

**South Santiam Watershed Council**  
**Approved Meeting Minutes**  
**June 20, 2017**

Attendance: Eric Andersen, Angela Clegg, Kim Dowe, Glen Soltau, Joe Deardorff, Norm Kaldahl, Diane Kaldahl, Katie Kohl, Ken Crouse, Nancy Gilmore, Steve Gray, Katherine gray, Joan Shumate, Beverly Forson, Neil Shumate, Christy Tanne, (Duncan Thomas not signed, but present as speaker.)

The meeting started at 3:00 pm with welcome and introductions.

The speaker was Duncan Thomas, Washington State University professor. Duncan's presentation was pollination: how species communicate with each other in nature to exchange services. There are many different types of pollinators and their role is immense in nature. For example, bees pollinate many food crops important to humans, such as tree fruits, berries, and vegetable crops. Without bees the produce department in your local grocery store would be fairly empty. Pollination is a type of contract (e.g. mutualism) between a plant and the pollinator where both benefit. When a bee pollinates a flower it collects pollen, while the flower is pollinated allowing a seed to be formed and the plant to reproduce. The pollen is used by the bee to feed its larvae which benefit. Pollination requires animals to use vision to find fruit or flowers; taste or smell to determine if the fruit or flower is ripe and also touch to feel the fruit if the fruit is ripe. Wind pollination (e.g. grasses) doesn't require a pollinator. But it is inefficient. Masses of pollen are cast to the wind with the hopes that the pollen will land where needed. The flowers of wind pollinated plants are generally not showy, while insect or animal pollinated plants can be very showy to attract the pollinator. Different animals can see different colors. Humans experience trichromacy and can see three colors, while most mammals experience dichromacy being able to see two colors. Birds can see four color spectrums (tetrachromacy) and some are thought to be able to see five (pentachromatic). Whales are monochromats and can see only one wave length.. Color is a way for the plant to communicate with the pollinator. For example, mammals can see the color red. When plants like tomatoes or apples are ripe they turn red. This is a visual cue to the pollinator to eat the fruit and thus aid in seed dispersal. The unripe fruit is green, which obscures it in the plant's foliage. This protects the fruit until ripe. There are exceptions such as with mangos. Mangos turn yellow which can be seen easily in low light while the color red can not be seen easily in low light. Fruit bats which feed on mangos emerge at night and the yellow color of mangos makes them easier to find by the bats. If the mangos were red, it would be much more difficult for the bats to find them. The next time we pick an apple or other fruit, we can reflect on the highly varied and intricate world of pollinators and their importance to the well being of people.

There was a short break after the speaker.

The May minutes were approved.

Angie Clegg gave 40 minute update on the education program. The SSWC education program has changed and grown in the last several years. The program we have today is the result of several years of continuous focus and readjustment. The main focus is the Youth Watershed Council, Salmonwatch and Outdoor. Within those main program chapters there are many moving parts, and some degree of overlap. There are two YWC, one for Lebanon High School and one for Sweet Home high school.

Both have interested students that return for multiple years. Activities include adoption of Sankey park (clean ups, taking back the park), monitoring pond levels and photo points at the old Knife River Property, throwing salmon carcasses into rivers above the Foster dam, stream surveys, vegetation assessments, poster presentations, holiday parade and other activities. Salmon watch occurs in September, but requires much planning starting 4 or more months in advance. The activities teach youth about fish and aquatic ecology. There is extensive volunteer participation. Outdoor school brings around 250 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to Camp Tadmor for an experiential learning experience. The focus is natural resources with learning segments on macroinvertebrates, forestry, archery and other activities. Planning for the event is extensive and occurs continuously. There really is no break in communication between the council and the local schools regarding the event.

All of the activities, like all Council activities, are funded through grants. Primary funding has come from OWEB and Grey Family Foundation. Other smaller grants have been received from the Oregon Community Foundation, Sweet Home Community Fund, Meyer Memorial Trust and small donations. During 2017 there were two large changes to funding streams from OWEB and GFF that will affect the education program. OWEB has stepped away from funding education programs as a result of Measure 78. The GFF has stepped away from funding Outdoor School as a result of Measure 99. The total effect is not known. This year and 2018 can be considered transition years as we shift focus from being heavily reliant of OWEB and GFF for funding the program. We are seeking out new funds and learning how to work within the new OWEB stakeholder grants. The education program is actively working with local schools to secure funds for the SSWC education coordinator position / role at outdoor school during 2018.

Eric gave an update on the strategic planning process. The SSWC will be meeting with the North Santiam WC on June 28 to discuss where the groups can continue working together and where there may be opportunity to work together in new ways. Allison Handler has been working with Eric and Rebecca to draft the agenda and refine talking points for the working session. The planning process is being funded by the Meyer Memorial Trust's (MMT) capacity grant. This is meant to help strengthen the Council. The MMT is also funding a financial training workshop for the model watershed council cohort.

Tyler gave an update on the summer projects that are under way. Thomas Creek side channel enhancement, Scott Creek instream enhancement and Glen Soltau's cattle crossing are all planned to occur this year. Lance Gatchell and Eric are working on Moose Creek phase 2. Several existing riparian sites will have mowing or spraying activities during the summer. Two sites are in preparation mode with first clearing of weeds expected in June or early July. Dragonfly ranch will have planning activities in the summer to clarify the Council's role and what type of grant funding to request in fall of 2017.

The SSWC BBQ and projects tour will be held July 21. The BBQ will be at Waterloo Park while to projects tour will visit Soda Fork creek (steelhead enhancement) and Richard Bates farm (riparian planting).