

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

*Tuesday, January 28, 2020 - 4:30 p.m.  
General Aviation Building - 2028 NW Berg Drive, Madras, Oregon*

### **Attending:**

\*Guy Chittenden (Madras Schools)  
\*Theresa DeBardelaben (ODA)  
Jennifer Eatwell (NRCS)  
Victoria Fischella (CREP Planner)  
\*Lloyd Forman (Trout Creek Landowner)  
Jody Holmes (Trout Creek Landowner, Public)  
Jenna Keeton (MDWC)  
Staci Merkt (JSWCD)  
\*Jennifer Mickelson (USFS)  
Stephanie Russo (NRCS)  
\*Scott Samsel (Willow Creek Landowner)  
\*Lisa Windom (NUID)  
Lars Santana (NRCS)

\*Board Member

### **Summary of Board Motions**

**Call to Order:** The January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Middle Deschutes Watershed Council (MDWC) Board Meeting was called to order by Council Chair Jennifer Mickelson at 4:31pm. A quorum was in place.

**Approval of August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Council Minutes:** The Council reviewed minutes from the August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meetings and found no noted changes.

**Motion 1:** Motion made by Theresa DeBardelaben to approve both meeting minutes from August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and November 19<sup>th</sup> 2019. Scott Samsel seconds, and motion passes.

**Approval of August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Council Financials:** Staci Merkt presented the current Council financial statement. The Council reviewed the financial statement and found no noted changes. Staci noted that an official at OWEB approved the Council Capacity funds request.

**Motion 2:** Motion made by Scott Samsel to approve the financial statement from August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Lloyd Forman seconds, and motion passes.

**Motion 3:** Motion made by Lisa Windom to approve the financial statement from November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Scott Samsel seconds, and motion passes.

### **Coordinator Update:**

*Update on Existing Grants/Projects*

Admin:

The council is still working to find vehicle donations. Board members suggested other avenues to obtain a vehicle or funding would be through other local government agencies,

approaching Pacific Power and Light, or the Jefferson County Annual Cherry Tree event. The domain *middlesdeschuteswc.org* was purchased to be used for future official email addresses. We are working to acquire non-profit 501(c)(3) status, and received general support from present board members. The MDWC Annual Report will be finished soon with an updated format. Jenna will present to public, perhaps at the Jefferson Co Board of Commissioners in Spring. Board members suggested also presenting an annual report to the Kiwanis group or the Urban Forestry Commission with the Open Space and Parks Committee, which meet on the first Tuesday of every month at the Madras Public Works Department.

#### Education:

Jenna submitted a funding renewal request to the Gray Family Foundation which provides education programming support for 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade activities. Jenna toured the Cove Palisades State Park with a local Park Ranger to plan five field trips with partners, Trout Unlimited and Portland General Electric. The Children's Forest of Central Oregon: Youth Engagement Strategies (YES) 2019 funds are closed as of now. Jenna submitted a proposal with partner, Trout Unlimited to the Children's Forest of Central Oregon: YES 2020 and was awarded \$3,000 in funding (total project = \$6,000).

#### Monitoring:

Jenna submitted data and final report to ODA for the long-term stream temperature monitoring project and is now prepping for the 2020 sampling season. The MDWC has become more involved in the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership through assisting with water quality sampling, data analysis, and question/objective brainstorming. A budding collaboration between North Unit Irrigation District, Jefferson County SWCD, and MDWC has focused on developing a water quality monitoring project in our overlapping jurisdictions. Lisa Windom has constructed a first draft of a restoration-focused water quality plan for NUID to address water quality concerns. Lisa identified funding opportunities that could be funneled through NUID to fund partners and facilitate projects.

#### Restoration:

The Council received funding recommendation by OWEB for the Upper Trout Creek Rehabilitation project (total = ~\$85K, ~\$15K for Jenna's time). Jenn Mickelson added that the project (large wood placement, channel realignment along ~ 18 miles of Trout Creek headwater tributaries) has supplemental funding from Pelton Round Butte. Some work has been completed already, and the rest will be implemented Summer 2020. Jenna deployed piezometers on Little Trout Creek with JSWCD/ODFW to assess whether future restoration projects have a measurable effect on the amount of groundwater in floodplain areas of Little Trout Creek. Jenna is developing a restoration project with USFS and Crook County SWCD to build fencing in Upper Trout Creek to keep cattle on private land and prevent trespass cattle from entering forested land. Jenna is also developing a riparian planting project in partnership with members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Coalition for the Deschutes. Board members suggest proposing this project to the Warm Springs Reservation Conservation Service and trying to attend monthly meetings with the Tribal Council to gain project support. The Board also mentioned that Warm Springs hosts groups of Youth Conservation Corp (led by Butch David) who may be willing to help with riparian planting activities. The MDWC was awarded a professional scholarship to attend a Stream Restoration Conference and the Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network Conference (\$950 total in scholarship aid).

#### Special Topic: Priday Ranch



The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board held a public meeting on 1/18/2020 in Madras to discuss the potential purchase of Priday Ranch by the Deschutes Land Trust. The ranch is

located on Trout Creek near Highway 97 in Willowdale where the confluences of Trout Creek, Ward Creek, and Antelope Creek meet. It was discussed that a large amount of money has been devoted to this section of the creek with good environmental benefits. The biggest question landowners posed revolved around what the Deschutes Land Trust (DLT) intends to do with the property: preserve, prohibit livestock grazing, etc. The public wondered if the area will be grazed, and how wildfire suppression or avoidance be successful. The DLT claims to maintain the property, though the public doubts the proposed budget is enough to manage a large ranch. There was no discussion of invasive juniper removal in the DLT proposal. It should be noted that the MDWC support and resources are not included in the proposal, however the Jefferson SWCD is mentioned. During the next JSWCD board meeting (February) we will discuss the potential purchase and determine a JSWCD standpoint. The public concerns about this project center around lack of background knowledge and chance of success into the future.

#### *Ideas and Future Plans*

##### **Admin:**

Jenna is researching the agriculture certificate proposed "Watershed Reserve" and is attending a Food Innovation trip led by the High Desert Food and Farm Alliance. The MDWC will continue researching vehicle grants. The MDWC has previously had a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs sit on the board (Brenda Sanchez who is in Salem now). Jenna will work to identify and invite a tribal member for Board representation. Jenna will pursue joining the board of directors for the Shared Vision with the Coalition for the Deschutes.

##### **Education:**

The MDWC and Trout Unlimited will begin weekly after-school programming at Warm Springs Academy. We will lead ten Spring/Fall field trips and two Summer short-camps at Warm Springs Academy and Jefferson County 509j School District. Jenna is in communication with Mike Dove at Madras High School and discussing potential MDWC support.

##### **Monitoring:**

The MDWC revised the Middle Deschutes Agriculture Water Quality Plan (to ODA), and plans to develop a MDWC-specific plan. This will require requesting water quality data from regional partners to identify MDWC monitoring questions.

##### **Restoration:**

The MDWC is planning weed treatment w/ Jefferson Co. Weed Specialist to occur at Redband Ranch. Jenna has planned to build an interactive stream table for use in classrooms, camps, community outreach events. However, the USFS has multiple stream tables that could be made available to MDWC. Lars Santana will send a stream table design to Jenna and suggested potentially including multiple partners to collaborate in a grant to acquire a large trailer to be shared across the Deschutes Basin trailer. Jenna has tagged along with Sam at JSWCD on site visits to learn about on-farm irrigation upgrades.

##### **Outreach:**

The MDWC will not be at the Farm Fair due to a schedule conflict with a Stream Restoration Conference, so Jenna will create a MDWC flier for distribution at Farm Fair (Sam and Theresa will distribute). The MDWC will try to have a presence at Cove Palisades EagleWatch, a USFS funded event with partners at Pelton Round Butte Overlook. Jenna will potentially bring the USFS stream

table and Jenn will put Jenna in contact with the organizer and assist. The MDWC will have a presence tabling at Deschutes River Conservancy & Coalition for the Deschutes events in February.

### **Partner Updates:**

Lars Santana (NRCS) – The Jefferson County Local Working Group Meeting will be held on Thursday February 13, at 1pm at the Madras Fire Hall. The objective of this meeting is to gather local input to help steer the direction of NRCS for next 3-5 years. Lars suggests focusing on success stories first in the quest for creating an agriculture certificate. An OWEB technical assistance grant could be appropriate to cover Jenna's time. Lars got a call from a landowner in Jefferson County who wanted help cleaning out sediment from a catchment basin. Could MDWC get a grant for pond maintenance strategies? The pond is effective as water quality management. This is a large resource concern but also falls under the umbrella of maintenance. However, if sediment catchment basins were no longer used, then water quality issues would increase. Could there be a way that MDWC could fund?

Lisa Windham (NUID) – North Unit Irrigation District has made progress with a variable frequency drive project which returns the Crooked River flow regime to be more natural.

Theresa DeBardelaben (ODA) – The Middle Deschutes Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan is being updated.

Jenn Mickelson (USFS) – Updates were covered by Jenna during meeting.

Guy Chittenden (Madras Schools) – In Madras, on April 24 (Arbor day) students from Madras High School, Madras Elementary, and Metolius Elementary will be doing an activity. Students may be a part of 4H, FFA and could be interested in a field trip or riparian planting. Guy suggests Jenna talks to Mike Dove and Sarah Fullberm.

Jody Holmes (Trout Creek Landowner) – Jody suggests data analysis report on piezometers on Muddy Creek. Jenna is looking into this request.

Sam Rossi (JSWCD) – Campbell Creek Beaver Dam Analogue project was recommended for funding.

Victoria Fischella (CREP Planner) – CREP has had a significant amount of interest within Crook County. Victoria has been attending a lot of initial site visits to meet landowners to help determine their eligibility. She currently has four landowners who are actively planning and taking steps forward to enroll in CREP. She has also been working with the Crooked River Watershed Council to begin what will be a long-term project, to help with the restoration efforts along the lower end of the Crooked River. The CRWC is planning significant restoration efforts along this stretch with the intention to enroll all of their projects in CREP as a cost-effective form of follow up management to the project (part of the Lower Crooked River Strategic Restoration Plan). Victoria has been checking the status on active CREP contracts, one project in particular has been very successful in attracting beaver, establishing roughly 8-10 new dams, significant floodplain reconnection and riparian vegetation establishment leading to increased shading and bank stability.

**Meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.**

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 – 4:30 p.m.