



MIDDLE DESCHUTES
WATERSHED COUNCIL

625 SE Salmon Ave. # 6
Redmond, Oregon 97756

Phone: (541) 923-4358 X. 132

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 26, 2016

Madras Aviation Building ~ Madras, Oregon

4:30 PM

ATTENDING:

John Speece (MDWC)
Mark Goodwin (JCSWCD)
*Jeff Rasmussen (Jefferson County)
Guy Chittenden (Madras Schools)
*Kirk Holcomb (NUID)
*Jennifer Mickelson (USFS)
Theresa DeBardelaben (ODA)
*Lloyd Forman (Landowner)
*Robert Marheine (Landowner)
*Tom Norton (Landowner)
Carol Tollefson (OSU)
Bob Spateholts (PGE)
* - Board Member

SUMMARY OF BOARD MOTIONS

Call to Order: The April 26, 2016 Middle Deschutes Watershed Council (MDWC) was called to order by Coordinator John Speece at 4:35 PM. Introductions were made all around.

Approval of October 27, December 15, 2015 and February 23, 2016 Council Minutes: The council reviews the minutes from the previous meetings and found no noted changes.

Motion #1: Motion made by Jeff Rasmussen to approve the council minutes as submitted. Second by Robert Marheine.

Approval of Council Financials: John Speece reviewed the council financial statement and the council found no noted Changes.

Motion #2: Motion made by Kirk Holcomb to approve the council financial statement. Second by Robert Marheine.

Coordinator Update:

- **Board participation and community interest:**



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Those in attendance discussed the status of the board, board members and ideas of how to increase participation among landowners.

It was pointed out the By-Laws need to be amended. Specifically Article 3, Section 1, should be amended to allow for a broader range of community members that include those that do not live in or derive economic benefit from the watershed. Changes will be made for council review and approval at next meeting.

Amendments recommended from the previous council meeting were reviewed. The council reviewed the proposed changes and discussed Article 3, Section 1, Watershed Council Membership and Article IV, Board of Directors in detail. It was recommended to make changes to allow for a broader range of community members that include those that are not permanent residents but may still be property owners, and therefore pay taxes.

Council discussed the structure of the Directors. Currently there are nine members that represent a broad range of interests. The council discussed creating an "At Large" position by either adding to or amending the current structure. One option discussed was to combine the "2 Willow Creek Landowners" into one position. Another solution was discussion of having each member list multiple alternates.

Proposed changes will be made and emailed directly to the current Directors prior to the next meeting.

- **Adopt-a-Trail:**

The council has adopted a short section in Madras at 9th St. to B St. There is a park that borders the section. This location will provide an opportunity for council members to engage with the public, and for community education events to occur. The requirements are: 1/mo April to Sept. and 1 time every other month Oct – March. The first clean up date is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, as part of the Madras Community Clean-Up.

- **Adopt-a-Highway:**

The council formally adopted a section of US-26 near Madras; MP 115 – 116. This is the section between Dogwood and Cherry Lanes. ODOT requires litter pick up 2-3 times per year and the commitment is for two years. Discussion occurred about the first pick up date. A poll will be sent to council to finalize a date.

- **Grant Updates:**

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Urban Waters Grant.

Applied February; Award July.

Total Amount Requested \$ 30,484.84; Matching Contributions \$40,166.00

Proposed Grant Period 08/01/ 2016 - 06/30/ 2018

Students of the Middle Deschutes Youth Watershed Councils will receive environmental education to prepare them to assist in the planning and implementation of restoration projects that will restore 5 acres of critical riparian habitat for the benefit of Redband Trout; a federal and state sensitive species, and nesting Bald and Golden Eagles. Specifically, this project will provide engaging in-class education and 'place based' stewardship activities in which students learn how to become better stewards of their



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local watersheds and therefore will have a marked increase in knowledge and skills that contribute to their ability to make informed decisions regarding natural resource and conservation issues. Grant awards will be made in July.

OWEB Technical Assistance Grant: Landowner Recruitment

Willow Creek Watershed Landowner Recruitment Project

Total Amount Requested \$ 9,995; Matching Contributions: \$ 4, 216

Proposed Grant Period 10/1/2016 – 12/31/2017

This technical assistance project will engage with, educate and recruit landowners in the Upper Willow Creek Watershed to participate in restoration projects. The goal is to address watershed limiting factors and action items identified in the Willow Creek Watershed Analysis (2000), the Proper Functioning Assessment Report Willow Creek Watershed (2005), and during landowner meetings and consultations yet to occur. This will be achieved by recruiting landowners through a progression of outreach letters, landowner meetings, and site visits. The outcome of this progression will be project plans specific to each site that address natural resource concerns. Success will be achieved by relying on existing key partnerships. This collaborative approach will leverage available resources from Jefferson and Crook County SWCD, USFS, NRCS, ODA, and local landowners. OWEB funds will be used for staff wages for landowner outreach and recruitment, landowner meetings, and development of project plans.

Willow Creek Upland and Riparian Enhancement – Update from Jenn Mickelson - Forest Service:

OWEB Willow Creek Juniper Treatment: The FS is in the process of addressing the potential for noxious weeds associated for the project by completing a risk assessment, and are close to submitting an eagle monitoring plan to the USFWS. They anticipate being able to begin work in the fall of 2016. Director Tom Norton discussed that he hoped the cut was occurring on lands that could become more productive once the juniper is removed. Jenn stated the cut area was a priority of the grasslands and is on likely productive grounds.

Culver Youth WC – Update from Jenn Mickelson - Forest Service:

The Culver Youth WC is a huge success and will participate this spring in active restoration at Willow Creek. Students from a science calls will plant riparian plants over three field days. Plants will be provided by the Forest Service. This will be the last activities for this OWEB grant.

EPA Watershed Education Programming in Central Oregon:

This is a project funded through an EPA Environmental Education Local Grant with a goal of delivering classroom, hands-on and place based field trips to 840 Central Oregon Students over two years. The Children's Forest of Central Oregon (CFCO) is the grant holder, and the MDWC is a partner along with the Crooked River Watershed Council and the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council. The MDWC is working with Madras High School. During May all of the sophomores will receive in-class education and participate in a field day at Willow Creek. This will align with the Populations and Communities section of the sophomore biology curriculum. In total 120 students will participate.



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Partner Updates and Comments:

Oregon Department of Agriculture: Theresa DeBardelaben is the new ODA Agricultural Water Quality Specialist in Jefferson County, among others. She introduced herself and stated the water quality management local plan will be available online next month.

North Unit Irrigation District: Kirk Holcomb discussed the status of the litigation associated with the Spotted Frog and local irrigation districts. He suggested that it may be a lengthy process, but the good news is there is sufficient water for the upcoming irrigation season.

Jefferson County SWCD: Mark Goodwin updated the council on the small grant projects the district is working on, and on two larger grants that were submitted to OWRD and OWEB.

Next Meeting: The Next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, ~~June 21~~ June 28, 2016 4:30 PM

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.