
Upper Nehalem Watershed Council

Meeting Minutes

Call to order

A meeting of the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council was held at the UNWC office on September 26, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman, Wade Bullier. Attendees included: Wade Bullier, Susan Schmidlin, Rick Osborne, Brenda Lisle, Jim Crawford, and Susan Spicer Pond.

Approval of minutes

All present had already read the minutes which had been emailed to the Board members prior to the meeting. It was noted that Benda Lisle's last name had been misspelled in the last meeting minutes. With that correction made, the minutes were approved by unanimous vote, without a motion.

Reports

1. Susan Spicer Pond presented the financial report. She reported that even with a few line item overages, it's looking good for the fiscal year end financials to come in under the total budget. There was a short discussion about the reasons for the overage in the "Supplies" line item, which were all due to the unexpected repairs and updates needed to our server system. As of August 31, 2019 the UNWC current assets totaled \$12,949.86.
2. Rick Osborne updated the Board about the repair work going on at Fishhawk Lake. ODFW has placed a moratorium on further work to the lake under drains. Apparently there was a large release of muddy debris that caused a fish kill downstream. There were varying estimates of how extensive this was. The Solutions committee at Fishhawk Lake are working with the ODFW, DEQ and AKS Engineering to resolve this issue. Rick indicated that the scheduled repair and replace work planned for the spillway and fish ladder are still approved.

Unfinished Business

1. Final details for the October 5th Salmon Fest were reviewed. Wade will be helping with the general Festival setup, and will help Corrie Aiuto and Brenda with whatever they need to setup the UNWC area. Brenda, Corrie and Susan Spicer Pond will be manning our booth. The hours of the Festival are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It was decided to also display informational brochures and literature that are on hand at the office, as well as UNWC business cards for Maggie and Susan. It was decided not to set up the stream table due to logistics and unfamiliarity issues.
2. Jeremy Sapp confirmed via email that he does have a speaker for the October meeting. It will be Chris Razor, from Weyerhaeuser, who will speak on the topic of aerial spraying. Because of public interest in this topic, it was decided to hold the October meeting at the Vernonia Grange Hall, and post an announcement in the Vernonia's Voice. Susan Spicer Pond will contact Corrie Aiuto and ask her to prepare the press release.

3. The FY 19-20 budget was the major topic of unfinished business. There was discussion about how the cash flow of a non-profit organization, who is dependent on grants, differs from a regular business. Various options in the case of a short-fall of funds were explained and discussed. An area of concern was that the Board wanted to be sure the new budget provide a raise for the Executive Director.

Wade Bullier made a motion, which was seconded by Rick Osborne, that the Executive Director salary be raised to \$56,000 as a “place-holder” in the budget, with the payroll taxes adjusted accordingly, and that the FY 19-20 be approved as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Wade then made a motion, which was seconded by Brenda Lisle, that the Executive Director’s salary be amended, based on the CPI from 2013-19, not to exceed \$56,000 for the FY 19-20 budget. The payroll tax line items to be adjusted accordingly. That motion was passed unanimously.

Wade made a third motion, seconded by Rick Osborne that all future budgets shall provide for a cost-of-living increase for the Executive Director based on the prevailing CPI. This motion was also passed unanimously.

Wade will meet with Susan Spicer Pond on Tuesday, October 1st, to review the actual CPI findings and place the finalized numbers in the FY 19-20 budget.

No further vote on the budget will be necessary unless the CPI findings show that the salary increase would exceed \$56,000.

New Business

1. Susan Spicer Pond presented a letter from the Columbia County Land Development Services, received on September 23rd, regarding a proposed residence to be built on Pebble Creek RD. The letter requested a recommendation on the proposal to be returned by September 23rd. After some discussion, it was decided to let the Executive Director review and respond when she returns, even though the response would be late.
2. Jim Crawford presented an issue he has had recently with one of our major subcontractors, Trask Design and Construction. The incident occurred during a construction phase of UNWC project Nehalem LWD 2019. Jim’s concern in this incident is two-fold: (1) as an employee of Olympic Resource Management, who is managing the property; and (2) as a UNWC Board member and concerned citizen.

Jim had given explicit instructions to the bull dozer operator, Graham Trask, that he not drive the equipment down the steep creek banks and through the creek, which is in accordance with ODFW regulations. Trask disregarded the instructions and reminder and did so anyway. When Jim confronted him, he showed no remorse and stated that “it was done all the time” and no big deal. Jim requested that Trask repair damage to the banks and creek, and it has not been done. Jim then reported the damage to ODFW for inspection, hoping to mitigate any fines or penalties for his company, because of the violation, even though at this point, it appears the damage is moderate.

The Board thought it best to review this situation with the Executive Director, when she returns, and take no action at this time.

Announcements

The next meeting will be held at the Vernonia Grange Hall at 5:30 p.m. on October 24th.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 7:25 p.m.

Susan Spicer Pond, Secretary, Pro Tem,
in Sye Laird's Absence

Date of approval