

## **South Santiam Watershed Council Board Minutes**

**April 19, 2016**

**Present:** Eric Andersen, Nancy Gilmore, Richard Bates, Katie Kohl, Diane Kaldahl, Norm Kaldahl, Joe Thompson, Chase Boyd, Elea Hewitt, Sarah Hewitt, Shiloh Moore, Alexi Chase, Brett Boyd, Alisha Isabelle, Dawson Guzman, Taylor Eckhoff, Jeanetta Klahr, Sarah Anderson, Brian Odriscoll, Allie Johnson, Madi Moreland, Micheal Huong, Skyler Johnson, Dorian Brisland, Kendall Dezurney, Alex Pircher, Katherine Meyer, Elizabeth Meyer, Kelton Beusland, Ralph Brown, Angela Clegg

The group met at 6pm at the Lebanon public library. Welcome and introductions were made.

The Sweet Home and Lebanon Youth Watershed Councils (YWC) presented their recently completed projects to the group. The Lebanon YWC discussed the tree and shrub planting that occurred on the Odriscoll Blueberry farm outside of Lebanon. The group had planted trees and shrubs in the winter of 2015. Native plants were used along the creek and the lower portion of the property. The soils were full of river rock which made planting difficult in some areas. Near the barn and other structures, the group used a mix of plants from around the state. The goal was to have examples of many different Oregon native plants, using a more landscaped approach. Unfortunately the spring and summer of 2015 had record breaking hot and dry conditions. As a result, there was significant mortality at the site. The group learned which plants could endure drought (e.g. snowberry) and which could not (e.g. wax myrtle). The group also had an event in Newport where they participated in a study on estuary invertebrates.

The Lebanon YWC discussed their recent planting at the Camco Cedar Mill in Sweet Home. The site is along the banks of the Santiam River. A contractor was hired to clear the site of blackberry and ivy prior to the planting. A few patches of ivy and blackberry remain and will be spot sprayed. The YWC planted approximately 1,000 native trees and shrubs (e.g. cedar, maple, etc.) at the site. It is hoped that the spring of 2016 will not be as dry as 2015, in order to give the plants a good start. The YWC also surveyed sites along Ames Creek in Sankey Park. This provided insight into how to assess instream and riparian habitat conditions. The group has started monitoring the water level at ponds at the old Knife River site, which is in the process of being transferred to the Sweet Home Economic Development Group.

After the presentation there was a short break and the students left.

The March minutes were approved with some minor edits.

Joe Thompson, shared project manager for the SSWC and NSWC, presented a summary of activities in winter 2016. The SSWC planted over 77,000 trees and shrubs at project

locations in Crabtree Creek, Thomas Creek and Hamilton Creek. Project sites were a mix of new planting and inter-planting at older sites. Sites will undergo a spot spray with herbicide to suppress weeds around the newly planted vegetation. In May and or June a mowing will occur around the trees to further suppress competing vegetation. Sites are funded through CREP program and OWEB grants. Outreach has been conducted at 3 new landowners who are interested in riparian and or instream projects.

Eric Andersen gave an update on the upcoming summer 2016 projects. The OWEB funded Moose Creek tree tipping project is planned to occur between July 15 and Aug 31. Eric will be completing a request for proposals in May and potentially selecting a contractor in May or early June. Lance and Eric have surveyed the site creating preliminary drawings. The Crabtree Creek side channel project is slated to happen during the same time period. River Design Group will do the site surveys and engineering drawings. Eric will submit the necessary permits. Logs were source from ODF seed orchard. An RFP for this project is planned for May or early June.

A time lapse camera was placed at the Upper Crabtree creek restoration project to capture images of the creek for nearly 2 ½ months. The camera took pictures 3 times per day and recorded stream flow events after heavy rains and snow. The site looks good, but blow down trees may cause the site to aggrade gravels and debris.

Currently the SSWC is the fiscal sponsor for the South Santiam All Lands Collaborative (SSALC). The SSALC coordinator is grant funded and an employee of the SSWC. The SSWC needs a MOA between SSALC and SSWC if the SSWC continues the relationship as fiscal sponsor. The SSWC needs to confirm a cost for fiscal sponsorship. Eric will provide example MOA and more information to the board on this topic.

Board elections will be mailed in May after the mailing list is updated. There was discussion of a SSWC potluck picnic for June.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5pm.