



**UNWC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING
1.27.2022 MINUTES
ZOOM MEETING**

5:30 – Call to order. *Michael Calhoun called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.*

In Attendance:

☐ Corrie Aiuto ☐ Maggie Peyton ☐ Diane Turner Maller ☐ Michael Calhoun ☐
Eric Dewitt ☐ Rick Osborne ☐ Spence Kroll ☐ Susan Spicer Pond ☐ Stephanie
Beall

Absent:

☐ Brenda Lisle ☐ Susan Schmidlin

Michael Calhoun called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm. Corrie noted that three board members were present, but a fourth board member was needed to establish a quorum. On that basis no official decisions would be able to be made. Maggie suggested that we move forward with the meeting anyway and move through the topics that did not require a full quorum for decision making. When Rick Osborne joined the meeting, we had a quorum of four board members and could proceed with any official business.

Meeting minutes:

Diane Turner Maller respectfully submits minutes from the January 27, 2022 meeting.

• Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were made by all who were present. A guest in attendance was Stephanie Beall, Recreation Coordinator for Forest Grove and Tillamook District State Forests. All were participating by zoom.

• Public Comment

No public comment

• Announcements

- Winter Steelhead coming to a stream near you!
 - *Be on the lookout. They should be showing up soon.*
- Website rebuild on a more streamlined platform
 - *Corrie reported that the Website is down. This turn of events is similar to the last time the website went down. It involves a site migration with GoDaddy that went sour.*
 - *This is an opportunity to move forward with a migration to a completely new hosting platform. This is something that we have talked about in the past and has been difficult to do because we share a domain with the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council. Corrie and Maggie will discuss with the LNWC how to move forward. We're hoping for a much more streamlined platform and this may be a blessing in disguise.*
 - *No timeline yet to get website up again. We already know what we want the website to look like and have all the content ready to bring to the new platform so we won't be completely starting from scratch. Maggie's email still works.*

• Minutes - read and approve

- *October 2021, Diane made a motion to approve, Eric seconded the motion and there were no objections.*

• Agenda - revisions - as provided

- *Michael brought a question about the Cottonwood trees at Hawkins Park that were cut down, fell down on one of the trucks at the Jamboree. Is there a restoration plan in place? Are we involved in that or the Soil District?*
- *A second question from Michael was brought up at his public works meeting on Tuesday. There was discussion about the culvert replacement on Bear Creek. It was reported that there is a septic pipe under the creek. Michael also learned that Vernonia Falls is not a natural feature but is actually a septic pipe.*
- *Maggie responded to both questions. There is no current plan for Hawkins Park. The funding didn't work out. We have not yet re-applied to do anything with the City at Hawkins Park. It still needs to be done. Maggie is on the Parks committee so she could bring it up there when they meet next February. Maggie could look into writing a small grant.*
- *The culvert at Anderson Park on Bear Creek was a project we had funding for years ago but it turned out that there we didn't have enough funding when the size of the project turned out to be much bigger than anticipated. The grant expired because the cost went up when we discovered that the concrete in the stream was actually a sewer line. This is the same sewer line that crosses Rock Creek, above the creek. There is a natural feature that is further heightened by the sewer line. Maggie understands that the City of Vernonia may be planning to re-locate the sewer line. It would be a big expensive project. Once the city has completed the sewer line removal, we could seek funding to help restore the crossing.*

• Reports/Actions

- Executive Director, Maggie reports that she and Susan have been holding down the fort and the Council has been able to build up some funding. Things are looking up.
 - **NBP to be funded**
 - Maggie was contacted by OWEB. The Nehalem Basin Partnership Proposal ranked fifth and there is enough money to fund it. Still waiting for the official word. Excited about this opportunity. There is a three-year planning process that will involve all our stake holders. Funding includes staff support for Maggie and for Zach Mailen of Lower Nehalem Watershed Council. A consultant will be hired to facilitate quarterly meetings. The main goal is to develop projects that are in the Nehalem Strategic Action Plan and prepare them for implementation.
 - **Project updates**
 - Tweedle Creek project will be implemented next summer and is fully funded.
 - Glassy Project is still on hold until NRCS gets caught up on their removal fill permit.
 - Been meeting with the Department of Forestry to restore and streamline our partnership so that restoration projects can follow a process that is in sync with the Department of Forestry. These discussions are showing progress.
 - The Riparian Restoration Crew is still maintaining the nursery and getting trees planted.
 - **Mini COVID grant**
 - The COVID grant from Columbia County will provide \$14,700. This will be very helpful to keep the nursery alive. It will also provide some staff support funding for Susan and Maggie.
 - **Grant writing support coming**
 - There is a collaboration in the North Coast Basin with other Watershed Councils. An OWEB grant is providing funding that is shared between the councils to hire a professional grant writer to help each council write grants.
 - The Upper Nehalem wasn't originally included because we weren't in the loop when they applied. Since then, other councils have requested to OWEB that we be included.
 - **Researching Nonprofit Association of Oregon (NAO) membership**
 - Maggie plans to have the Watershed Council join the Nonprofit Association of Oregon so we can gain more access to resources for board training and other resources that may be needed. They have a great website for members to check out.
- Treasurer Report

- Susan Spicer Pond reported for Eric DeWitt.
- At the end of September, we finished our regular fiscal year. The packet of financial reports for this meeting included three separate months that represented the approved interim budget to get us through Oct., Nov., Dec. to close the year so that we could complete the change from a fiscal year to a calendar year. All paperwork has been submitted to IRS and we assume that IRS will approve the change.
- As indicated on the balance sheet for Oct-Dec 2021, the closing figure on December 31, 2021 was \$74,018.03. This is the best Susan has seen since she has worked for the watershed. Several factors impacted the closing figure:
 - COVID impacts
 - Reduced hours for Maggie and Susan
 - Grants received from Columbia County
 - Stopped using Intuit for Payroll service. Susan does Payroll totally in house now and this saves \$500.00.
- We spent over-budget by 3% during the Operating Transitional Budget period. This amounts to \$620.00 is not a big deal. We can be thankful that there has been plenty of cushion.
- Susan presented the Profit and Loss Statement for Oct-Dec as a view of expenditures for that period. There were no questions.

• **Unfinished Business**

- Fishhawk Lake - update – as provided
 - **DEQ SEP (Warner Creek, Tweedle, Riparian planting)**

Maggie reported that all judgements are in. The three violations include 1) removal of fill, 2) water quality, and 3) fish mortality.

Fish mortality ended up costing the Fishhawk Community 3.6 million dollars. 2.4 million of this amount has been transferred to the Oregon Wildlife Foundation and that money is earmarked for Nehalem Watershed Restoration. We are direct in line to apply for these projects. This brings good news out of an unpleasant situation.

The DEQ water quality violation was \$190,000. The DSL violation amounted to approximately \$24,000. Maggie was uncertain of the specific amount.

The \$190,000 DEQ funding is already in play. Three projects are ready to be implemented.

Warner Creek: A large wood placement project on Warner Creek is ready to begin. Warner Creek is tributary to the Fishhawk Lake. It flows in from below the lake and is cooler than Fishhawk so it's a great rearing and refuge habitat for the Coho. Maggie has been working with Dept. of Forestry, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and Steve Trask, our restoration consultant to lay out the project. Dept. of Forestry is donating all the trees for this project. Because not all the money in the budget was used, amendments to the original DEQ violation document were made. \$15,000 was made available for riparian restoration and will pay our crew to get 3,000 trees planted along the Fishhawk system. We will also be able to buy trees from our nursery for this project.

Community Service: Two people are being required to serve 240 hours of community service. The Columbia County District Attorney is providing oversight for these two individuals in completing their service. One person will go door to door, up and down the Fishhawk Community and talk to landowners to gain as much cooperation as possible to do riparian restoration above and below the lake and around the lake.

Tweedle Project: Approximately \$50,000 or the 190,000 total will go to the Tweedle Project near Jewell. This funding completes what is needed to implement the project this summer. Maggie has been working on this project for 14 years. The project is fully permitted and has been through every regulatory loop possible.

Work on this project will require extensive monitoring because we're going to re-locate a small stream through a wetland to connect with the Nehalem. Maggie will go out tomorrow to meet with Fish and Wildlife and with consultant to walk over the area and develop a riparian restoration plan. The Landowner is now allowing us to re-plant multiple acres into forest that is adjacent to our project. This is a lovely site in the Jewell area.

Discussion included questions from Rick about the individuals providing community service. Maggie provided information about extensive communication with these individuals as well as the district attorney. All concerned feel strongly about making sure the community service is fulfilled and helps the watershed with what wants to be accomplished. Corrie shared a Shade our Streams flyer that she created for use in the door-to-door recruitment efforts. Maggie will continue to bring updates to the Watershed board as the Fishhawk community moves forward.

Land Acknowledgement – Great talk from NWC board member and leader in the Chinook Nation, Rachel Cushman

Corrie and Maggie both attended a meeting held by the Necanicum Watershed Council where board member, Rachael Cushman, gave a talk. Corrie reported that she took away how important it is to really understand our position relative to the tribes when we undertake the creation of a land acknowledgement. The tribes are not just another stakeholder but need to be understood as sovereign nations.

Maggie also shared how she has learned a lot, not only from Rachael's recent talk but all through the time since last summer, when she has been helping with the Necanicum Watershed Council. As part of the Chinook Nation, Rachael was raised to be a leader and is currently doing a great job at that. She is bringing their history back to life.

From Maggie's research about the Upper Nehalem people, it seems that the remnant of that population was taken out of the area and moved over to the Grand Ronde Reservation. We need to go next to the Grand Ronde Reservation and find out more about those people and see if any still claim to be Upper Nehalem and then go from there.

As Maggie reflected, a land acknowledgment is more than just words. It goes very deep. Everyone's best interest would be served to understand and synchronize with the ancient tribal ways because they did manage the land a whole lot better than we are currently doing.

It is possible that a recording was made of Rachael's talk. Maggie also suggested that Rachael would likely be willing to talk with our group sometime in the future.

- **New Business**

- Bylaw Revision discussion
 - Should we revise?
 - Must happen at Annual Meeting

Discussion regarding by-law revision focused on the window of opportunity between now and 30 days before the annual meeting in April as the time for board members to work through a review and develop any revisions that are desired.

- *Revised bi-laws need to be sent out to all stakeholders 30 days prior to the annual meeting.*
- *It has been quite awhile since the bi-laws have been reviewed and updated. Now is the time.*
- *There was discussion at the October meeting and at other times about changing the bi-laws relating to number of board members needed to have a Council and the number of board members needed to constitute a quorum.*
- *Members were updated about the current structure of the Watershed Council. Business meetings are now held quarterly. Committees are forming and beginning to meet more informally to discuss specific topics. Current committees include Shade our Streams and Salmon Festival Fundraising. The Fundraising committee met in December where it was decided to switch from a big event at Camp Wilkerson to having the 25th Annual Celebration at the Salmon Festival.*
- *It was decided to have a committee meeting in February to work through reviewing and revising the bi-laws. Rick and Diane committed to participate. A copy of bi-laws will be sent out after this meeting so all have a copy. Additional board members may be able to join in the February meeting.*
- Plan for Annual Meeting
 - *We usually have a presenter and then a business meeting.*
 - ***April 28*** - *Everyone mark your calendars for this important meeting. You must attend in order to be a board member.*
- Committee Work
 - ***Schedule next committee meetings***
 - *Focus on bi-laws in February.*
 - *Re-group for Salmon Festival Fundraising in March.*
 - ***Fundraising Committee***
 - 25th Anniversary Celebration Fundraiser
 - At Salmon Festival 2022
 - “Amplify Social Impact” Online fundraising course paid for and available. **Need to take the course. Who is interested?** Work towards a “Giving Tuesday” online campaign

- *This course provides an opportunity to learn skills that enable you to reach out to an online donor base that does not have to be connected geographically.*
 - *Six months remain for the course to be available to a member who is interested in working through the modules. Corrie and Maggie plan to take the course.*
- Find reliable funding source for “Shade Our Streams” riparian restoration program
 - ***Shade Our Streams Committee***
- Board Training: **“GOVERNANCE OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS” – 1 hour**
 - *Corrie will send out a link for this training video. Everyone promises to watch.*
 - *Good opportunity to benefit from training for new and old members alike.*
- **A few more highlights from Maggie**
 - *Wild Salmon Center, an important partner to the UNWC, has acquired quite a bit of funding through a block grant that we have benefitted from. A lot of restoration work has been done as a result. They will be writing another block grant and some of our projects may qualify to be included.*
 - *The infrastructure money that is coming from the Federal government may also come into play for some of our bigger fish passage projects that are on county roads and state highways. Maggie intends to capture as much of the increased funding as possible.*
 - *Efforts toward participating in the Nehalem basin partnership is helping to build a foundation for launching future investment partnerships.*
 - *Maggie is doing some monitoring of projects now including:*
 - *Oak Ranch Creek fish passage.*
 - *Rock Creek, large woody debris project.*
 - *2018 fish passage project implemented by Weyerhaeuser.*

7:15 – For the good of the Order

- Quarterly Board meetings
 - **January 27th, 2022 - 5:30 – 7:30 pm**
 - **April 28th, 2022 - 5:30 – 7:30 pm – ANNUAL MEETING**
 - **July 28th, 2022 - 5:30 – 7:30 pm**
 - **October 27th, 2022 - 5:30 – 7:30 pm**

7:30 – Adjourn – Be well!