



North Coast Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting

May 26th, 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 on the phone, and video for the second half of the meeting

Staff Present: Jenn Rasmussen

Public Present: None

Carla Called the meeting to order at 4:03pm

Introductions and Announcements.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Board Meetings: The April board meeting did not have a quorum, so the minutes from the March Board Meeting still needed to be approved. Chris motioned to approve the NCWA March 31st meeting minutes, Tessa Seconded. Unanimously approved. Moved on to a motion for the April 28th NCWA Board minutes approval. Tessa moves, Chris seconds. Unanimously approved.

Council Reports

- River Council – did not meet this month, but Graham reported that they made headway with getting additional contacts to present a targeted plan and add on to the River Council. Ty mentioned that he had Gary's contact and will email it to Graham. Next River Council meeting is June 10th, after site visit to Ecola Creek. Graham hoping to wrap up loose ends and to share a story map on the North North Klaskanine fish passage project.
- Coastal Council – Meeting was on the 17th of May and it went well and long. No chair but Graham is working on it still. Looking for someone who wants to be involved and interested long term. Several folks from Cannon Beach showed up, Mark is going to be on the Ecola Creek watershed assessment team to be an intermediary between Graham and John and the review team for that area. Graham needs to connect with USFWS and ODFW contacts to begin those meetings for the Beaver project. Additionally, there was a conversation about scotch broom bust in the works for late June as well as a conversation about a road project that is happening and there were some concerns about its impact to an adjacent creek. Mark confirmed that the creek is within the Ecola Forest Reserve, on the North end of the reserve, the city is going through a proposal for road maintenance and emergency access in the reserve. The road needs the most work to get back into a drivable condition. At least two culverts on that road that had failed. The main concern is that it was a bit bigger of a project than they anticipated. Looking to the council to see if there is mitigation that needs to happen, or just a point of contact. Next Coastal Council meeting is July 19th.
- Nature Matters – Graham updated the board on the last Nature Matters event. Wrapped up the series with bird songs presentation this month. Graham shared that it was a great talk, and mentioned that Lucas is a great contact, and we will want to continue to reach out to speakers

for walks or fundraiser opportunities. Kayla and Graham will begin working on next year's Nature Matters series. Chris had a question about the process, to figure out how we can best serve the parks foundation and NCWA's. Carla mentioned that COVID provided many challenges, it started off strong, but the last couple talks (one never appeared due to technical difficulties) and the other only had a handful of attendees. Hopefully next year we can get back to in person Nature Matter presentation while also broadcasting it for those that can't make it or don't feel comfortable. Graham mentioned having the capacity to record while doing live will be a big benefit on the series and attendance in the future.

NCWA Administrative Report

- Monthly Financial Report – Jenn was unable to attend to provide updates on the financial report. Graham showed the report to the board, and shared answers to Chris's payroll and benefits questions. He explained that it is a bit different for our organization as we require a pot of funds for PTO and sick leave. Those cannot be accounted for in the grants so they need to be a secondary source. NCWA is doing well in terms of our budget and is on track in terms of total income and expenses.
- Income statement – Jenn was unable to attend to provide updates on the income statement. Graham shared the income statement with the Board and mentioned that Jenn's summary is that the NCWA is doing well. Other updates, the PPP loan has shifted from the liabilities into unrestricted funds, the unrestricted funds are in a good place and we should continue to build upon them. Graham also mentioned the Co Op funds have come in after the donation drive ended.
- Project Funding and Operating Expenses – Graham shared with the board that NCWA is moving into an exciting summer with a lot of projects in the queue. One of the first is the Upper Big Creek Floodplain reconnection project. Graham has been out there with Jed flagging for the large wood placement sites. They have been working on the roles and responsibilities, feasibility of locations, etc. Overall Graham shared that it looks like a great project this summer to highlight. Graham also discussed Ecola Creek. John and Graham have talked; they will be working with someone new in the office to figure out how much habitat can support beaver in the Ecola Creek Watershed. Looking at a model to help shape that project along with the Ecola Creek watershed assessment. Graham is working on a scope of work for that right now. The schedule/sequencing for projects is Big Creek in August, going through Hampton for the permitting, Ecola Creek kick-off is June, and the watershed assessment team also in June. Other projects Graham is working on is wrapping up the strategic action plan and a PowerPoint to go with it.

Staff Update – Graham brought up another Coastal Council item and talked about Kelli's presentation on water quality monitoring program. Kelli gave the council a review of the program and also discussed what she shared with the students. Kelli is taking lead on stream gauge project on Lewis & Clark River, Graham to assist. Getting Wendi ready to go with Chum outreach in the Lewis & Clark, got a lot of the products finalized that will be utilized as a welcome package, Graham and Wendi are working on it.

Wendi has been doing a great job on the webpage and social media. There has been no shortage of things that Graham and Wendi have been working on.

Return of the Redds – Carla and Graham met, a couple of products left to deliver. It is a good time for Graham and Wendi to do some outreach as people are starting to be allowed/more comfortable meeting in person. Graham presented a wish list to the board. He wants an event series, and speakers, working with Fort George. The chum action plan is a great document to provide an educational experience for the community, and how we can tell a story about each the life history stages of Chum (Ocean, Upper watershed, Lower watershed/Estuary, etc) Salmon and why we are so dedicated to the Return of the Redds. Having events not just in Astoria, but other parts of the community, to further outreach. One event could be to bring in Jim Brick to talk about sediment and its role in Redd development and where Chum spawn. Curtis Roegner could speak about the ocean phase. ODFW could talk about the work that they do like the difference of passive restoration vs. reintroduction and further context. The event series could begin at Fort George but move to other venues around like The Big O, Buoy, The Logger, and again wrapping up at the Fort George. Graham mentioned how the Salmon River is a great story of how dam removal can contribute to Chum and Salmon removal. Graham mentioned that the speakers and the dates are far from final, and that we can adapt the schedule accordingly. Carla also liked the idea, approach, and plan. Carla asked the board to think of other idea for speakers, venues, etc. Graham thought it would be a good opportunity to get experience in event planning and a good opportunity to grow our partner connections. Graham is also going to begin reaching out to the breweries to request doing a return of the reds beer or a Nature Matters beer. Carla also pointed out that these events would be a good time to move on Return of the Redds clothing, hats, and stickers so they can be available to sell for the events or give away as trivia prizes.

North North Klatskanine Fish Passage Project – Graham provided an update on the virtual site tour of the N.N. Klatskanine fish passage project. The presentation will occur on Wednesday June 2nd. Trying to reconnect the project area before the dam removal. Existing opportunity to add to a project that is in the second phase of development (intake two has already been pulled out) and making the case to get the original dam out. Graham mentioned that he to incorporate it into the Return of the Redds campaign, but it is not chum salmon habitat, but it is restoring watershed processes. Ultimately the project benefits coastal cutthroat, and lamprey that will be able to access this habitat once its reconnected.

Stream gauge update – have not heard anything from the city of Warrenton. Graham asked if other board members have more interaction with the city could they send Graham's information. Looking for more opportunities to do other work before that fish ladder fails.

Ecola Creek site tour on the 10th to look at installing a possible perennial stream gauge that may help us understand our Beaver project, to see if they are changing summer flows, and get baseline data to make a better case for Beaver restoration.

ARC GIS update – Graham announced that NCWA made it into ESRI nonprofit program. Graham is looking for an ARC GIS online and a desktop account to create a stakeholder portal that they can give us information and we can share information. Good tool for landowner outreach and public engagement. Until that account is active Graham can receive approval to work on his personal academic account. Graham shared a PowerPoint that does a good job describing ARC GIS and how it works, including its many uses and tools. Graham shared that GIS is a tremendous tool for NCWA as we do more projects and bring more partners in so NCWA can have a consistent and well managed database to compile, store, and share data. ARC GIS is moving to a more automated tool, similar to PowerPoint with design ideas and suggestions. Carla mentioned that there has been a legacy of issues within the organization of missing and misplaced data. Carla agrees that it would be great to have it all centralized, and in a consistent usable format.

Planning for logo rebrand board meeting – Graham spoke to the board about the need to stay fresh, but be aware that what we do with our rebranding will guide everything else that we do. Graham suggested that it would be important that we have a meeting with Jenn and have a session to figure out what is important to people about the visual vision that we want to share as an organization. Could have a similar branding structure to Return of the Redds, and ultimately help us gain support and outreach overtime. Carla mentioned that Jenn was helpful in the first phase and could also contribute to the second phase. Having Jenn on retainer it would be fun for the board to give input, regarding how simple/busy it should be, colors styles, etc. Carla suggested it could be a small committee but ultimately encourages everyone on the board to participate. Graham's stance is that this is a great opportunity to use the logo as a means to direct the way we want to work, a logo for beaver, another for lamprey, etc. Graham asked the board to consider this an opportunity to redefine a sense of place, that draws you to this place and enjoyment of it. Graham wants the board to think about what it is about the North Coast Watershed Association that makes it mean so much?

Planning for summer board retreat – Graham asked to get a sense on the board's thoughts on the location, timeline, details, etc. Carla asked what Graham wanted to get out of it, strategic planning, or just a hang out? Graham is envisioning some watershed enjoyment, visiting some places that we want to think about in more detail (potential projects), fitting the board's needs, and getting to know board members through place. Bring folks from NCLC and CREST into the fold to show or talk about their work, some work, some play. Graham mentioned that he is interested in the board's feedback. Tessa mentioned that a facilitator can help so the board chair, or staff do not have to direct the board. An outside facilitator with a natural resource background can help the board work through any challenges. Graham will follow up for the next board meeting, to help come up with more ideas. Carla mentioned the last board retreat was a day out at the NPS Yeon property, which could be an available option again, but not for any overnight event. Graham will provide several options next time to see which board members would be interested in overnights, versus just the day, possibly two days. Ty asked if we are going to build upon the strategic plans the board built. Graham confirmed that the hope is to build off of that strategic plan, not replace it. Melissa asked if we needed to have a COVID conversation about the potential board retreat, as well as future plans for board meetings. Should future board meetings stay virtual? Graham thinks continuing a virtual option is a good idea, which would allow people who are less

comfortable another option. Melissa brought up mask requirements, masks or unmasked, and if unmasked the need for copies of vaccine cards to be shared with the organization. Carla agrees that a COVID plan/discussion is needed and recommended the board meeting be held in the late summer when cases have decreased and more folks are vaccinated. Graham and Carla recommended we talk about this at the next board meeting. Graham asked if we need to build it into the bylaws or if he needs to build a procedure. Carla suggested we follow state guidelines, and therefore do not need to build it into the bylaws.

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

Good of the Order. Carla asked a curiosity question. Carla was unable to attend the CWMA meeting and heard Mary had left the SWCD. Carla asked the board if anyone knew if there were plans to fill that position or determine the situation. Mike had microphone issues, but Chris filled us in that they are not making a quick decision to fill the position. With the transition into the new fiscal year they are holding off on announcing the new position. Mike, said they are temporarily doing a combination of contracting outside to help Misty and see how it goes, and it is a work in progress. Graham asked if the board should keep an eye out for people that would be a good fit? Mike said yes.

Carla shared a link to staff Keli giving a presentation if anyone is interested. Kelli is doing a presentation for Master Gardeners tomorrow eve, too: <https://www.clatsopmastergardeners.org/event-4330402>

Adjournment. Carla adjourned at 5:12pm