



MIDDLE DESCHUTES
WATERSHED COUNCIL

625 SE Salmon Ave. # 6
Redmond, Oregon 97756

Phone: (541) 923-4358 X. 132

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 25, 2019

Madras Aviation Building ~ Madras, Oregon

4:30 PM

ATTENDING:

Andy Neary (MDWC)
Victoria Fischella (MDWC)
*Jon Burchell (City of Madras)
*Lloyd Forman (Landowner)
*Guy Chittenden (Madras Schools)
*Lisa Windom (NUID) (Vice Chair)
*Robert Marheine (PGE)
Lori Campbell (PGE alternate)
Sam Rossi (Jefferson SWCD)
*Jennifer Mickelson (USFS) (Council Chair)
Zoey Mickelson
Staci Merkt (Jefferson SWCD)
Scott Samsel

* - Board Member

SUMMARY OF BOARD MOTIONS

Call to Order: The June 25, 2019 Middle Deschutes Watershed Council (MDWC) was called to order by Council Chair Jennifer Mickelson at 4:35 PM. A quorum was in place. Introductions were made all around.

Approval of May 21st, 2019 Council Minutes: The council reviewed the minutes from the May 21st, 2019 minutes and found no noted changes.

Motion #1: Motion made by Jon Burchell to approve both council minutes as submitted. Second by Robert Marheine.

Approval of Council Financials: Andy Neary presented the council financial statement. The council reviewed the statement and found no noted changes.

Motion #2: Motion made by Jon Burchell to approve the council financial statement. Second by Lori Campbell



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Coordinator Update:

- **OWEB Council Capacity Grant:** has been secured for next biennium, we will hear this Friday June 28th, 2019 on the amount granted.
- **OWEB grants**
 - **Upper Willow:** Scabby Hollow project is complete, all plantings have been installed, finalizing completion report to submit for final approval.
 - **Upper Trout:** Andy & Victoria will be going out with Ochoco USFS for an Upper Trout Creek Tour for OWEB grant review.
- **ODA Temp Monitoring:** six sensors were installed on Upper Willow Creek by Andy & Sam, will be checked throughout the summer.
- **Spring Outreach & Volunteer Events:** MDWC held an Adopt-a-Trail cleanup June 25th, 2019 which was very successful, we had 7 volunteers/council members show up to participate in the trail cleaning; collected a total of 5 garbage bags, couch cushions & a shopping cart out of Willow Creek.
MDWC has attended Madras Saturday Market to increase community outreach, MDWC will also be attending Bend Farmers Market to further expand our volunteer base and outreach.
- **CREP:** Not as prevalent in signing on land owners due to less strong incentives from new farm bill.
- **JSWCD Beaver Creek Watershed Restoration:** Adam Harberg is touring with OWEB for grant review of Beaver Creek Watershed restoration project tomorrow June 26th, 2019 for project funding.
- **Willow Creek Trash Cleanup:** MDWC has applied for permits through Jefferson County so MDWC may host a Willow Creek cleanup this fall (tentatively Oct 19th, 2019), we are in the process of seeking further permission from various landowners to host this cleanup.
- **Bi-Annual Council Self Evaluation Review:** Andy presented to the council a cross analysis of the council's self-evaluation results from the 2015-2017 evaluations compared to the 2019 evaluations. The councils overall score went from 79.24% score in 2017 to a 83.58% score in 2019, showing support that the council overall feels we are working more successfully to protect and enhance the middle Deschutes watershed. (See last page for more detail)

Program Assistant Update:

- **Spring environmental education:** MDWC has partaken in Field Day's with the 5th graders of Culver Elementary that focused on teaching about stream ecology, water quality, the importance of Upland management and had students participate in a restoration project along Willow Creek which included the weeding and the planting of 100 starts along the bankside. Overall, we had five full and half day trips with elementary schools with 130 students engaged. And two full days with high school students reaching out to 30 students. We are currently working with Madras High School's ecology classes teaching about Populations & Communities in regards to the health of the Trout Creek Watershed. We will be taking a total



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of 6 Madras H.S. classes out in the field these coming two weeks to continue education on proper watershed management. As well as 60 5th graders to Trout Creek Tomorrow.

- **Madras Saturday Market:** Victoria attended Madras Saturday Market on June 8th, 2019 it was successful we had new volunteer sign ups and sold t-shirts to community members.
- **Outreach Event Possibilities:** Victoria & Andy presented to the council possible community outreach events and ideas and opened up further feedback to the council for best community engagement. MDWC will narrow down plan options proposed and have the council finalize which events MDWC will pursue.

Partner Updates:

Jennifer Mickelson: Applied for funding for Upper Trout Creek Restoration Project through OWEB & Pelton grants, USFS has their field review with OWEB Thursday June 27th, 2019 & an in office review with PGE on July 10th, 2019. The Meadow Project has been fully funded by an anonymous third party donation, the project will be implemented this August. Also fully completed the juniper reduction project through successful jackpot burning.

Lisa Windom: 58-11 Pipeline project is nearly complete, the end of pipeline structure needs finishing due to a depressurization issue in the tail pipe. The 58-11 pipeline itself is working successfully. NUID has a new intern who is implementing a computerized tracking system of the real time water running through NUID. NUID has received full funding for online ordering software. NUID is beginning the process of seeking out funding for Feather Drive & the Juniper Piping Project.

Sam Rossi: Jefferson County SWCD welcomes Staci Merkt officially on board at District Manager. Jeff SWCD is currently working on a tail water recovery project in the High Agency Plains. Right now, Jeff SWCD has an high interest from landowners in large scale Juniper reduction projects and they are looking into further partnership and funding for such large scale projects. The district is in the process of revamping their water monitoring program to have a more succinct plan and goal for the data being collected within the Middle Deschutes Watershed. Jeff SWCD is also planning on applying for a national grant next year through NRCS for On Farm Trials/Soil Health research.

Jon Burchell: City of Madras's Splash Park opens this Saturday June 29th at 9:00am, first 500 kids to attend will receive a free snow-cone. The park will run on a 20,000 gallon cistern that will collect and reuse that water to irrigate the park grounds.

Robert Marheine: PGE will be reviewing a series of presentations from applicants of the PGE Pelton Grant Fund of which the technical review team will meet in August for PGE Pelton reviews, decisions will be finalized by October, award letters sent out in December 2019. On July 17th & 18th, 2019 PGE will be hosting a Fisheries Workshop at River House in Bend, Oregon. The workshop will focus on the presenting the summation of the official Water Quality Report (500 pages) released by PGE this week. PGE will be hosting this same workshop on July 24th in Portland, OR and in the fall time in the Dalles/Maupin area.



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Council Self-Evaluation Discussion

As per mentioned, Andy presented to the council a cross analysis of the council's self-evaluation results from the 2015-2017 evaluations compared to the 2019 evaluations. The councils overall score went from 79.24% score in 2017 to an 83.58% score in 2019, showing support that the council overall feels we are working more successfully to protect and enhance the middle Deschutes watershed. It should be noted that only 5 out of the 9 anonymous council members filled out the Council Evaluations. Andy presented the information with respect to this fact that the evaluations were meant to spark discussion rather than be taken as fact unto themselves. The evaluations were composed of two components Council Evaluation and Self-Evaluation. In the presentation the council reviewed MDWC's mission statement and the objective of these evaluations: to assess areas of strength and areas for improvement within the council.

Areas the council feels we are doing well at include: staff management, decision making, fiscal & project management, accountability and meetings. Some of the positive comments from the evals included (paraphrased): Doing great at education, membership is active and a good bunch to work with, council staff is easy to work with, council is working hard to show up at public events and increase awareness.

Areas the council felt could use improvement included:

Citizen involvement & support, membership & participation. Some comments and takeaways for areas of improvement included: "need more industry & business support", "support from community groups such fisherman, 4H, Central Oregon Trail Alliance, Trout Unlimited & Let's Talk Diversity Coalition. Other takeaways mentioned were that we need to help citizens understand our organizations purpose, more advertisement of our accomplishments and reporting to community leaders. We need more outreach to local community and public events such as pub talks and that board members could improve advocacy of the council at work and in the community. Discussion of this topic centered around the need to maintain participation at meetings by including presenters and perhaps changing venues from time-to-time. Also, in addition to meetings, scheduling more landowner tours and tours of places like the Pelton dam complex to bring in more interest from the broader community. Robert Marheine expressed that while some areas rated slightly lower than others in the evaluation, we overall rated the council very high and there isn't any real concerns especially given how young the council is.

Discussion of the evaluations brought up topics of council member involvement and a focus on those who have been less involved with their commitment to MDWC. While it was agreed that overall the board is very active in their participation, there are some who attend less consistently. Jon Burchell and Robert Marheine advocated for including another representative from local government such as a county commissioner on the board to increase participation, help make the work of the council visible to the public and keep it on the minds of those involved with local governance. A motion to amend the bi-laws and add an additional counselor was made and



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denied, with 5 council members in support and 1 council member in opposition. Guy Chittenden advocated for including and involving more landowners on the council. He would like the council to be more grass roots rather than have a perception of being entirely composed of government and agency staff advising on how landowners should accomplish restoration. This led to discussion of the potential for MDWC to add two new seats to the council; one seat for an additional landowner and one seat for an elected official at the city or county level. No motion was made on this notion, the council agreed to re-visit the discussion at a later date and in the mean time council staff with reach out to less involved council members and have them assign a proxy in their absence. The point was made that county and city officials often have little time to attend additional meetings but if we attended their meetings to present about our council this could be effective. Andy spoke to the timeliness of these suggestions since the council is wrapping up the current fiscal biennium and will be releasing an annual report that could then be presented to stakeholders at various meetings.

Scott Samsel spoke about the Campbell creek drainage and the potential to capture sediment and filter water by building more beaver dam analogue complexes toward the upper section of the canyon. He spoke of the potential complexities of this with the landowners in the area who may not be comfortable with extensive heavy equipment presence on their land.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 4:30 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

- Any suggestions for speakers?

Action Items:

- Council Staff is to reach out to Jefferson County & potentially City of Madras to see if they would be interested in receiving bi-monthly updates and/or presentations from MDWC's accomplishments and projects.
- Council Staff is to organize a meet & greet between Jefferson County SWCD & MDWC
- Council Staff is to discuss with less involved council members if they are interested in being more actively involved or if they have a proxy/seat fill they would like to substitute in their place.