



The Dalles Watershed Council

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

c/o Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District

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

(541) 296-6178 x102

MEETING MINUTES

May 17th, 2017 6:30 – 8:30 PM.

USDA Service Center 2325 River Road The Dalles

Attendees:

Abbie Forrest, *Coordinator*

John Nelson, *Member*

John Dodd, *Member*

Kirk Cook, *ODA*

Bruce Lumper, *Co-Chair*

Steve Byers, *Member*

Martha Blair, *Member*

Kevin Masterson, *DEQ (on the phone)*

Ken Bailey, *Co-Chair*

Ryan Bessette, *SWCD Tech*

Nate Woodard, *SWCD*

Introductions

Bruce Lumper called the meeting to order and led introductions. Bruce asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Abbie added the East Cascades Oak Partnership and South Fork Mill Creek Weir to updates and announcements. Bruce added an update on the Wright property side channel, and caging poplars at the west side of Chenowith Creek.

Abbie stated there were a few edits to the last meeting minutes under Jason Seals' ODFW fish update. Steve said the state is planning to remove culverts, not the City. Bruce said he and Pat were setting up meetings with Wasco County, not work crews.

Steve moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Martha seconded and the motion passed.

Copy of the approved/edited minutes can be found on the Wasco SWCD website, The Dalles Watershed Council page.

Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) 2016 Data Results

Kirk Cook of ODA and Kevin Masterson of DEQ (on the phone) attended the meeting to present the council with last sampling season's pesticide results. Kirk started off by providing background information on the program, pilot programs in the Middle Deschutes and South Umpqua, and other partnerships throughout the state. There are 9 other Oregon Watersheds participating in the program. Kirk was happy to report the Wasco county watersheds are not areas of concern.

There are 4 monitoring locations in Wasco County: Mill Creek at Wright Road and 2nd Street Bridge in The Dalles, Threemile Creek at Highway 197, and Fifteenmile Creek above Seufert Falls. An additional site on Fifteenmile was added at the Dufur City Park which will be sampled a select few times in the spring and fall. Kirk provided the council with a pesticide monitoring overview that included the monitoring timeframe and sampling events, as well as the number of pesticides that are analyzed and number of detections.

Of the 125 Insecticides, Herbicides, and Fungicides analyzed, there were only 12 detections in 2016. Kevin walked the council through various graphs showing the total number of detections and frequencies. Kevin explained the average and maximum concentrations of: chlorpyrifos, malathion, and carbaryl (sevin). He showed the insecticide and fungicide detection results for imidacloprid (admire) which had only one detection and pyraclostrobin, with 3 detections all from Mill Creek at Wright Road. Herbicide detections were from diuron, atrazine, deisopropylatrazine, desethylatrazine, glyphosate, hexazinone, 2,6-dichlorobenzamide, and

bromacil, all of which were well below the water quality benchmarks. Many herbicides had a 0.0 detection, meaning a trace of the herbicide was detected. Many of the herbicides were only detected one time during the entire monitoring timeframe and are not a concern.

Kirk wrapped up the presentation with a short discussion on future funding for the PSP program and partnership grants.

Backyard Habitat and Urban Conservation Update

Nate said the urban conservation page is up and running on the SWCD website. He will work with Tammy to continue updating the site and add more information. Nate said he has mapped out the three tributaries within the urban boundary and the ownership, and is hoping to complete the outreach mailing as soon as possible. A strategic plan has been drafted and Nate will continue to add components and eventually bring the plan to Shilah and the SWCD board. Nate was working on an application for the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) urban agriculture grant but decided to not submit. The grant had a few uncommon requirements that were not going to be met with such a short timeframe to apply. Nate plans to use the work he completed on the NACD grant as a draft for next year. OWEB's urban conservation grant that was previously not awarded funding will be resubmitted to OWEB in the fall asking for \$50,000. Nate plans to use the feedback OWEB shared after the last grant cycle to build a better proposal this time around.

Nate has been working with ODFW in the mornings tagging steelhead at the screw trap on Mill Creek. They have noticed a significant amount of yard debris coming downstream, which has caused a few steelhead fatalities and altered the function of the trap. Hopefully the urban conservation program and recommended best management practices will help folks be more conscious of what they are putting into the streams. Paul volunteered to help Nate with his efforts to educate the public.

Summer Celebration

Abbie shared that the Hood River Watershed group's summer tour has only one available seat left so this council will not be able to tag along. However, she has spoken with Shawn Morford of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils and Shawn is willing to come to the council celebration. Council members said one hour commitments are easier to manage and may have more attendance. Martha suggested a theme like "have a beer with the watershed council". The council discussed inviting the other councils in Wasco County and use that time to mingle and talk about projects they are involved in. The council decided to meet at one of the local breweries on Thursday, July 27th. Official announcement will be sent as time and location are confirmed.

New Meeting Schedule

The council agreed on quarterly meetings instead of every other month. Next meetings will be held on September 13th, and December 13th.

Updates and Announcements

Mill Creek Trail

Bruce provided the council with a brief overview of his typed report for the Mill Creek Trail. He went over cost estimates for the Trail and Greenway Maintenance. He also explained that the Transportation System Plan update was approved by The Dalles City Council and the main part of the trail was classified as a high priority. The engineering money was not spent so it was transferred over to the next fiscal year. The full report will be attached to these minutes.

Abbie explained OWEB's rules and guidance for a watershed council capacity grant and work plan. OWEB's rules state, "*While activities such as trail maintenance and volunteer river clean-ups are positive and can be part of a councils activities, these actions by themselves do not have a broad ecological objective of addressing both the watershed problem and the source of the problem, and do not meet this definition*". Abbie said the Mill

Creek Trail Greenway was not added to the watershed council work plan for the 2017-2019 capacity grant. The trail has not been constructed and more than likely will not be in the next two years. If the council would like to be involved with the proposed trail in the future, then various projects such as restoration work, native plantings, or as an educational tool, they would be appropriate projects. However, as The Mill Creek Trail is in the planning process now, it is not a necessary project the watershed council should be involved with.

Side Channel on Wright Property

Bruce said he is planning on scheduling a meeting with Lonnie Wright next week, to discuss the possibility of a side channel project on their property. Abbie asked if Bruce was approaching them as a watershed council member or as a neighbor. Bruce said he was going to approach them as a member of the watershed council. Martha suggested Abbie and Ryan go with Bruce to the meeting.

Poplars on West Side of Chenowith

Bruce said he talked with the Port about caging the poplars along the west side of Chenowith Creek. He is concerned if the poplar trees are not protected, the beaver will chew them up and knock them down.

East Cascades Oak Partnership

Ryan said the next meeting will be a workshop on June 27th in Hood River. The partnership is still in the beginning stages but has a lot of representatives from a variety of entities including SWCD's, state and federal agencies, and the National Wild Turkey Foundation.

South Fork Mill Creek Weir

Abbie, Steve Byers, Marty Olson of ODFW, and Jeff from Wicks Water Treatment Plant attended a site visit at the treatment plants weir to discuss the project. The passage barrier is a solid concrete wall. The City is concerned about a stream flow gage, just upstream from the wall, which they frequently use. They are concerned that wall removal could compromise the gage and cause future issues for collecting stream flow data. After the meeting, Marty walked the project area with an ODFW engineer who is working on a design to keep the wall structure but provide a stair effect, allowing juvenile fish to pass and still make it upstream. Next steps will be to present ODFW's project design to the City and, if approved, seek funding.

Next Coordinating Board meeting is scheduled for June 7th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08PM.

Minutes prepared by Abbie Forrest.