



# 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

(541) 296-6178 x102

## MEETING MINUTES

**November 9th, 2016 6:30 – 8:30 PM.**

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

### Attendees:

Abbie Forrest, *Coordinator*

Mark Poppoff, *Member*

Ryan Bessette, *SWCD Tech*

Nate Woodard, *SWCD*

Bruce Lumper, *Co-Chair*

John Nelson, *Member*

John Dodd, *Member*

Martha Blair, *Member*

Ken Bailey, *Co-Chair*

Steve Byers, *Member*

Frank Cochran, *NRCS DC*

### Introductions

Bruce Lumper called the meeting to order and led introductions. There were no additions or changes to the agenda. County appointments are up in January. Bruce Lumper, John Nelson, and Mark Poppoff are all up for reappointment.

*Note: There were no motions to reappoint any of the above members during this meeting.*

### Urban Conservation Program Education and Outreach

Nate Woodard primarily focuses on flow restoration and FAST but has also been working on an Urban Conservation Education and Outreach program for The Dalles area. Since his last update in the spring, Nate has produced a backyard habitat outreach pamphlet; started an urban Conservation Program Strategic Plan; met with other Conservation Districts to discuss the program and collect information on regional efforts; has wrote an OWEB grant asking for \$50,000 for Urban Conservation outreach with a focus on backyard habitat; and has initiated and strengthened partnerships for the program through letters of support for the current grant. His next steps will be to write the strategic plan; map out a target audience along riparian corridors; conduct outreach mailings; produce a workshop; update the SWCD website; announce the program in the SWCD newsletter; and seek additional funding.

Bruce asked Ken if the SWCD put any money in the budget to pay for Nate's time on the Urban Conservation effort. Ken confirmed and said it's important to get moving forward and the urban public involved. Urban conservation is becoming increasingly popular. Ken added that part of the SWCD tax base comes from the urban public and it's good to help them and show them the good work the SWCD and councils do. One goal is to increase awareness of conservation efforts in rural areas. Ken complimented Nate's flyer and suggested he produce another one for rural area folks.

### Mill Creek Trail Update

Bruce said he met with Abbie and Shilah to clarify and discuss how the watershed council can move forward with the Mill Creek Trail effort. In discussing the Google funds, Bruce learned that there are seven other taxing entities who are interested in securing Google funding, and that it would be a good idea to meet with those other entities. Bruce stated that Shilah had said there was talk about having a meeting with all of the taxing entities to discuss how the funds should be distributed. Bruce said he will contact the City and County and see if that meeting will take place. At the last The Dalles Watershed Council meeting in September, the council approved Bruce as the watershed council representative to keep moving the effort along and approach the SWCD Board, the City and the County in the appropriate order. There will not be any action until more information and guidance is given.

The new Parks and Recreation Director, Scott Baker, was previously the Parks and Rec. Director in Hood River. Bruce said he is very interested in looking at the Riverfront Natural Area, and the Mill Creek Trail, as priorities for the Parks and Rec. District.

John asked what happened to the role of conceptual plans. The pre-engineering plans from Tenneson Engineering that the City had paid for still exist. The answer was the next piece of those plans will not take place until the maintenance funding issue is resolved.

### **City of The Dalles Work in Creekview**

Steve Byers said that as of Monday (Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>) all of the paperwork for the fill permit has been completed and approved. The City's crew has been very busy, but plan to haul the fill in next week. The SWCD will follow behind once the fill work is complete and reseed the disturbed area. There was discussion that the SWCD may plant shrubs and reseed the other side of Mill Creek. Bruce requested pictures of the work and seeded area.

### **Volunteers**

Bruce opened the discussion with information about how this topic has evolved. The council shared some of their own volunteer efforts and volunteer ideas. Ken suggested approaching schools with community service where kids would be able to work out a deal with the Parks and Rec. District and have Paul or another supervisor who would oversee and direct projects. He said Paul has done more than his share and this way he may be able to get consistent help. Bruce added somewhere we have the ability to have a volunteer coordinator, here or the Parks and Rec. will be able to coordinate kids, or NORCOR volunteers to help in all those areas.

John Dodd said there are opportunities to "adopt" a road or trail. There are also stores who put on volunteer days. Petco and Safeway may be stores that would participate. Bruce said Windemere sometimes holds group activities. Mark also added that help from residents that live at the Creekview residence may get others interested in helping out.

### **Updates and Announcements**

#### ***Wright Side Channel Project – Proposal***

Bruce said he has not yet reached out to the Wright property owners. Ryan asked Bruce why he is specifically looking at that location. Bruce said the side channel is old, and is not being used for anything. If the landowners are willing, it could be a good possible site that is visible to the public. At one of our last watershed council meetings, Jason Seals with ODFW recommended more projects like the recently completed side channel, to benefit Mill Creek. Ryan recommended Bruce talk with Jason Seals or Rod French at ODFW and see what their priority lists consist of and if there may be a better location elsewhere.

Abbie mentioned visiting with Marty Olson at ODFW about some potential projects and will follow-up and report back at the next meeting.

#### ***Health Department Jurisdiction for Water Quality Issues***

Abbie said she has reached out to the folks at the Health Department but has not received a response.

#### ***DEQ Skyline Sampling***

There is potential to have DEQ or ODA come out and sample the Skyline location and identify whether the contaminants are domestic or agriculture related. The council discussed a few options and the potential to sample both the Skyline and Whisky Gulch locations. The council ultimately decided that if there is a relatively low or no cost for the sampling it would make sense to sample both locations. Steve added it would probably be okay to sample on the Irrigation District property just off Mt. Hood Street, by the bridge. There was further discussion around sampling locations and access.

***Next Meeting***

The next meeting is scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:30pm at the USDA Service Center conference room. The next Coordinating Board meeting is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>, following the SWCD Board meeting. Ken said the Coordinating Board has decided to have regular check-ins after the monthly SWCD Board meetings. They will still hold regular meetings when there is more business to conduct and a full agenda.

***Others: Riverfront***

Bruce said he has received an update from Dan Durow on the Riverfront trail efforts. They are hoping to have a definitive 15% design completed soon. Bruce said there has been talk about the trail crossing Threemile Creek under the 197 overpass, under the railroad so it stays on the South side of the freeway.

Steve mentioned the old bridge on highway 30 (over Chenoweth creek) will be replaced. That portion of highway will be completely shut down for three weeks this coming summer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Minutes prepared by Abbie Forrest.