

Joint General Member and Steering Committee Meeting

Location: Stayton Community Center; 400 Virginia Ave; Stayton, OR

Date: April 8, 2010

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Attendance:

Role Call for Quorum: John Caruso (Chair, Marion County Citizen), Suzette Boudreaux (Economic), Bill Sanderson (Economic), Brent Stevenson (Water Control District), Bruce Rogers (City of Salem), Tom Fencil (Middle Sub-Basin), Mandy Summer (North Fork), Mike Kroon (ODF/Natural Resources), Darren Cross (Willamette USFS),

General: Eric Smith, Patricia Farrell (City of Salem), Bob Lusk, Chris Wagner USFS, Greg Taylor (USACE)

Contractors: Elizabeth (Liz) Redon and Pamela Archer

Other: Jenny Meisal, Marion SWCD, Chris Budai USACE, Mindy Simmons USACE, Kristy Fortuny USACE

7:00 PM Steering Committee Meeting Called to Order

Meeting Call to Order—Review Mission

Role Call for Quorum: Quorum established

Public Comment and Announcements:

—North Fork Weed and Clean will take place on Saturday, May 8th

—Snake Deford Community Meeting Wednesday April 21st at the Mill City Middle School

—Lifesource North Santiam Shopping Day—April 23rd, 5% of Lifesource's profits will be donated to the NSWC in honor of Earth Day

—Watershed Event/Fundraiser—June 11th with silent auction at the Calapooia Brewery. Donations of goods and services are welcome!

Approval of Minutes: Members reviewed minutes for February 2010. Brent Stevensen motioned to approve, Suzette Boudreaux seconded.

Decision: Minutes for February 2010 approved.

Approval of Minutes: Members reviewed minutes for March 2010. Brent Stevensen motioned to approve, Suzette Boudreaux seconded.

Decision: Minutes for March 2010 approved.

7:10 PM Presentation: North Santiam Noxious Weed Inventory, Jenny Meisel, Marion SWCD

- Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD):
 - Mission: protect, conserve, and improve the quality of soil and water in Marion County through planning, technical assistance and education programs
 - Non-regulatory, local agency, funded by a tax base
 - Provide technical advice
- Weed background:
 - Invasive species: organisms that do not have the natural controls that serve to limit their population in their native range
 - Noxious weeds: plants that have been designated as serious pests because the ...

- Why are they a problem: economic, lose habitat, decrease property values and crop yields.
- Marion SWCD weed inventory background:
 - Target weeds for 2009 from Marion County list: are not present yet, could prove a problem. Do not look for scotch broom, ivy, blackberry. They are already here.
 - Purpose of the project: inventory species, provide strategy using many partners
 - Survey area (map) began at whitewater creek at Marion/Linn border. Crews conducted walking 50 miles of surveys to Stayton and did lower portions of tributaries.
 - Contacted all landowners in survey areas and asked permission. 42% return on mailing, 60-70% allowed some form of access. 9 member AmeriCorps crew used for this work.
- Results: found 8 species over 3 total acres (spread over 50 miles):
 - **False brome:** grass, dropping seed heads and stalks, hairy leaf base, spikelets not stalked. Very aggressive. Can dominate entire understories, both sunny and shady. Upland and riparian species. From mill city downstream is totally infested with false brome. Serious problem
 - **Tansy ragwort:** toxic to cattle and horses
 - **Yellow flag iris:** fan shaped base. Restricts water flow in irrigation canals and ditches. Can be poisonous to livestock. Degrades fish habitat and bird nesting sites.
 - **Knappweeds:** diffuse, spotted, and meadow. Tell apart by bracts beneath flower. Purple, pink, white. Grows in range of habitats.
 - **Purple loosestrife:** Mature plant can produce 2.7 million seeds, forms dense stands, good bio-controls available.
 - **Knotweeds:** grows large, quickly, sprouts from small (0.5-1") stem fragments. Bamboo like hollow stems. Can float in river and end up downstream.
- Weeds found in survey:
 - Knotweed: above Detroit and dam, knotweed found along road.
 - False brome: Big cliff dam is first occurrence of false brome was in parking lot.
 - Many weed locations along highway.
 - Weed identification sites are more common as travel downstream.
 - Yellow flag iris: Working with the City of Stayton with some of their weedy sites already. Yellow flag iris shows up near Stayton.
- Summer 2010 will start near Stayton to Willamette confluence. Only inventorying along one side of the North Santiam, Marion County only, not Linn
- Control options:
 - Mechanical- Hand pulling/digging, Mowing
 - Chemical/herbicides- Use caution/limit use near water
 - Control help is available: Marion County weed control district: Tanya Beard 503-365-3149
- Resources available—MSWCD can help with all of these
 - Volunteer work days—
 - Grant programs
 - Marion county weed control district
 - Pacific northwest weed control handbook available online
 - Management: prevention is the most effective practice of all!
 - Cutting off seeds and flowers can help with prevention.

- Biocontrols help maintain a population and can limit the spread of plants, but they aren't meant to eradicate plants.
- Conduct restoration after weed control: native plants, especially in disturbed area
- Matt Knudsen: free tree program 503-365-3187 for riparian areas

7:45 PM Project Proposal: North Santiam Water Control District, Brent Stevensen, Water Control District

- Looking at implementing radio telemetry control system, multi year, multi phase project
 - Able to remotely monitor and control facility
 - Have alarm systems, will computerize equipment
 - Main office computer which will be accessible to others via web
- Brent has implemented these in other locations
- Large savings for summer waste spills, can be several hours of delay down canal before is apparent something is going wrong
- \$250,000 project- submitting to OWEB for \$111,000. Bureau of reclamation for \$101,000, and providing cash match of \$45,000
- Implement before irrigation season of 2011
- Requesting for NSWC to partner on OWEB application of \$111,000.

Motion: Bruce Rogers motioned to approve project and Suzette Boudreaux seconded.

Decision: Project approved to partner on OWEB application for Santiam Water Control District to implement a radio telemetry control system.

8:00 PM Presentation: Minto Fish Collection Project, US Army Corps of Engineers

- As a result of the new USACE Biological Opinion (BiOp), this is one of the first projects to be implemented in the North Santiam Watershed.
- Staff: Mindy Simmons—program manager for implementing biological opinions, Chris Bodi—manager, Kristi Fortuny—lead on fish collection facility

BiOp describes proposed operation/actions and effects on listed species. Scope of BiOp covers Willamette valley including all dams, reservoirs, and downstream habitat effects. Original BiOp was issued in 2000 and updated in 2007. The 2007 version contains legally binding documents providing actions to avoid ESA difficulties. The document covers Spring Chinook, winter steelhead, Oregon chub, and bull trout. USACE funds hatchery mitigation programs to comply with ESA requirements, which are operated by ODFW for spring Chinook and summer steelhead.

The primary effect of dams on fish is habitat dis-connectivity between the lower river and spawning habitat. Access needs to be improved for fish to be de-listed. Recovery plan puts high priority on the North Santiam River. Minto is a subcomponent of action plan. The Minto facility is 50 years old and is not designed for current uses. There are also human safety concerns.

The BiOp calls for the **Minto facility to be rebuilt** by 2014 as trap and haul facility for adult fish. Additionally, USACE will use hatchery spring Chinook to evaluate reintroduction above dams—a long process, evaluate juvenile survival in reservoir, evaluate feasibility of downstream passage by 2023 and continue flow releases to improve temperatures by 2018.

With the dams in place, NMFS wants to know if fish populations can be improved by improving habitat. Problem is inadequate or nonexistent upstream passage facilities. Fish ladders would have to be huge. Therefore, the trap and haul method works best. Have been using hatchery collection facilities designed for broodstock collection, not to safely transport ESA-listed fish. Minto would have long-term holding for adults and could hold them until cooler water came in fall for spawning. Newer facility will have a fish ladder, presort pool, sorting and spawning facility, 8 holding ponds, pump and intake structure, retaining wall. 7.5-8 acres total

Downstream effect of dams: water is too cold during summer (reservoir stratified, cold water from bottom is released, temperature signals migrating salmon that their timing is off when it really isn't). As reservoir is drawn down in fall, warmer water is released later in fall, will be too warm and cause eggs to die. Warm water accelerates emergence of salmon from eggs, months earlier than natural. One option is operational temperature control releasing warmer water in combination with cold water. ACE is concerned about using spillways on regular basis since dam is not designed for this.

Construction at Minto will take 2 years and will include blasting, excavation, and removing most of the trees. There will be construction traffic on Hwy 22 and the activities will impact river users. Will try to minimize impact during summer months. Want to work with everyone and come up with a plan to meet everyone's needs.

Cofferdams will be installed for 2 years and will have minimal extension into the river. The north cofferdam will be installed in March 2011 and the south cofferdam installed in 2010. Both will be removed in August 2012. Therefore, the river will be narrow and have faster flow. **USACE has requested that river navigation closed from Niagara to Packsaddle due to the safety hazard.** There will be public meetings on the issue. USACE has talked with the Oregon State Marine Board, who will likely approve the river closure.

During construction, the Hatchery will not be able to use existing site. Bennet site will be retrofitted to have interim fish collection as a temporary operation. Fish trucks will collect and transport fish to hatchery. 800 fish will be taken out at Bennett for broodstock.

New hatchery operations means that the hatchery will be getting fish at more times during the year. Proposal is to trap at upper Bennett only for all fish, non-marked Chinook and summer steelhead allowed upriver. Will start with adult spring Chinook and then may move toward winter steelhead. Winter broodstock program will be eliminated. The dam will still be barrier to fish passage. Ladder will have two different entrances for two different flows.

Other details:

- Summer flows will be unchanged.
- Planning on put-in for canoes/kayaks. At upstream end of property, walk up old railroad grade, put back at downstream end of ladder.
- The Minto facility will be open for public appointment only. There will be a viewing platform area for school and public viewing trips.
- \$30 million portion tax payer and portion BPA rate payer.
- 119 trees will be removed and be provided to NSWC removed with root wads intact. BiOp calls for cooperation for restoration. May donate trees as in-kind. Need to have some

mitigation. May do tree replanting. Cascade Pacific may be option for establishing MOU for Willamette Valley restoration projects. Concerned about weeds and trees.

- A written description of Minto and other plans is schedule to be done by end of May.

8:00 PM Progress Reports-

Watershed Tour will happen in July or August

Treasurer:

- Report on back of agenda. Liz has been utilizing MMT money lately so accounts look positive. Expect the other funds to be spent later. Will ask CPRC&D to add in row for MMT monies.

Operations:

- Talked about meetings and upcoming events
- North Fork Cleanup
- Fundraiser
- MMT Model Watershed: final decision at end of April. Expecting draft MOU from MMT at the end of next week. MMT Model Watershed: Will visit MMT board in early May. MOU will go through NSWC operations
- Next Ops meeting at 7:30 AM at Neufeldt's.

Projects:

- **Landowner Recruitment:** Erika is leaving the country for 2 weeks. Lots of landowners lined up. Have been successful recruiting people after stream assessments completed. Need to figure out how to communicate with people that we are interested in their project. Have more projects than staff. Need to stay in contact with the landowners. Sending postcard update to all landowners saying that we are working on X number of acres within your sub-basin. Trying to show that we are still active.
- **Snake Deford:** community meeting April 21st at Middle School, River Design Group (RDG) is submitting draft report, invited to Mill City planning commission to present as well
- **Stout:** secured OWEB grant, RDG will be doing final design at Heritage Seedling. Landowner will put "this is restoration sign" at site.
- **Hatch/Greenwoods:** waiting for weather to improve
- **Mad Creek/ODOT:** NOAA fisheries sent letter to ODOT, trying to figure out how to route money.
- **Jefferson Oaks Savanna/ Heritage Seedling:** oak savanna planting done
- **Weed Inventory and Control:** Marion Weed Control District will be cooperating with NSWC
- **Water Supply Planning:** options report to determine next steps will be available soon.
- **Cold Creek:** grant proposal submitted.
- **Upper Bennett Dam:**

8:40 PM Other Business

8:40 PM Meeting Adjourned