

South Santiam Watershed Council
Approved Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2017

Present: Eric Andersen, Lee Peterman, Nancy MacHugh, Diane Kaldahl, Norm Kaldahl, Katie Kohl, Joe Deardorff, Angela Clegg, Sandy Nelson, Dan Nelson, Priscella Woolverton, Chase Boyd, Megan Hager, Madelyn N, Elena Hewitt, Sarah Hewitt, Pam Hewitt, Jeanette Klahr, Alisha Isabel, Jeidah Dezurnet, Katherine Meyr, Elizabeth Meyr, Wyatt Cisneros, James Simmons, Tyler Currey.

Meeting started at 6 pm with welcome and introductions. Meeting was held at Lebanon Public Library community meeting room.

The Sweet Home and Lebanon Youth Watershed Council gave their annual presentation. The groups have been focusing on monitoring projects using birds as a biological indicator during the last year. Both groups had created a poster board and presented that during the 2016 Within Our reach Conference in Corvallis (OSU). Several of the students have been participating with the Youth Watershed Council for 3 years and is a testament to Youth Watershed Council program.

The board approved the March minutes.

The board approved the first quarter financials.

Joe Deardorff gave a brief update on projects for the first quarter. Seven projects were either inter-planted or had some minor maintenance planting. Approximately 25,000 trees and shrubs were planted over 46 acres. Sites will continue with a maintenance regime of chemical or mechanical treatments for invasive plants.

Strategic plan

Eric passed out a hard copy of our draft 4 year strategic plan. The plan is based on our action plan and is broken into years 1-2 and 3-4. The board will provide comments as needed to the draft.

The strategic planning session will be a half day and with the North Santiam Council.

Eric is sending out a doodle poll for potential dates in June.

Allison comments are:

“I want to get you what you both need, which is a dialed in high-level strategic plan for each Council plus a clear strategy for your continued collaboration – which could look exactly as you have it or could expand to include other things you’d like to partner on.”

SSWC board 2017 election results

| Name of candidate | Position |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Norm Kaldahl | Chair |
| Nancy Gilmore | Treasurer |
| Rob Emmons | at large, non-officer 1 |
| Diane Kaldahl | at large, non-officer 2 |
| Lee Peterman | at large, non-officer 3 |
| Ken Crouse | pro tem |

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Sick leave policy

Currently we have an unlimited amount of sick leave that can be accrued. Unfortunately, this is not practical for our organization and is a liability. Currently Eric has over 350 hours of sick leave. A challenge would occur if the Council must pay all the accrued sick leave. Another challenge is if an employee accrues sick leave under a grant, but doesn’t use the sick leave until after the grant. There needs to be an account for each employee that can pay the sick leave when needed.

Eric has contacted 3 watershed councils to see how they approach this and will follow up with the board on recommendations. For example, is there a maximum amount during the year an employee can use? Do we have 80 hours or 120 hours of sick. Or do we have a Paid Time Off scenario.

Outreach Events

The Council in an effort to reach out to more people in the community will start some outreach events. Angie will be taking on the responsibilities for these

During the calendar year of 2017, our goal is to host:

- One science pub May/June in Lebanon

- One projects tour July. Location to be determined
- One science pub Sept/Oct in Lebanon
- One holiday get together Nov/Dec (board voting, annual report, general holiday get together)

Santiam basin fund

In order to diversify our funding stream, the SSWC and NSWC are exploring a Santiam Basin Fund. Currently our funding is mostly OWEB for projects and MMT for capacity. A Santiam Basin fund would allow local partners / investors put money into a fund that could be used towards a list of projects. A projects committee of local agency and partners would choose projects to receive funding. This would be similar to the Suislaw stewardship fund.

MMT is funding our initial feasibility study on this topic. We are in discussions with EWEB on an incentive program that can be used to fund restoration projects as well.

Source Water Drinking protection grants / LOI

A letter of intent was recently submitted for a Source Water Drinking protection grant. Eric partnered with Lebanon on this. Project sites were located in lower Hamilton Creek. If selected, a more thorough grant will be submitted in May/June 2017.

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

ODA is looking to do 15-20 years of monitoring to see if there is a temperature difference above and below CREP project sites, or clusters of project sites. They contacted SSWC about deploying some loggers (approximately 12) in the South Santiam because we have used CREP many times.

ODA would provide temp loggers and compensation for deploy, retrieve, QA/QC and simple data crunching. Perhaps 40 to 80 hours per year. Data is not for regulatory actions.

Education funds

The CWC received a grant from TNC for education in Linn County in 2014. The grant has money set aside for education related activities in the South Santiam during years 2014-2024. Specifically: Salmonwatch, Outdoor School, Youth Watershed councils and community awareness.

The most recent budget was for 2015 and specifically includes:

South Santiam watershed council (.75 fte) \$6500

Salmon watch program \$1000

The SSWC has received funds in fiscal year 2014-2015, but not in fiscal year 2015-2016 or 2016-2017. The SSWC board has requested Eric to contact Bessie Joyce at CWC to discuss the issue. The SSWC is expecting to receive funds as specifically out lined in the grant agreement.

There was door prize at the April meeting. All participants in the room were given a free ticket for a really nice bluebird house made by board member Lee Peterman. Katherine Meyr, of the Lebanon Youth Watershed Council, won the door prize.

The next Council meeting is Tuesday, May 16 from 3 - 5 pm in the community meeting room of the Lebanon Public Library. Speaker will be Susan Barnes, ODFW wildlife biologist. She will talk about Western Pod Turtles.