

WILLAMETTE MAINSTEM COOPERATIVE

Thursday, November 12, 2015

1:00 – 3:15 pm

Benton SWCD Office

456 SW Monroe Ave., Suite 110

Corvallis, OR 97333

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Debra Paul (Linn SWCD), Kelly Warren (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs), Lance Wyss (Calapooia, North and South Santiam Watershed Councils), Scott Youngblood (Oregon State Parks and Rec. Dept.), Crystal Durbecq (Benton SWCD), Peter Kenagy (Oregon Farm Bureau, local farmer, and Willamette River landowner), Holly Crosson (Benton SWCD), Jeff Baker (Greenbelt Land Trust), and Rick Barnett (City of Albany Parks and Rec. Dept.)

Review of Summer Projects

Round table sharing

Kelly Warren shared on Willamette River report card webinar:

Lots of input from different interest groups **including watershed councils, SWCD's, federal and state agencies, tribes, agricultural community, regulatory and more.**

Meyer Memorial Trust hired consultants to compare Willamette to other rivers and go through the process. There are multiple letter grades given for different parameters. A final grade was given based on a grade average. This was a very challenging process. Goals of the report card are to capture a picture of river health and measure future change, share the story of the **Willamette River's** health with stakeholders and the public, and explain how community and personal choices affect the river.

Report card official release date is December 2.

Other summer work includes oak habitat management planning w/ Yamhill County and assisting many partners with land acquisition projects.

Lance Wyss: Sarah Dyrdaahl has a new position as Executive Director of the Middle Fork WC.

Beginning to be more involved with planning for Bowers Rock restoration and Truax Island, but has not been very involved to date. Works as project manager in Brownsville and on the North and South Santiam Rivers. This summer over 3.5 miles of Santiam tributary habitat had 250-300 logs installed for habitat. Logs came from Baskett Slough USFWS Refuge and private timber.

Scott Youngblood: Worked on contract w/ ODF. Most operations were shut down this summer (June to mid Sept.) due to fire danger. Lack of maintenance created increased fire risk in parks. Is now playing catch-up with maintenance.

Dennis Wiley no longer oversees Scott's position. The temporary replacement is Keven Price. Julie Whalen is still in her position.

Peter Kenagy: Worked with goats to control Virginia creeper and old man's beard on his property. Followed-up by mowing and spraying. Ongoing work with ivy, hunting and pecking small populations.

Holly Crosson: Annual Report for BSWCD highlighted Willamette work this year. Annual meeting also highlighted the Willamette River with readings from Wild in the Willamette by Charles Goodrich and Meander Scars by Abby Metzger. The annual meeting also featured presentations by Crystal and Pam Wiley about the big picture of river restoration, and an excerpt from the movie UpRiver by Jeremy Monroe of Freshwater Illustrated. Received great feedback on the meeting and report.

Willamette River Report Card consultants will provide communications package including templates for blogs, letters to editor, graphics and other outreach tools. BSWCD will explore how to best use these outreach tools so they fit with messaging developed through our own strategic planning process.

Jeff Baker: Working at Harkens Lake near Monroe (Horning's property). Floodplain restoration includes pulling out water crossing and replacing with large fish friendly culvert. Removed berm for increased connectivity, and installed logs, some grading too. Planted trees over the last 2 years. The planting area is 300 acres, and is about 2/3 planted. About 95% survival on trees, with some irrigation.

Rick Barnett: Attended in Meghan Chuites' place, since she is on leave until January. Has helped to provide the resources she needs for park projects. Worked with Calapooia on Bryant Park planting, and will help with re-planting due to high mortality rate.

Periwinkle Creek will be new project next year. Removing blackberry and ivy using goat grazing. Will plant native trees/shrubs after a few years. Planning to hire Goat Power for work (same as Takena Landing project).

Works w/ BSWCD on ivy removal at Takena Landing, including goat grazing, contract removal (cut and spray), and volunteer event (Benton County CWMA Pulling Together Event).

Debra Paul: Busy with CREP projects in Linn and Lane counties, and inspecting plantings. Some irrigated this year, and some did not.

Upper Willamette CREP Partnership won the OWEB partnership award this year!

Story map presentation

Go to the following website to access the Willamette River Aquatic Plants: Survey and Restoration Tour that was shared during this meeting:

<http://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=d253a65a4a2040ab9ac176fda51aec15>

You will be prompted to sign in to ArcGIS online. You can either sign in if you already have an ArcGIS account with ESRI, or you can sign up for a 60-day trial, or create a Public Account. I believe with the Public Account you can view maps, such as this one, but not create new ones.

Email cdurbecq@bentonswcd.org if you cannot access the map, and would still like to receive this information.

WMC 5-Year Action Plan

Progress and next steps

To access WMC 5-Yr Action Plan:

http://www.bentonswcd.org/assets/WMC_5yr_Action_Plan_2015.pdf

Pg. 3: Added Map

Pg. 5: Added Partners: USGS, ODFW, and Mosaic Ecology

Pg. 8: Need to designate High Priority Areas for year 2 (same as yr. 1)

Pg. 9: Lessons learned; Easy to exceed label rates, need to spread out treatments and watch rate closely. IRM purchased new equip., Intellispray system with tractor and canoe, which greatly reduced the per acre rate. Hand pulling big populations = very ineffective! Hand pulling small/new population = very effective. Timing is extremely important, and this year was very early for Ludwigia, due to warm conditions.

Pg. 9: Need to renew NPDES permit each year (\$500/yr) and report on activities

Pg. 9: DSL permission renewal in 2016 (access and restoration exemption for removal of plant materials).

Pg. 9: May need Linn County land use signature for 2016 (wapato cove, and Horseshoe Lake)

Pg. 11: Host river trip in 2016 (cancelled in 2015)

Talk to Peter about who else to invite (see invitee list)

Other invitees: Rep. Dan Rayfield, and Liz Redon and Meta Loftsgaarden with OWEB

Pg. 11: Change 4 WMC meetings to 2 mtgs minimum annually (spring and fall)

Pg. 12: Have been working with Mosaic Ecology for water quality monitoring, and may have opportunities to work with USGS and Army Corps for WQ and bathometric surveys. OWEB-FIP has a separate monitoring plan for projects that are awarded funding.

USGS will probably be working with NASA in the near future for a detailed satellite mapping of all waterbodies on earth, starting with the Willamette (for calibration of satellites).

Pg. 13: Kendra mentioned biggest question is long-term funding. Need to work on capacity building! Life after MMT; Willamette River Initiative in year 7 out of 10.

Look at non-traditional sources: Ducks Unlimited and tribes (may be competing for same funding); landowners, Knife River (or other industry), ODOT (need to spend budget by Jan., so good time now), Pacific Power and other utilities.

Look into NFWF Pulling Together grant (former rumors that not considering Willamette due to too much funding there already).

Bylaws and Guiding Principles

Quick discussion and renewal

Need to adjust mission to match 5-yr plan

- Will make minor changes and Holly will sign before distributing copy to members.

Do we have new additions for the steering committee? Currently we have Brad Withrow-Robinson, Debra Paul, Holly Crosson, Jeff Baker, Kendra Smith, Peter Kenagy, Crystal Durbecq and Scott Youngblood (10 member max).

- Lance will talk to Tara about replacing Bud on the steering committee.
- Peter will talk to Brad about a potential OSU representative with availability.

New stakeholders to invite?

- Re-visit invite list for big WMC meeting in Dec. 2013

Visions for the future

Discuss future plans and needs for current projects

New Oregon State Weed Board grant for 2016 will include continued treatment of *Ludwigia* at Collins Bay and start of restoration wetland plantings. Can get a good amount of plant material on-site and from Marvin Gilmour. Will add Wapato Cove to treatment areas. Continue volunteer *Ludwigia* pulls on river, and hold two on-the-water workshops for aquatic plant i.d. (native, invasive, and non-native). Monitoring includes photo-point, aerial images and some density mapping. Water quality monitoring at four sites including two treated, one untreated, and one without *Ludwigia* (Colorado Lake). Monitoring may also include further electrofishing with Brian Bangs, ODFW. Will begin work on a management plan for Collins Bay, and eventually add more sites to plan.

Working with the Willamette Aquatic Invasive Network (WAIN) to develop a plan for *Ludwigia* for the entire Willamette. Most of the Willamette and several tribs have been surveyed close to the Willamette. *Ludwigia* mapped along with other priority invasive species, and wapato as a high quality habitat indicator.

Schedule an English holly treatment at Bowers Rock with Scott for this fall/winter.

Will continue ivy treatments at Takena Landing with contractors this winter. Will focus on tree ivy along Hwy 20 and within the park along the trail.

Need to see how effective goat grazing was next year, to determine year 2 treatments. Will have goats back in same area and maybe some new areas.

See page below for grant budget summary.

To do:

Lance: Talk to Tara about steering committee representation for Calapooia WC

Scott and Crystal: Schedule date for holly treatments at Bowers Rock

Crystal: make changes to Bylaws and send out the group.

Peter: Talk to Brad about SC representation, and ODOT about funding ivy work

All: Research funding ideas and think about who else should be involved with WMC efforts.

Thanks to everyone for attending and for your invaluable feedback!

Summary of 2015 Activities

May-July 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Volunteer water primrose pulls & surveys (OSWB) 2 Workshops for aquatic weed i.d. and management (OSWB)
June/July – Sept/Oct. 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second year <i>Ludwigia</i> treatments at Collins Bay and yellow floating heart treatments at Horseshoe Lake (OSWB)
June/July – Sept/Oct. 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of <i>Ludwigia</i> treatments in Stuart Slough, Azbahr Lake and Knife River gravel ponds (OWEB-WSIP & BPA-HTT) Water quality monitoring at 4 <i>Ludwigia</i> sites (OSWB) Fish shocking in Knife River gravel pond (ODFW)
June – August 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ludwigia</i> surveys with Willamette Riverkeeper and other Willamette Aquatic Invasive Network partners
July – Dec. 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ivy control at Takena Landing using mechanical/herbicide, goat grazing and volunteer pulls (OWEB-WSIP)
May - July 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treatment of <i>Ludwigia</i> at Talking Water Gardens - Michael Neal, City of Albany <i>Ludwigia</i> survey at Simpson Park at First, Second and third lake – Meghan Chuites and Michael Neal
July – Dec. 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ivy control in North Albany between Hwy 20 and Willamette River (cut and spray) (OWEB-WSIP)
June 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up ivy and clematis control at Half Moon Bend (MMT)

Budget Summary for Grants

Grantor, Program and Duration	Project Name	Award Amount	Budget spent in 2014	Budget spent in 2015	Budget Remaining as of 11/15/2015
OWEB-Willamette Special Investment Partnership Feb. 2015 thru Sept. 2018	Willamette Mainstem Cooperative Restoration, Phase I	\$221,643	—	\$43,531	\$178,112
BPA – Habitat Tech Team May 2015 thru May 2016	Willamette Mainstem Cooperative Weed Control	\$38,841	—	\$38,841	\$0
MMT-WRI Basin-Wide Impact Aug. 2014 thru Aug. 2016	Willamette Mainstem Cooperative	\$141,344	\$19,997	\$53,731	\$67,616
ODA - Oregon State Weed Board 2014 Apr. 2014 thru July 2015 (extension)	Willamette River Aquatic Weed Management Phase 1	\$34,674	\$27,142	\$7,532	\$0
ODA - Oregon State Weed Board 2015 Apr. 2015 thru Sept. 2015 (extension)	Willamette River Aquatic Weed Management Phase 2	\$36,604	—	\$27,978	\$8,626
Totals		\$473,106	\$47,139	\$171,613	\$254,354