



## **North Coast Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting**

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM via Zoom

**Board Members Present:** Carla Cole, Chris Farrar, Jason Smith, Ty Williams, Tessa Scheller, and Melissa Reich.

**Staff Present:** None

**Public Present:** None

Chris called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm

**Council Updates** - At last month's Coastal council meeting discussion continued around the council's need for a new board chair with suggestions that Charles Dice be considered for board chair. Other Council updates include successful Scotch broom bust and the need for more Scotch broom eradication in the surrounding timberlands. Other Council updates included continue conversations around the Arch Cape Forest management plan and riparian issues for Arch Cape Creek.

August's river council meeting was held at Big Creek County Park with three attendees including vice chair Chris Farah. Chris said that it was a great nature walk that discussed local botany and the needs and history of Big Creek with river council members providing historical newspaper clippings on Big Creek. Attendees express interest in understanding why Little Creek no longer flows past Highway 30 and spurring discussion over local landowners roll to addressing the issue.

**Executive Updates** – CWMA next meeting in November, Ramona is vice chair, Carla interested in putting in for funds through the chair position for purple loosestrife work. Good way for Graham to use his GIS skills and work collaboratively with the county. Do have booklets that need to get to the NCLC, Eric was not in attendance. Chris asked to be reminded of the geographic area? Multi county as far away as the Tillamook Estuary Partnership. Graham said it is the entirety of the north coast, similar to NCLC's range. Chris applauded Graham and stated that he was glad Graham is now in that position. Graham let the board know that he thinks this is a good opportunity to look outside of just our watershed and to get people in a larger geographic area working together to determine how we can tackle larger issues such as invasive weeds that are going to continue to challenge us. Chris asked how the Redds outreach is going, Graham told the board that he went and picked up the new merchandise in Portland, and showed the new hat and t-shirt to the board. Graham expressed to the board that he is excited about using this merchandise as an aide to help in the campaign and how he thinks it is a good generosity building tool. Carla complemented the shirt and the color. Chris asked about going to Portland to get the

merchandise, Graham confirmed that the company is in Portland. Graham let the board know that Reach Break and other venues are willing to sell merchandise for NCWA. Graham said that it is a good way to keep energy and synergy going as well as being a good way to garner support and funds. Chris asked if there are local places that can print the shirts, Graham responded that were not local options that carried the product and the types of shirts that we wanted. Graham also let the board know that our marketing manager has facilitated the print making. Chris emphasized that he wants to encourage local, and Graham responded that for the most part we do, but in this case he went another direction to ensure that we received the exact product we were looking for. Chris asked to open up a discussion about how the board feels about holding events at this particular time due to COVID and the Delta variant. Chris let the board know that he has become more concerned in the last 24-48 hours as the situation has gone beyond individuals being affected directly, but as our hospitals and staff are being impacted and reaching capacity that there are indirect effects occurring to people not affected by the virus are having their needs go unmet because the facilities cannot accommodate them. Chris said it is concerning that even those individuals who have done everything to help the community by getting vaccinated are left with diminished facilities at the hospital. Chris asked the board to provide input on the upcoming event, being an outdoor space, he wanted to see how the board feels about it. Carla weighed in that they are scaling back all activities at the National Park as a result of the latest case numbers and the Delta Variant. Carla and other board members also expressed concern regarding encouraging people to come together for an event, even while outdoors, during these times and stressed the need for the board to come to a decision together. Ty mentioned that he personally would be comfortable attending but said that since it is our inaugural event and we are trying to build support for the organization, there are two camps on each side of the issue and either way we could be setting ourselves up for a losing effort for the NCWA. Ultimately, Ty thought it would be in the best interest to hold off, stating that it is not a necessary event that we need to have right now. Ty acknowledged the level of work and effort Graham and others have done to date to set this event in motion, and stated that he would hate to cancel it, but if we didn't we would risk alienating some people that may otherwise support it. Melissa chimed in and said that it is hard to imagine being able to effectively social distance at the venues and agrees with what others have said. Chris followed up the discussion by stating that it sounds like by consensus we should cancel this event, and asked what we have to do to reschedule with the Reach Break owners. Graham said that he appreciates the board's decision and concerns. Graham let the board know that he is hesitant to try to reschedule, as partners are assets for the future..... Graham looking at it as a cost benefit.... Jim willing to donate his time to do it, and not so sure when this pool of resources will be available again. Don't know with the football games where people are being asked to show vaccination cards. If it was up to Graham, while he agrees with all of us, we should try to look for a hybrid solution where we stream it online. Difficult, and not sure there is a right answer, but he agrees with the board that it could be a lose lose... doesn't want the burden of people who get sick, but when will be able to get these landowners together and when can we... seems like an important way to do that.. understands that it is calculated effort... Carla could turn it to a virtual event or change the venue, bringing your own food and beverage.. Great idea about the RB is there would be other members of the public listening in that didn't necessarily come just for this... She also echoed Ty's statements. Got delayed last year on outreach.... Strategize other ways to slow roll reds and the merch. Carla all these go... so much work coordinating, but who knows what will happen...

abundance of precaution that we..... Graham might show, so he can explain what happened and not turn people away and let people know that we are there for them and to engage...

Ty what about a YouTube link that you could share that way it isn't just a one off that you could share so people who couldn't make it can watch it later... Defeats the purpose if you show it there, because it is still sort of convening people. Could still go and hand out merch. Ty brought up the Sunday Market and if that still happens you could still spread the word there.

Graham, maybe we don't do the presentation and he works with Jim to create the content, he also has old videos that could be used and shared... Creating more online content might be the best means for the time being given the uncertainty and changing conditions around COVID> Graham will be there at Reach Break to clarify concerns. Graham will also send out an announcement of cancellation... It was a collective decision, not something that was decided immediately but was a difficult board decision... Graham.. doesn't want to see people lose faith in it. Graham speaking of upcoming events, moving forward, what do we want to do? Shelve them all and approach it like a nature matters moving them online or to the fall. Chris, something on the website explaining why this change/shift is happening. Maybe when they click on an event on the calendar a statement pops up that says something along the lines of these decisions have been made in the best interest of our community.... It is a big loss not to have that direct interaction and communication... Melissa, what about an alternative venue where people could be outside with greater space, masks on, because virtually you can't see the swag or brochures, or the landowner form. Graham said maybe like the next river council meeting, an online event where Jim and Graham can do the presentation, ... promote it as a much bigger online thing.... Getting to see people see the redds return to the Big Creek hatchery... Maybe if there was a guide to get people to go visit, so people don't have to congregate but can still see what we want to see.. happy to adapt. Chris likes the idea of suggesting different places people can go to see the fish in the streams where it wouldn't be a big congregation... could be difficult from a timing standpoint, but it could also draw more interest. Ty livestream like Bonneville would be cool. Graham asked to move to the next item.

Talked to the new taproom on 12<sup>th</sup> street, why don't you guys put the Columbia fish ladder image up, and they said that is a good idea. Brad manager for new taproom, basically contacted Graham that he wants to do a fundraiser for us. Saw the Redd's material, and he wants to help.... Next fiscal year, a good opportunity to have a location that is open and airy and have a person who wants to support us.

Carla underwater chum video. Graham asked him if we could get permission to use those videos and permission was granted so it will be up on the ..... He took over Troy Laws position...

Gary Ziak – Graham got to speak with Gary and see a video of Big Creek in the 70's, there was a permitted gravel mine above hwy 30. He got a half hour narration about this video and what it is about. It is rough to watch to see what that creek has been through.... Really engaged, need to call up senators, Graham confirmed that we will get there and it is a good example of a landowner.... Great guy.. so we will shelf that one until we get the video. Going to have to run it by the board, talked to Amy Horstman about the possibility of a new landowner in a key section for getting a watershed assessment done.. Chris surprised there is video dated that far back, a lot of that isn't typically preserved so it is fortunate that this has made it 40 or 50 years. Graham, they spent about \$1000 converting it to digital. A great resource, that Graham is excited to watch with the board and get our input.

Chris what is the latest on the Sunday market. Graham confirmed the booth is free for nonprofit and said that from Sept through October we are good to go, but the question is do we want to be there given COVID? Chris – Do they provide the canopy? Graham said the space is free, the canopy might be available for free. He explained the normal cost but said since we are a non-profit we don't have to pay the fee or give a cut. Selling the t shirts might change that, but Graham will inquire about this and confirm. Chris it is different if we have a booth with a local..... Certain.. earlier opening of the market there were lots of mask requirements from the city of Astoria. Likely revise the way they run the market as the statewide mandate takes effect. Chris maybe this is something we need to see how it plays out, and then the board can decide which way to go. Ty if a sanctioned community gathering with measures in place he sees it different than us holding our own event and would therefore support it if Graham feels comfortable. Chris asked if the board agrees, and we all had consensus that if Graham finds out the details from the city and if it has.... Chris asked to find out the details, and if Graham thinks this is in line with the boards stance then he agrees that we can move forward. Graham, whatever the governor says Graham will follow, if it has to stop, then it will. Chris said that is part of our bylaws and would entertain the thought of sitting there for a few hours on Sunday and interacting with the people.

Rose Foundation – on the 16<sup>th</sup> Graham submitted a grant to work with Scott Thompson at Blackberry bog in combination with a pollinator.. from NRCS.. give the organization ... coming winter. Give scott the opportunity to produce more riparian plant material... seed collection.. multi-pronged approach to do more riparian planting and see how that looks, water quality monitoring, inverts... oweb won't pay for more planting material and we have had 40% mortality... Knappa forestry program, and fisheries program in Astoria could help us propagate, plant and monitor,... also go support from LCEP that they would donate staff time to help out with planting. Use as an opportunity .... To help us with redds restoration. Used a lot of language from other grants, but the idea to give scott nursery production opportunity ... people who would want to buy... good opportunity for a partnership. Monitor progress of the planting effort, and now is the time to enhance what is already working. Chris, 40% mortality, the site was somewhat overplanted, so while it doesn't look sparse... Graham hydrologically there were areas where the river was going to do what it was going to do, changing the planting areas. Amy Horstman said some of the areas could have not been planted in, and erosion was a major factor. Chris, don't want to fight the river, you want to work with it, could be a good lesson going forward for impacts of not taking into account natural processes. Graham great spot to do monitoring and work with

students to... work with kelli... teach some riparian monitoring. That we can employ with the estuary partnership.

Creative Collaboration opp... NWC, UNWC and LNWC had a meeting about ways to work together and collaborate in these big areas where we have lots of overlap.. still in those conversations, asked to invite board members from the Necanicum to our meetings, and while none are in attendance ... work more collaboratively on a strategy to come together. Shared with the board a document that she was working on but still in the early phases. Chris, good news, keep plugging away and maybe something very positive will come out of this. Lots of lessons learned, and good opportunities. Genuine conversations .. can do some big projects together.

Setting a date for board retreat – Chris suggests not spending a lot of time on this given the earlier conversations in this meeting. We may want to table this until next month, keep talking about it, but we likely can't make a decision. Does anyone have a thought on the retreat, place, and date? Graham has talked to the Bowline, they are willing to give us the space for free. \$50 cleaning fee. Open up all the windows if we did it, but it is an option that we could open it up. Middle of our service area and in Astoria. Chris that is encouraging, supporter of us buoy partner.. whole business down there has pretty positive perception by the City at large. City Council meetings show there has been a lot of community support, and while the board retreat is not a community event, he likes.. strengthens us as an organization... Thanks for checking in on that and maybe next month we can talk about a date.

### **NCWA administration report**

Graham mentioned that we won't have our operating vs. actual until this budget is approved. Graham didn't attach that until this gets done.

Tessa joined at 5pm.

Renting a Cullaby Lake shelter that is outdoors. Graham let's look at that when we get closer, so he can make some better-informed decisions. Graham stressed that he wants to ensure whatever date is settled on is a good day for everyone if they are willing to take the time.

Graham getting a better sense of how this works and how to forecast... diversify and growing. Capacity grant, project grants, like blind slough has been pushed into this fiscal year as he just today got the grant agreement. Fiscally sound for the future, working on that foundation grant would be a good way to buffer Kelli and Wendi's salary and..... businesses that have a real benefit for the watershed and can benefit us... how much we can raise with that, get it in more locations... people looking for something local that they can buy... doing more events, taproom willing to do a fundraiser for us. 15k not out of the ballpark and beef up our donations and with that trying to work more with the folks that helped us with

Return of the Redds. See that the salary is from 70 to 105, not for Graham but for Kelli and Wendi, ... give us a rainy-day fund where if we have 4 months.. combined with our capacity grant .. working with Jenn on it. Chris is saying that the rainy-day fund is rolled into that big salary number? Graham confirmed that it is. Chris, ... breaking that out.. buffer in case something didn't come through on time for us.... Seems like there should be a contingency line in case things come to a halt in funding so we can carry on for some set amount of time. A line item on the budget to clarify that we are going to have a contingency fund... graham said he will ask Jenn to get that in there so it is clearer.

In order to make the materials and do some of that, we have those merchandise expenses built in there. If we want to have an event we need funds for that... it's about doing what we are doing, but adding more diverse options for funding. Chris, that is important to try to do, the figures seem optimistic, but there is nothing wrong with that and he would like to see that come through. Hopefully as the board members get into the swing of things we can put our energies in to making these things come about. Chris applauds Graham's willingness to look at the possibilities and make the organization strong. Graham said that he is mainly trying to think of all the options and not letting them go by. Ty mentioned that his concern is that the budget seems fairly optimistic given that we are in the middle of an interesting COVID situation. Ty said that he is glad we are setting goals like this, but wonders if it is realistic to think we will be able to collect 30k from businesses and individuals under the current circumstances. Ty said that ultimately he is fine putting something in there or fine removing as long as we don't overspend thinking some of those funds will come in. Graham said that we can make some alterations if needed, or if the board would like to approve some reduced amount for those he is happy to make those changes. The uncertainty of our current situation makes things trickier, and he doesn't want to overpromise and underdeliver. Chris, nothing wrong with putting a budget out there that is a vision of what we want to accomplish, don't want to be totally unrealistic, but we could set some goals.. a few months down the line we could see the reality and make some adjustments. ..not improper.. important to look at what we do have coming in and our expense... anything additional that comes in from foundations or individuals.. we can go forward with our more expansive plans... sort of a gameplan for what we hope to do, but these are tough times... Do the board members have a ... accept the budget with the understanding that we may have to modify our outlook later. Carla for me it helps me clarify ... secured funds vs aspirational funds. Melissa agrees. Chris, should we do that more formally, on the income there is the top half that is definite and then there is the lower part that is mostly aspirational.. Carla make it clearer since there is nothing that says we don't have that .. make a new heading.. I like something that more visually represents... Chris that is a good idea. Graham, shelving and trying to get through a better communication of the budget for the board. Very visual person is going to work on it and then share it with the board. As of now he will work as if we are good to go unless we need to have a formal vote.

Tessa, talking about our expenses... 19,500 for contracted services. Working with various other campaigns for lamprey or beaver.. annual report, website.. that's where that would go. We have some money in the capacity grant to work with Meat Inc., but this would be adding to that. Melissa asked if the contracted services include contracted services that are part of the project grants like the person doing the work at blind slough? Graham that is in the grant budget. Melissa grant expenses not in

expenses? Graham thinks it is in the salary's services and events.. Operating budget and not the grant budget. Melissa, project grant numbers are just the money covering salaries and overhead and contracted services money not on this sheet. Graham- purely .... Not necessarily in a grant to be paid for,. We want this money set aside to work on the website or some other campaign. There is another spread sheet to track the expenses on each grant. Chris.. in that sense the other contracted services on this sheet, the 19.5 if we see as the year progresses ... we wouldn't be taking on some additional contractor expenses for website development.. not committing to everything, not a fixed expense, but a flexible... if we have.. Graham yes we are forecasting for what we are going to have...new to him... based on conversations with other nonprofits, and conversations with Jenn... if it works this is how it looks... if it doesn't the contracted services numbers will go down.. the salary will go down.. Chris sees a need to have an income expense division, but a more for sure, vs. aspirational. Not only on the income side, if the money comes in, but how will it be spent.... Maintain our organization to a level that we have had..... ramp in utilities we need to have that money and it needs to be spent for that, ... additional money coming in that will allow us to do other things. .. sounds like other contracted services would say if the money is there then we are going to use.. Graham alterations of what is input into the system, and then it will generate... put it into different categories.. we will plan on having that at the next board meeting to break that out. For now we will.... With these events it is tough to know right now... as things get uncertain it might not be the worst idea. Board was ok waiting until next month, Graham also ok with waiting until next month.... Tessa caution everyone knows about, did our signature event, .. quarter of the people, quarter of the income... event fundraiser forecasting is really tough... Graham sage advice, maybe we will think of a 25% reduction.... 75% reduction... Tessa used to be thousands of people and we only had a couple hundred. Also brought up the County fair disaster.

Graham – based on the time do we want to look at the operating vs. Ty, we covered it last month. Can distribute / review hard copies and .....

Project status and timelines – Graham upper big creek has required a lot of Graham's time, he has learned ... talking to Denise,... because we are non-profit we can sole source. Denise pointed Graham to the bylaws, work to develop the language for that so we can work with people like Meet, or other folks that have the skills to get the job done. Hampton was originally the bid, then Graham had BCI out that was about 50k over budget, while Graham and Steve Trask are willing to bring it in at cost. While Hampton didn't bid on it they had the option to and chose not to do it. For state laws, with state dollars. 150k, this if 149k you would have to reach out to three contractors and give them an option to bid. Denise. Council money, written into ... opportunity to vote on it as board it should cover.... Denise assured Graham that is the case. Other watershed coordinators have run into a similar issue... Denise said that Graham always brings it in at the lowest cost, so odds are he would have got it anyway. Graham invited the board to share feelings or continue the discussion. Has the permits in, and just waiting on Hampton to sign the MOU. A lot of leg work on Graham after Jedd has departed. Tessa asked if we want a motion to accept Graham Trask? Moved and seconded. Jason Seconded. Tessa motioned, all in favor. Unanimous decision. Carla has to get going to make a 6pm.

Ecola creek – met with the city.. met with odfw. Identified an area.... Blind slough permitting ... dsl permit joint permit that we have to get to pull that project off... thought it was forest practices... held off until next summer. Kelli is back from vacation, Wendi is back, is continuing to try to get... great on social media... full steam ahead...

Chris proposing due to time and few members present we table this until next months meeting. Hopes to get a broader participation from our board next month.

**Good of the Order.** (Everyone)

Sometimes the needs of many outweighs the needs of a few.

**Adjournment**

5:37pm