



# The Dalles Watershed Council

Fostering stewardship of Threemile Creek, Mill Creek and Chenoweth Creek watersheds

c/o Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District

2325 River Road, Suite 3, The Dalles, OR 97058

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## MEETING MINUTES

**February 22nd, 2017 6:30 – 8:30 PM.**

**USDA Service Center 2325 River Road The Dalles**

### Attendees:

Abbie Forrest, *Coordinator*

Mark Poppoff, *Member*

Ryan Bessette, *SWCD Tech*

Michael Turner, *ODFW*

Bruce Lumper, *Co-Chair*

John Nelson, *Member*

John Dodd, *Member*

Jason Seals, *ODFW*

Ken Bailey, *Co-Chair*

Steve Byers, *Member*

Pat Davis, *WR Chair*

### Introductions

Bruce Lumper called the meeting to order and led introductions. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

### Officer Elections and Council Reappointments

*Council Reappointments: John Nelson, Mark Poppoff and Bruce Lumper*

*Current Officers: Ken Bailey and Bruce Lumper, Co-Chairs*

*Ken moved that the county reappoint John Nelson, Mark Poppoff and Bruce Lumper, John Dodd seconded and the motion passed.*

*Steve moved to reappoint the current Co-Chairs (Bruce and Ken) for another term, John Nelson seconded and the motion passed.*

### Approve minutes from the September and November meetings

There were no suggested edits or changes to the minutes presented at this meeting.

Ken moved to approve the September and November meeting minutes as distributed, Steve seconded and the motion passed.

### ODFW Annual Mill Creek Steelhead Update – Jason Seals, ODFW

Jason Seals and Michael Turned presented the council with the annual Mill Creek steelhead update. Jason explained the location of the monitoring site, described the screw trap, and how it functions. The entire Columbia basin is wired for PIT tag tracking. This means all fish that are caught and tagged are tracked and monitored at different check points and dams throughout the entire basin. All mainstream dams have detection sites, with antennas. Last year ODFW tagged 513 Steelhead, 866 Coho, and 51 Cutthroat, in Mill Creek. They estimated 4,936 steelhead, 3,187 coho, and 273 cutthroat migrated from Mill Creek to the Columbia.

ODFW’s goal is to tag around 1,000 fish a year in Mill Creek, however they have not yet reached that goal. Fish population numbers have been down in the last few years, although they have expected to catch more. ODFW only tags a portion of the steelhead “going out” of the system heading to the ocean. Jason shared graphs showing the average number of days it takes a fish to reach Bonneville from when it was first tagged; average length was two to six days.

John asked if there is a connection between the data and the side channel that was completed last year, and when the data was taken. Jason said there is a possible connection. Coho hide in any alcove they can so there may be a correlation, but there are a lot of other factors. The council discussed redd surveys in the North and South Fork of Mill Creek. Bruce mentioned a potential project for another side channel on a landowner's property along Mill Creek that can be seen from the road.

### **ODFW Identified Fish Passage Projects – *Abbie Forrest, Coordinator***

Abbie presented the council with a couple of maps, showing the South Fork Mill Creek weir, upstream of the Wicks Water Treatment Plant. She discussed with the council the potential to work with ODFW on modifying the current concrete structure to improve fish passage. Abbie along with Steve Byers and Marty Olson of ODFW will continue to work on the project and follow up with the council.

Steve Byers discussed the work the City has been involved with regarding culverts and the fish passage improvement efforts the City has been making. The State is planning to remove or replace culverts on Threemile, near the railroad tracks, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The City also discussed involving the council in the habitat and restoration efforts, once the culvert projects have been completed.

Jason added to the previous conversation and Bruce's comment on side channels. Jason said that ODFW focuses on removing or modifying fish passage barriers such as diversions and culverts. They are supportive of side channel and habitat projects, but those are not the types of projects ODFW prioritizes or has funding for. Discussion ensued.

### **Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Roadmap**

The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership roadmap was developed after discussions with DEQ and ODA. The council was provided with a copy of the roadmap, which explains ideas to expand the program and data collection. The roadmap items included suggestions on sampling locations, workshops, urban areas, and outreach. Abbie shared with the council the different suggestions and how they relate to The Dalles watershed or Fifteenmile watershed. The council members discussed wells and the correlation with ground water and surface water, as well as pesticide detections in wells. They also discussed each of the items and terms of adding more to the current program. The council decided to incorporate Nate Woodard's efforts in the urban areas with developing a pilot study focused on urban pesticide use/misuse; as well as developing education and outreach materials.

### **Work Plan Update**

The council members reviewed the current work plan that lists projects each council is involved with. The work plan includes: OWEB requirements; ongoing, funded and emerging council and district projects; as well as each project's priority score (high, medium or low). Council members discussed efforts with the Forest Collaborative, Chenowith Creek and the Port, East Cascades Oaks Partnership, Riverfront, the Mill Creek Trail, and funding for maintenance for completed projects.

The council went further into depth discussing the Mill Creek Trail. The Mill Creek trail is lacking a source of labor and funding for the maintenance component. Steve pointed out that the council is not opposed to the trail and can support the project; however, the watershed council is not trying to build the trail. It was suggested to change the name "Mill Creek Trail" to "Mill Creek Greenway". Dan said that by changing the title to greenway it seems the council is undercutting Bruce's efforts to build a trail. Pat stated that he has teamed up with Bruce on a couple of meetings regarding the Mill Creek Trail. Pat and Bruce will be setting up a meeting with Wasco County to discuss the potential for maintaining the trail as well as the riparian areas, should the trail be constructed.

*Dan moved The Dalles watershed council add to the work plan the South Fork Mill Creek weir restoration project with a high priority; Creekview Riparian Restoration project be moved to an ongoing effort with a medium priority; Chenoweth Creek Riparian/Wetlands Restoration Plan be ranked as a medium priority; Mill Creek Greenway Trail be ranked as a high priority; Oak Woodlands ranked as a high priority; and Resources to fund maintenance of completed projects a high priority. Mark seconded and the motion passed.*

## **Updates and Announcements**

### ***Next Meeting***

Abbie proposed the council switch from meeting every other month to meeting quarterly. Bruce stated instead of meeting in March, the council will meet in April and discuss the schedule at the next meeting.

Coordinating Board meeting is scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup>. (*Meeting was rescheduled to May 10<sup>th</sup>*)

John Dodd said the USFS is looking for a replacement on the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). Wasco County has multiple vacant seats, and are looking for willing volunteers.

John also announced the Hood River Watershed Group is planning a tour in June to look at thinning units, as well as taking a tour of the mill. John will forward more information to Abbie to be posted on the website.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.

Minutes prepared by Abbie Forrest