

**South Santiam Watershed Council**  
**Approved Meeting Minutes**  
**September 26, 2017**

Attendance: Eric Andersen, Nancy Gilmore, Nancy MacHugh, Lee Peterman, Norm Kahldahl, Diane Kahldahl

The meeting started at 3 pm with welcome and introductions.

The June meeting minutes were not approved. Not enough board members were present to approve. The minutes will be approved at the next meeting

Eric gave an education update. Angie was not present because she was at salmon watch. Salmon watch is ongoing through September. There are approximately 80 volunteers participating. The Council continues to work with the school district on the upcoming Outdoor school grant that will be submitted to OSU extension. Angie has provided the district with budget and is helping them to formulate the grant. The school district is required to submit the grant, not the council. The education committee met with the North Santiam education / outreach recently. The meeting was confusing because education and outreach mean something different to both councils. Also, both councils are different places in regards to their programs. The North Santiam is very interested in undertaking a large outreach campaign, but the South Santiam WC is not ready for such a campaign. The SSWC will be focusing on making our education program stronger and more resilient before taking on larger efforts. Both councils still want to collaborate where there are opportunities, but we are still identifying areas of overlap.

Tyler (not present this month) provided a projects handout highlighting work from the summer. Hafner oxbow (OWEB 215-3021 Crabtree Phase 1) has had site preparation activities during summer and early fall 2017. Doerfler Oxbow (OWEB 216-3003 Crabtree Phase 2) has had site preparation activities during summer and fall of 2017. The Hendrick's side channel (OWEB 217-3013) had 50+ logs placed to enhance complexity for juvenile fish. The site will also have revegetation activities occur in conjunction with the CREP program. The Doornenbal fence will be installed in fall 2017. The Council will facilitate planting and mowing. The Thorton property must have an archaeological review before work can start. Scott Creek Steelhead Habitat Enhancement Project (OWEB 217-3024) had 50+ logs placed on lower Scott Creek during low water period. Logs were sourced from ODF, Weyerhaeuser and Army Corp of Engineers. Invasive plant treatment, site rehab and tree planting will occur in fall and winter. The low water cattle crossing was installed on Glen Soltau's property. The first crossing was washed out necessitating a second crossing. NRCS worked with both designs. Glen constructed the planks. Other projects in development include Springbank farms invasive species treatment, lower Hamilton creek invasive species treatment and the many Dragonfly Ranch pre project planning and related activities.

Eric gave an update on the take away points Nonprofit Finance Fund cohort analysis. While there are some challenges on the horizon, they have been known for several years. The cohort analysis was a wake call for anyone working at a watershed council, and perhaps some of the take away points were relevant to councils throughout the state. The Council is on stable financial footing, but needs to be prepared for the reduction in funds that will occur as the MMT model watershed program ends. While the funding landscape is changing it is not ending. There will be other grants to apply for but completion will only increase, especially for restoration grants. Given OWEBs decision to not fund education, the primary source of of programs funding, the Council needs to look for other funding and adapt the education program to the funding landscape. The Council needs to focus on where it wants to go and how to get there. The council needs to be realistic about expectations of future funding and what that means in terms of staff and staffing. The

Eric gave a strategic plan update and discussed some of the elements of the our plan that we have been working on. The plan was completed in late June 2017 as were the joint planning meetings. Two related goals were to raise the profile of the Watershed Council because we are still unknown to many people and to engage with more community members. One way to do that is through outreach events. We have decided to start Science Pubs which are events that combine a science topic at a local restaurant pub. Our first Science Pub will be at Schmizza Public House in Lebanon on Oct 25, 6pm to 8pm. Karen Hans from the ODFW will be the speaker. A portion of the sales will be donated to the watershed council. Some Councils also have raffles with partial proceed going to the Councils. We are still looking at ways to collaborate with the North Santiam Watershed Council and other councils in the area.

The next Council meeting will be Oct 17 from 3-5pm at the Lebanon Public Library. Kevin Bladon, assistant professor in the Department of Forest Engineering, Resources and Management at Oregon State University will be the speaker. Kevin Bladon will be speaking on the effects of wildfire and source water quantity and quality. As mentioned our first Science pub will be October 25 (details previously discussed). The Council will have a holiday lunch for board members in December. The date is to be decided.

Our watershed council theme in 2018 will be drinking water. Speakers, topics, news articles and outreach activities will have this as a combining thread. While other topics will also be discussed, drinking water will be the primary focus. The Council will be focusing more on drinking water and related in the coming years.

The Council will submit an OWEB restoration grant (due November 6) that is designed to treat invasive hawthorn and black berry in the meadow and oak savanna at Dragonfly Ranch, develop test plots to guide restoration actions in the meadow, improve pond turtle habitat and diversify upland meadows through seeding and planting of forbs. The Council will also submit a stakeholder outreach grant designed to attract new land owners for future projects. A Ford Grant will be submitted for education related activities. We are working with the school district to secure funds for Council staff to participate in a leadership role for Outdoor School 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.