

North Coast Watershed Association
River Council Meeting
December 3, 2019
NCWA Offices
Astoria, OR

Members present: Chris Farrar, Tessa Scheller and Amy Hutmacher,

Chris called the meeting to order at 1810. We reviewed the agenda and adopted a concise set of topics for discussion. We note the chair may create the agenda with our Executive Director in the future with earlier notice and minutes to participants desired.

We reviewed and approved the minutes. We discussed the challenges of having the building doors lock after 6:00 noting that could discourage casual attendance. We discussed the idea of moving this council meeting to the daytime as that might promote attendance.

We reviewed and discussed the Three Year Plan Update. We noted that many of the projects listed are ongoing and we then provided some notes to forward to the NCWA BOD.

We discussed two priority projects the River Council will forward to the BOD for action when the opportunities arise. Removal of the 8th St dam may be facilitated by the 100+K entrusted to the new River Council and awarded by the courts to the now defunct Skipanon Council. The Skipanon River Peninsula Project features 75 acres of badly degraded freshwater wetlands. These public lands are arguably the most restorable acres in the Lower Columbia River Estuary. The project could become a mitigation bank or supply SBU to whoever funds the dike removal and rebuilding needed to reconnect the estuarine flow. Off channel refuge for salmonids and restoration of many other marine species and estuarine hydrology is anticipated

We discussed our Council structure and reviewed the bylaws as they pertain to us. We agreed to forward some grammatical corrections and other suggestions to the BOD. One challenge was to more clearly define the boundaries of the River and Coastal Councils, another is to enshrine the Councils role of being a community forum for salmon and watershed concerns.

We discussed some ideas for the Nature Matters series and we adjourned promptly at 1935.

Minutes submitted by Tessa Scheller