a bridge with CREST funding are part of Brooke's involvement. We discussed the flooding and fish passage barriers that could be resolved. The Clifton culvert options were discussed in terms of a small grant opportunity to improve stream water quality. The Mill Creek project was reviewed by Ty who noted other significant projects in the area and opportunities to work with partners to address fish passage and sedimentation issues. Ty noted other ODF concerns in this watershed that include fire safety, trash dumping and ATV use. He also noted that ORV folks have also contributed to clean up efforts.

The Chum FIP group met for the first time this year and is poised for funding. Brooke noted fiscal and project management opportunities that could come her way. A competitive application is anticipated to develop a plan and

work with partners that could include gill net fisheries and landowners. Mike suggested contacts for assistance. Scott noted increased Chum returns to Ecola Ck.

The monitoring network effort noted the loss of the Cullaby Ck monitor at the Lounsberry bridge site. Other sites have been impacted by high water and velocity that made retrieval impossible until water levels fall.

We entertained ideas to better secure the monitors. Brooke submitted a grant to expand the monitoring network to Ecola and Nik-Wik watersheds. The effort includes substantial work with volunteers.

The Bear creek planting project may feature a land owner outreach where our monitoring could assist with restoration plans and documentation.

The Lewis and Clark River reach assessment is considered for a larger plan to address the meandering waters and impacts on habitat, hydrology, agriculture and roadways. Brooke is identifying people and partners to move forward. We discussed the vexing course a river naturally might take.

The Nik-Wik WSC meeting featured some issues and history that was revisited. Council priorities and assessments are unavoidably opportunistic and must include willing landowners. Coordination with multiple partners remains challenging. Volunteer appreciation and a warm venue were noted.

An advisory committee regarding ODF NW management planning is seeking a member and we approved of Brooke's interest and application.

Tessa reviewed recent events and landowner concerns about culverts within the East Fork Neacoxie Creek watershed. She suggested an inventory could assist with prioritizing improvements and funding but landowner participation is need prior to moving forward.

Brooke suggested hiring options for her impending maternity leave and summer time assistance. We urged Brooke to initiate this process asap. We considered regulatory concerns and individuals we already know. Scott inquired about organizing assistance for Jerome and the Ecola Ck planning.

Our Nature Matters series continues and our next meeting is February 8, 2017 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tessa Scheller