



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

September 14th, 2016 6:30 – 8:30 PM.

USDA Service Center 2325 River Road The Dalles

Attendees:

Abbie Forrest, *Coordinator*

Mark Poppoff, *Member*

Paul Halliday, *Volunteer*

Dan Richardson, *Member*

Bruce Lumper, *Co-Chair*

John Nelson, *Member*

Ryan Bessette, *SWCD Tech*

Martha Blair, *Member*

Ken Bailey, *Co-Chair*

Steve Byers, *Member*

John Dodd, *Member*

Kate Conley, *CLT*

Introductions

Bruce Lumper called the meeting to order and introduced Kate Conley. There were no additions or changes to the agenda. Bruce shared with the council his one edit to the last meetings minutes “change the word pins to basins” and asked for a motion to approve the last meeting minutes with his suggested edit.

Mark moved to approve the minutes with the suggested edit, Dan seconded and the motion passed.

Mill Creek Ridge – *Kate Conley, Columbia Land Trust*

Kate announced the Columbia Land Trust (CLT) has completed the final acquisition and management plan for the Mill Creek Ridge. Kate brought copies of the management plan and asked for any input from the council of what the CLT could/should be doing in the Mill Creek Ridge area. Kate explained what a management plan is developed to address: Conservation values/ecological systems and features; Desired future conditions; Threats; Restoration opportunities; Community involvement opportunities; Public access; and includes the “GOSA” (Goals, Objectives, Strategies & Actions) table.

If you would like a copy, email Abbie at abigail.forrest@or.nacdnet.net

Dan asked if the CLT has any plans for a phase 2 area of Mill Creek Ridge. She said phase 2 is not currently underway but is still on the table for consideration. Kate said there may be priorities on a ridgeline elsewhere. The CLT has conserved over 29,000 acres to date across both sides of the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington.

Kate also explained some of the obstacles and opportunities the CLT has encountered. She asked the council if they would be interested in providing a letter of support for the CLT to continue work on Mill Creek Ridge. She also mentioned the possibility to seek funding through the SWCD. Bruce suggested fundraising.

Kate will let Abbie know when volunteer days will be scheduled if council members would like to help with the weed effort.

Dan asked Kate for a dollar amount of annual expenses and funding that would be needed for volunteers and the CLT to be able to continue to spray noxious weeds. The CLT is wrapping up the conservation agenda by this year so she did not have an exact amount that would need to be budgeted.

If you would like to view this presentation please visit The Dalles Watershed Council website at http://wascoswcd.org/wcsxcd_023.htm

2016 E. coli Monitoring Report – Abbie Forrest

Abbie provided the council with the 2016 E. coli results. The SWCD hired Emily Bailey as an intern for the summer to work on the E. coli monitoring effort. Emily was great to work with and solved a few monitoring site problems. Emily was able to reach out to landowners and add more sampling locations to narrow down the locations of contamination on Whiskey Gulch and Skyline. Whiskey Gulch was sampled at the mouth, consistently, with minimal to no E. coli detected. Although she was able to sample other locations along Skyline, it still detected consistently high levels of E. coli.

The other sampling locations had results similar to years past. As the summer flows decrease, the E. coli and bacteria concentrations increase. This year only had 2 sampling dates where two locations exceeded our measuring capabilities, which is a significant difference compared to previous years. Both of those sampling days were after a rain event. The only site that did not show improvements in lower levels of E.coli was Skyline. Martha suggested getting in contact with the Health Department to get them involved in the discussion. The council would like clarification on what is considered in the Health Department's jurisdiction. John Dodd asked if there was a way to look at the watershed from the top down and see what a rain event is carrying down.

Abbie mentioned the possibility of ODA sampling Skyline for contaminants. They can tell whether groundwater was contaminated by septic through sampling for caffeine and/or triclosan. Abbie will get in contact with Ellen Hammond or Paul Measles from ODA to see if they would be available to come collect samples.

Mill Creek Trail Development – Bruce Lumper

Bruce announced he will be looking for a vote of support from the council at tonight's meeting. He also said he has spoken with Shilah about the possible support of the SWCD. Bruce would like from the council the support to move forward with a proposal to the City of The Dalles.

He provided the council with a handout of his latest efforts with the trail and any new information that has developed. (*see attached*)

Kate asked about the money from Google, and if they have any say in what it's used for. The response was the City and the County have funding to disperse. Bruce said he will only be asking the City and the County for the requested funds. Ken suggested collaborating with the total of the Districts needs as well, when asking to receive part of the Google dollars.

Kate asked if once the Parks and Recreation position is filled, would they help maintain Riverfront? Paul said Park's and Rec.'s focus will be on the Mill Creek Trail.

Discussion continued about collaborating with all partners so all trail efforts are involved. The Parks and Rec. Department does not have the capacity to cover what they already have. The trail development will be even more to maintain, even if they hire another field employee. There was also discussion around the Riverfront Trail, and the Mill Creek Greenway.

Paul brought up the point of putting the Riverfront Trail through the Natural Area.

Ken also mentioned that Google has the mouth of Chenoweth that needs cleaned up. He suggested the council go directly to them for support and funds to help that piece and the capacity of the Parks District to maintain their system. He suggested grant payments to get projects done.

Dan asked if Bruce has talked to Shilah or the SWCD about if they will support this action. Bruce said he has but it should be brought up to the SWCD board (who he has not spoken with), to see if they are willing to support this effort.

Dan moved that the watershed council support and encourage Bruce as a watershed council representative to approach The City, County and the SWCD in appropriate order with his proposal. Mark seconded.

John asked for if this proposal is recommending or directing that this should be an FTE. It was clarified that the proposal would be asking for the requested annual maintenance funding for the Mill Creek Trail as provided to Parks and Rec. which would include one FTE as well as associated materials and supplies. Motion passed.

Creekview and Riverfront Updates – Paul Halliday

Paul said he is done picking up trash on the Creekview property. He said he has found two more transient camps, and the council should work out a plan to deal with that issue.

Paul is going to schedule a full day to go up to the Parks and Rec. compound to get plants for Creekview property. He would like to schedule the day sometime in October or November once the City has completed the fill work along the steep hillside.

Paul also said he needs more volunteers to help keep up, and the council should discuss other options.

John Nelson added that a lot of the trash in Creekview comes from the nearby businesses. They should be involved to help contribute to cleanup efforts. It would also be helpful if the City had a more comprehensive plan to deal with the camps. Steve said once they come in and clean up a camp site, it will be full again soon. The transients keep rotating and moving sites. There are hopes of the trail to have a positive influence.

Paul suggested having monthly cleanup parties. John Nelson suggested a reporting process, by having residents report camps when they see them being set up. Steve said he normally contacts the Sheriff's office.

Paul said, as for Riverfront, he and Josh Thompson met with the board of directors to help educate them on the current situation in that area. There has been a lot of frustration with the Parks and Rec not fulfilling their duty with the maintenance. It has been an ongoing process and Paul hopes that by being persistent and sharing his frustration will help things change.

John Nelson suggested collaborating with all other partners to support the parks and maintenance.

Updates and Announcements

Fall Celebration – Tabled due to lack of time.

Mill Creek Side Channel Monitoring – Abbie said the effectiveness monitoring is being conducted through ODFW. ODFW will complete the 2016 season report some time this winter.

OWEB Small Grant Funding – Abbie said Small Grant funding is still available. The remaining funds will need to be allocated before early summer next year. Anyone who has a project that may be eligible for funding through this program is urged to call the SWCD office.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 9th, 2016 at 6:30PM.

The next Coordinating Board is scheduled for October 5th, 2016 at 11:00AM.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Abbie Forrest.