



North Coast Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting

March 31st, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM (via Zoom)

Board Members Present: **Carla Cole**, Chris Farrar, Jason Smith, Ty Williams, Tessa Scheller, Mark Garrigues, and Melissa Reich. Mike Seppa joined for the second half of the meeting

Staff Present: Jenn Rasmussen

Public Present: None

Carla Called the meeting to order at 4:05pm

Introductions and Announcements. Carla introduced, congratulated, and welcomed Graham to the position, and Graham thanked the board for bringing him on board. This was followed by a quick round of introductions from the board

Approval of Minutes from February 24th Board Meeting and voting to change bank account signer to Graham Klag as new NCWA Executive Director (Carla) Ty motioned, Tessa seconded the motion to approve the minute

Transition announcement and Account Holder Change

The Executive Director position has undergone a transition from Celeste Lebo to Graham Jefferey Klag. As a result of this transition, the board will need to get Graham Jefferey Klag on the account with Lewis and Clark Bank as the new signer and remove the former Executive Director (Celeste Lebo) from the account. Credit card transferred to Graham. Tessa motioned to get the bank account transferred from Celeste to Graham, Melissa seconded, unanimously approved.

NCWA Administrative Report Jennifer discussed the February financials. The operating budget was discussed first, no questions were posed. Jennifer mentioned that NCWA is in a better financial position than the board has been in for a long time. Projects have wrapped up, John Day closed, which has helped improve the cash flow. Jennifer mentioned that the budget looks great, that the board is bringing more in than anticipated and spent less than planned. The balance sheet reviewed second, followed by a discussion surrounding the certificate of deposit, which was renewed in January. A discussion was had surrounding the interest rates. Jennifer suggested that the board may want to look into a financial advisor. If the money is going to sit for 5-10 years the board may want to consider a better investment route. Carla pointed out that Tessa suggested a CD in the past, to help accumulate funds. Tessa talked about the initial plan to keep it somewhat flexible, if an instrument can be identified that gives us a better interest rates over the next year it seems reasonable. No decision was made, the board will revisit investment opportunities in the next few months. The Liabilities Section was discussed next, specifics involved the status of the PPP loan and forgiveness. Graham mentioned that he has completed the PPP forgiveness form and believes the loan will be or is currently forgiven. Jenn talked about how the next statement it won't show up as a loan, but a grant instead.

The Equities Section was discussed next, Jennifer mentioned that his section shows remaining balances on each of the grants, nothing particularly noteworthy was mentioned. Jennifer followed this up with pointing out that the Chum SAP is closing today and will be zero next month. New grants will be showing up next month. Graham asked about the project completion report date, and the agreement end date, Jennifer said she would look into it and confirmed that April 2nd is the end date, but the completion report likely not due for another couple of months. The Income Statement was the final financial report discussed. Jennifer mentioned that this is not as useful of a report but includes operating budget, shows John Day and Chum projects expenses, and that ultimately Jenn wants to work on this statement a bit more.

Following this discussion Jenn left the meeting.

NCWA Council Reports.

- River Council Update

Presentation about Big Creek and Little Creek (hydrology modeling/geomorphic work) Chris, let the board know that there wasn't a River Council meeting since the last meeting, and mentioned that the next meeting is scheduled for the first week of April, in which Carla, Graham, and Chris (assisting) will be giving a presentation. Graham requested a contact list to send out the meeting invitation. Chris and Carla provided a few suggestions. Carla suggested that Graham reach out to Celeste to determine who the key contacts are to include. Chris mentioned Lewis and Clark Dam/Stream Gage Site Visit – last Friday (March 26th) met in the field and looked at a few sites along the river, starting at the City of Warrenton Diversion site (for municipal supply), representatives from Fish and Wildlife (Troy Laws and Bryce fish passage and screenings division) were present. The group looked at and discussed the fish ladder at the site. Fish and Wildlife doesn't have passage numbers on it, but part of the issue is cold water refugia for fingerlings seasonally rather than spawners which can likely make it up. DWR water master present, Carla, Kelli, Chris, and Graham. Purpose was gage streams in the County, this stream is of special interest to the NPS as it flows through their property. Issues that have prevented anything from happening are mostly financial, however there are few options that could reduce the cost. Use the concrete structure as a weir and measure stage to come up with a stage discharge relationship. Or use a site upstream with modern stream gage equipment to accurately calculate a discharge. Went upstream and looked at spots for appropriate gaging sites. Overall attitude was positive to move forward and establish a gage. Going to look into working with the City of Warrenton, Clatsop County, and the NPS and get grant money to pull it off. Chris also suggested posting some of the pictures from this trip to the website, and a short summary of the plan. He also talked about the need to look into the history of the site and talked about interest in determining how the location of the diversion was selected. Carla requested Graham send her a reminder to send the pictures. Mark suggested that GWR should be involved in any diversion site conversations. Mark also suggested keeping the Warrenton Water Master looped into the conversation. Chris requested Mark share the Water Masters contact information.

- Coastal Council Update – Graham provided a Coastal Council Update. Graham and Kelli both attended the Coastal Council meeting. Graham informed the board that the Coastal Council remains

without a chair for the time being, and that is something that is in the works. Graham also pointed out that we are still looking for interested people. During the Coastal Council meeting Jesse Jones talked about Coast Watch Program and ways to engage the coastal council and coast watch, suggesting that it is a great way to merge efforts in the future. Graham also talked about the Ecola Beaver project, which is now funded, and how there is a lot of things to work on going forward. Kelli filled in for Caroline to run/facilitate the meeting.

- Nature Matters Update

Scott Brewer, Executive Director of Hood Canal Coordinating Council, presenting about Chum salmon recovery efforts. Carla talked about how the park lead Kayla, how there was a switch by the Fort George that everything has to be pre-recorded due to technical difficulties with live stream. Kayla working with the Fort George to make sure tech difficulties don't happen again the next round. Carla talked about how the next meeting involved a Chum recovery case study up in Hood Canal, and how they would like the next Nature Matters to be interactive, so it will either be on Facebook live, or at the studio so it can be live, not pre-recorded. Graham confirmed that it is going to be live and interactive. Carla also mentioned that there was the option of coming to Astoria or doing it virtually. Talked about how pre-recorded takes away the opportunity for attendees to interact with the presenter. Carla asked Graham to send out a notice, and requested the board attend as well.

Public Comment. No members of the public were in attendance.

Executive Session. Carla and Tessa discussed proceeding as normal since no public attendance, and several of the proposed topics had already been partially addressed in the public session. As a result it was determined that the Executive Session was not necessary and that meeting could proceed without it.

- Return of the Redds launch, NCWA branding and NCWA project web map - Graham talked about seeing both the Return of the Redds materials and website and updated the board that it should be going live on the website first, followed by going live on Facebook by the end of the week. Graham suggested that this will bring the organization to a turning point about branding and marketing. Graham mentioned the use of the strategic action plan as a guide going forward and brought up the idea of updating the NCWA logo so it would reflect NCWA's relationship with the Return of the Redds campaign. Graham's idea is to get the logo to look similar or use some of the structure and design that has been created. Graham will provide pdf materials to the board, as he would like the public to better associate the campaign with NCWA. Graham spoke to the reach of Return of the Redds and how it has already seen 1,600 people reached as opposed to our typical planting post reaching maybe 100 people. As a result, Graham thinks it would be a good time for the board to think about it and how we can weave it into our strategic plan going forward. Carla agreed, melding with the Return of the Redds might be a worthwhile endeavor. Graham said that tracking the reach of Return of the Redds may help us with the campaign and be able to show OWEB and others that it works and is a great model, and pointed out that these are great conservation portfolio pieces that the organization will have to use as leverage for funding and outreach. Graham requested the board's approval to look into the possibility of making some of these changes. Graham discussed the

potential use of some extra funds available in the landowner outreach category, mailers where originally discussed, but web outreach may be better in general. Ty asked if it means changing the whole logo. Graham responded that it wouldn't be an entirely new logo but we could explore shifting the salmon to look more like Return of the Redds. Ty's also asked if this means we intend to do a new logo each time we do a new project and suggested that we don't want to change the logo every few years or we risk losing brand recognition. Ty added that the NCWA only recently started branding and getting people used to us. Graham acknowledged that is a legitimate concern but wanted to know if the board could provide input on what we would want on a future logo, so we don't have to make major changes in the future. Graham specifically mentioned board feedback on other species on the logo as it is currently salmon centric. Carla added that she envisions more of a brand consistent look, font, color-scheme, style referencing how a brewery often has several different beers i.e. a stout, pale, ipa, etc. where they have a consistent image for each. Carla suggested that we could make small tweaks to our existing logo to make it have the same look as Return of the Redds. Tessa provided a caveat, that the board wants to support the Executive Director as long as there is interaction between the director and the board. Graham thanked the board for that input and clarifying the appropriate approach to bringing items to the board. Graham stated that the current logo is great, and that he wanted to point out that the campaign seems to be a great opportunity to build upon branding.

- Project scoping for Lewis & Clark River, and Klaskanine River dam alterations - Graham shared that both grant agreements are in for Ecola and Big Creek. Both have come in so we are good on that, the other conversation is about the Klaskanine river dams. Great first project for Graham as well as a great project for Return of the Redds because it talks about Dam removal or modifications. Graham has been talking with people for technical assist and he will begin to gather in-kind letters and get it in to the next OWEB cycle (April). Carla added that this is something Amy Horstman intimately involved with for a few years now, Amy has been doing the heavy lifting and is looking for NCWA to be the local sponsor to manage the administration. Carla thinks it a great intro project for Graham. Carla also mentioned that in conversations with Celeste they initially thought we may want to wait and hold off until the Fall cycle, but after talking with Graham she is confident in our capacity have since changed their stance and now wants to try for the spring.

Good of the Order. Graham – getting a sense the partnership landscape and getting a sense of where people are going. Graham said he is excited to talk to Mark about the role of GIS – big interest to see more maps on our website, and more content, like what a great story map these projects would be whether it is the Lewis and Clark or Necanicum. Graham mentioned that this could be a good idea to bring councils together to do work sharing, and great ways to expand capacity and partnerships. Graham let the board know that he is thinking about how to use Return of the Redds and landowner outreach component as a way to create more of a dialogue with landowners rather than a solid ask. Having and giving people options is helpful. Graham going to look into stakeholder grants, to try and see if we can build apps, to share about their properties. Ways for landowners to see NCWA as a service. Carla added a few comments on the Chum strategic action plan front, stating that colleagues that have been involved in advisory committee. Graham going to reach out to have another meeting about

wrapping that up and get a final strategic action plan out there. If you hear questions that will be happening soon.

Adjournment. Carla adjourned at 5:12pm