

**South Santiam Watershed Council**  
**Approved Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday January 15, 2019**

Attendance: Eric Andersen, Norm Kaldahl, Diane Kaldahl, Nancy MacHugh, Katie Kohl, Nancy Gilmore, Sandre Nelson, Dan Nelson, Ken Crouse, Mike Vernon, Scott Marlega

The meeting started at 3pm with welcome and introductions

The November minutes were approved.

The Oct-Dec 2018 financials were approved. A question was raised about accounting procedures and the values listed as “unrestricted assets.” A question was asked about education program donations. Eric will send Dan a copy of our QuickBooks asset codes and item list.

Personnel Policy updates were approved pending answers to questions raised about any requirements for the Council to provide employee safety meetings and/or trainings.

A discussion ensued regarding diversity, equity and inclusion. Board members expressed interest in diversifying board membership, staff and partner organizations. Attempts to collaborate with local tribal groups were discussed. Eric suggested having a guest speaker (e.g. Center for Diversity and the Environment) on the subject to clarify our intentions and methods.

An education update was provided by Mike Vernon. He shared photos and questionnaire responses from a recent Youth Watershed Council (YWC) field trip to Dragonfly Ranch. Dan and Sandy also shared their experience with the visiting students. Mike discussed ongoing efforts to recruit high school student counselors for Outdoor School (16 interested at Sweet Home HS, 2 interested at Lebanon HS). Mike outlined efforts to restart the YWC at Lebanon HS via contact with multiple science teachers. He will be giving promotional presentations at Lebanon HS this week in several of Mr. Gault’s science classes. He also talked about submission of the OWF grant to support a snorkeling program and future collaborations with Build Lebanon Trails, Weyerhaeuser, the Oregon Bee Project and participation in the Environmental Leadership for Youth program. The group then discussed challenges associated with the government shutdown and USFS training conflicts with Outdoor School. Several board members offered possible help leading sessions in the absence of USFS staff.

The group opted to power through the scheduled break.

Eric discussed the shared Stakeholder Engagement grant and Stewardship Coordinator position. Registration for the upcoming Plan for Your Land workshops have been capped at 30 participants representing 20 different properties. Workshops will occur once per week over the next 4 weeks and Mike and Eric will be participating in the workshops. He also discussed the potential for workshops in Lebanon next year and ongoing efforts to work one on one with interested parties outside of the scheduled workshops.

The SSWC is a collaborator on a Meyer Memorial Trust opportunity grant which was submitted January 7, 2019 and seeks to fund a shared Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Coordinator position that will

1) organize culturally relevant community volunteer and engagement events, 2) assist watershed councils in learning more about the communities we serve 3) research successful outreach strategies. The grant request is for \$40,000 with \$5,000 currently committed for the position. Ideally the position would begin this summer. Board members requested a copy of the grant proposal for the position. Members discussed the importance of forming a coalition with other organizations in the mid-Willamette Valley to appeal to larger funders. One goal of the position is to collectively lift all partner organizations with the help of this shared resource. The question was raised: do we need to lay out our vision and how we want to interact with other local partners to help plot our course into the future.

Eric gave a rundown of ongoing restoration projects. Winter planting is underway and JP is busy working with 4 different council groups. Crabtree, Thomas and Hamilton basins are slated for plantings this season. Rosario is trying to educate his crews about the benefits of restoration and possibly sharing information with the Willamette River's sister basin in Mexico. Permits for the Dragonfly turtle habitat enhancement project are coming along but will likely be stalled by the government shutdown (Army Corps of Engineers permit). The instream habitat enhancement project in the upper Crabtree side channel may need some maintenance. Scott Marlega was informed of this need.

Eric discussed the need for annual Board Elections, likely in March, following the council self-evaluation workshop scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup>. The group discussed the possibility of having an application process to encourage more competition among potential new board members.

Other upcoming events include: Plan for Your Land workshops (Jan 17, 24, 31, Feb 7)  
Board training, council self-evaluation recap (Feb 19)  
Goods from the Woods tabling event w/ Eric & Mike (Feb 2)  
SSWC policies review by Center for Nonprofit Law (Mar 19)

Eric also discussed the need to adopt a communications policy and shared an example from the MFWWC. The group discussed the current social media campaign and updates to the website (stalled due to freezer emergency). Ken suggested removing the need for approval by the board for straightforward communications. Eric wants to add policies to protect nonprofit status. The group identified a need for more small-scale press in local media.

Round Robin: Katie shared materials from a recent workshop on pest management and Diane announced that beavers had returned to her property.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm