

## **Middle Deschutes Watershed Council Board Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, May 26, 2020 - 4:30 p.m. – Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting:  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/582287869>

### **Attending:**

Jenna Keeton (MDWC)  
Staci Merkt (JSWCD)  
Victoria Fischella (CREP)  
\*Guy Chittenden (509J)  
\*Scott Samsel (Landowner)  
\*Theresa DeBardelaben (ODA)  
\*Lisa Windom (NUID)  
\*Lloyd Forman (Landowner)  
\*Jennifer Mickelson (USFS)  
Lars Santana (NRCS)

\*Board Member

### **Summary of Board Motions**

**Call to Order:** The May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Middle Deschutes Watershed Council (MDWC) Board Meeting was called to order by Council Chair Jennifer Mickelson at 4:32. A quorum was in place.

**Approval of January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Council:** The Council reviewed minutes from the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting. Besides adding Lars Santana's name to the list of attendees, there were no other changes.

**Motion 1:** Motion made by Scott Samsel to approve January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting minutes as corrected. Jennifer Mickelson and Guy Chittenden second, and motion passes.

**Approval of Financial Activity Report:** The Council reviewed the current Financial Activity report. Staci will add NRCS technical assistance hours on the next grant detail report. Theresa DeBardelaben wondered why JSWCD was the financial header and Staci Merkt explained JSWCD is the fiscal sponsor for MDWC.

**Motion 2:** Motion made by Theresa DeBardelaben to approve the Financial Activity Report. Scott Samsel seconds the motion, and motion passes.

## **Coordinator Updates:**

### Council/Administrative

Jenna explained how MDWC is responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic through working from home and applying for a diversity of funding sources to try to diversify where the Council gets its funding. She is also continuing work on MDWC Annual Reports 2019 + 2020

### Education

Jenna developed funding proposals for watershed ecology programming, “STREAM Connections” in partnership with Trout Unlimited. These grants were submitted to The Bean Foundation (private foundation in Madras) and PGE for funding for Summer camps, Fall field trips, Spring after-school electives. Jenna, Victoria, and the Children’s Forest of Central Oregon filmed Stream Sampling 101, a virtual lesson targeting 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> graders. Watch the lesson here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKqmjWloJBQ&feature=youtu.be>. Jenna has also participated in trainings revolving around the Central Oregon Partnership for Latinx Outdoor Access.

### Monitoring

Jenna is continuing to assist Victoria with Pesticide Stewardship Partnership fieldwork. She is also prepping ODA Temperature Monitoring probe deployment in Upper Willow Creek this June. The MDWC is taking over work happening in Campbell Creek including 1) continuing turbidity monitoring in the Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) area, 2) helping to plan the Strategic Implementation Area (SIA), and 3) continuing with preparing for the Campbell Creek Beaver Dam Analogue – Technical Assistance project. Scott Samsel reiterated the importance of this project as a compliment to a nearby sediment catchment pond slated to be constructed upstream.

### Restoration

Jenna applied for a grant from PGE Environmental Stewardship Fund for Warm Springs Riparian Planting project and received \$4,500. Next steps are to secure technical assistance from a consultant. Jenna was advised to be careful of political implications of choosing certain consultants. Another next step is to continue communication with CTWS – BNR restoration specialist and to create technical advisory committee in partnership with Coalition for the Deschutes. The MDWC is also developing a Middle Deschutes Lamprey Distribution proposal to PGE with CTWS Lamprey biologist and consultant Cramer Fish Sciences that will focus on the lower 3 miles of Trout Creek and mainstem Deschutes as well as Warm Springs tributaries. The

MDWC is moving forward with the National Water Quality Initiative – Trout Creek Watershed Assessment with JSWCD, NRCS, and DEQ. The Trout Creek Watershed Assessment from 2002 needs some updating. If our proposal to update the watershed assessment is approved, this would help us build capacity within the council. Jenna will send out the existing Trout Creek watershed assessment. Jenna also helped write the Trout Creek Juniper Cut Conservation Implementation Strategy proposal with JSWCD for NRCS as part of a technical assistance grant. Jenna and Adam wrote a conservation strategy to improve conservation, targeting the Trout Creek watershed to improve water quantity. Next step is a planning phase, working with landowners to cut juniper. In the near future we can use farm bill programs to cut juniper and improve water quantity as a whole. In other news, OWEB officially approved funding for Upper Trout Creek Tributary Rehabilitation project. Jennifer Mickelson stated that the USFS executed a grant agreement with PGE and will see Pelton Round Butte funding within the next month, and are hoping to implement this Summer (COVID-19 dependent). Lastly, Jenna is continuing work with Coalition for the Deschutes on Plotting for Pollinators project which aims to communicate with Jefferson county farmers and local community members to connect urban/rural communities.

### Outreach

MDWC has been co-host & informational “plugs” during live web lectures: Coalition for the Deschutes and BeaverWorks Oregon.

### Uncertainties

Jenna mentioned the search for a vehicle was stalled. Staci Merkt stated that at end of June, the JSWCD/MDWC can look at finances and look for vehicle. The group advised the MDWC to continue to pause group activities such as Adopt-a-highway & Adopt-a-trail clean-ups as well as a potential Willow Creek planting event with Madras HS (willow plugs from USFS). Jenna reiterated that she is trying to increase the MDWC funding stream (trying to diversify where MDWC funding comes from). Staci Merkt stated that she spoke with Sandi Hiatt about the OWEB Small Grant Program and shared that after the OWEB Board Meeting in June, we will have an update on funding security and advise MDWC to continue to submit Small Grant applications (since funding might ramp back up).

### **Partner Updates:**

#### **Victoria Fischella - CREP + PSP**

##### **CREP:**

A collaborative effort with Crooked River Watershed Council on Mark's Creek in Prineville, OR. We are - finalizing Conservation Plans and the CPA-52 for this project. Working on the final Phase of CREP for the South Fork of the Crooked River which will be implemented

in Spring 2021. I am also meeting with two new landowners along the Crooked River, and Horse Heaven Creek that have CREP Potential. OWEB has passed a new set of requirements for CREP Technicians, where we are required to conduct what are called Streambank Visual Assessment Protocol's (SVAP's) which are a snap shot version of scientifically monitoring a CREP projects progression of degradation over the course of the CREP contract (10-15 years).

**PSP:**

Having taken over the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) Program since Sam's departure from the SWCD. Jefferson SWCD has had 4 sampling days this irrigation season, of which we have been sending updates to Kevin Masterson with the DEQ and Kirk Cook with the ODA. It appears that Trout Creek has had an unprecedented dry year, which I'm sure Adam can go into more detail on, however the confluence of Mud Springs and Trout Creek continues to pollute Trout Creek and create excess turbidity. Upper Campbell Creek at Highway 26 has continuously been the most turbid water of all the samplings, which only continues to support the need for restoration & change of agricultural practices along that drainage. We have not received any results from the DEQ's lab, about the toxins found in the creeks' this irrigation season but I will present findings to the board as information is brought forward.

**Lars Santana - NRCS:** The office is going through a reconfiguration, and Watershed Council supplies need to be moved by Thursday (no usable storage space in back area). We also need to keep track of days in office for contact tracing purposes. Soil Conservationist Stephanie Russo has moved on to a new job with basin staff.

**Meeting was adjourned at 5:28 pm**

**Next MDWC Board Meeting:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 4:30 pm