
Upper Nehalem Watershed Council

Meeting Minutes 6/24/2021

Call to order

The annual meeting of the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council was held via Zoom on June 24th. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Jeff Walton.

Attendees included: Maggie Peyton, Corrie Aiuto, Jeff Walton, Susan Schmidlin, Michael Calhoun, Sye Laird, Jim Crawford, Brenda Lisle, Rick Osborne, Aaron Groth (OSU Region Fire Specialist), Sonia Reagan (OSU Extension and Columbia County SWCD Director), William Steinweg (Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District), Don Beck (Deputy Chief, Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District).

Public Comment

Special Presentation

Maggie told her story of personally experiencing fire adjacent to her house. Sonia told her story of personally experiencing loss due to fire and how she has made preparations for any future fires. Aaron presented a history of fire in the Coast Range and how landowners can prepare their property to increase chances of surviving a fire. Aaron, Sonia, William, Don, and Malcolm led a Q&A time in which they detailed ways their organizations can help landowners in the event of a fire, and also how they can help a landowner assess their property for fire risk.

Approval of minutes

Sye made a motion to approve the minutes, Rick seconded.

Reports

1. Maggie ED Report:
 - a. Annual report completed by Corrie and Maggie. We will review on our own and discuss at the next meeting in the interest of time.
 - b. Jeff has a beaver and it had constructed a dam on his property.
 - c. Upcoming OWEB meeting to discuss fiscal state of UNWC and the future. Currently includes Maggie, Jim, Susan Spicer-Pond, Corrie, Jeff, and possibly Rick. The more, the merrier - Let Maggie or Corrie know if another board member can attend.
2. Treasurer's report, see handouts.
 - a. Went over detailed monthly budget changes that occurred to COVID-19 and associated reduction in grant monies.
 - b. UNWC received a \$1600 tax refund.

Unfinished Business

1. Fishhawk Lake: Table again until next meeting in the interest of time.
2. Land acknowledgement - Sye and Michael - table again until next meeting in the interest of time
3. OWEB organizational assessment update - Need Michael's and Brenda's. Table further dicussion until next meeting in the interest of time.

New Business

1. 2021/2022 Council memberships - table until next meeting in the interest of time
2. Board positions nominations - table until next meeting in the interest of time.
3. 2021/2022 focus discussion - use committee structure as a way to increase engagement with the board members? Table until next meeting in the interest of time.

Announcements

Next meeting Thursday, February 25th 2021 at 5:30 pm. Brenda Lisle is next up in the rotate to take notes for February meeting.

2021 Tentative Meeting Schedule: (4th Thursday of every month at 5:30 unless otherwise announced)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Jeff at 7:45 p.m.

