

**North Santiam Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes**

Joint General Member and Steering Committee Meeting

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

Date: December 11, 2008

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Attendance:

Role Call for Quorum: Present: John Caruso (Marion County Citizen, Chair), Dave Embleton (City of Salem), Mandy Summer (North Fork Subbasin), Bill Sanderson (Economic), Suzette Boudreaux (Economic 2), Tom Fencil (Middle Subbasin) and Larry Trosi (Irrigation District). Quorum confirmed.

General: Darren Cross, Dave Halemeier, Karen Hans, Barry Buchanan and Bob Lusk.

Contractors: Elizabeth (Liz) Redon

7:00 PM Steering Committee Meeting Called to Order

Public Comment and Announcements:

- John Caruso announced that the January Operations meeting will be moved to January 5 since the regular meeting time is New Year's Eve. Meetings are located at the Gardener House Café in Stayton at 4:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Members reviewed November 2008 minutes. Larry Trosi motioned to approve minutes. Mandy Summer seconded. Members approved.

Decision: November 2008 minutes approved.

7:15 PM Presentation: TetraTech on Spawning Gravel Enhancement Project

Liz Redon provided project background, explaining that the project began when the Detroit Lake recreation group came to the Council with the project concept and Army Corps also expressed interest in the project. Army Corps has funding through their Section 22 program, however, it requires match from a local organization, such as the Watershed Council. The Watershed Council secured grants and in-kind match, and Liz worked with Army Corps staff to hire one of their contractors to complete the study and design work.

Lack of spawning gravel is a limiting factor identified in several planning documents, including: the Endangered Species Act Recovery Plan for Salmon and Steelhead, the Army Corps biological opinion for the Willamette Projects and the Willamette Sub-basin Plan for the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. Since gravel is accumulating at Sardine Creek above Big Cliff Dam, Army Corps staff thought it was a good opportunity to look at relocating gravel to enhance spawning gravel and use the North Santiam as a pilot test.

TetraTech, the Army Corps contractor, provided a presentation on analysis of the North Santiam River and preliminary design for 5 potential locations to enhance spawning gravel and other habitat components (e.g. large wood placement) along the North Santiam River.

8:15 PM Decision: Water Supply Planning Proposal for Oregon Solutions

Liz Redon explained that she was contacted by City of Salem staff regarding an idea for an Oregon Solutions proposal to “develop an equitable and sustainable resource plan that

addresses environmental, social and economic needs through a collaborative effort with stakeholders, agencies and landowners (see attached for full proposal).” She explained that the process requires a local convening organization and there is a request that the Watershed Council serve this role. Members discussed what would be involved and merit of serving this role. Bill Sanderson motioned to approve the proposal and serve as the convening organization. Suzette Boudreaux seconded. Larry Trosi opposed because the Santiam Water Control District is listed as a potential partner in the proposal and he would need to get his board approval. Members discussed modifying the motion to approval pending Santiam Water Control District approval or if the Districts name is removed prior to proposal submission.

Decision: Approval of Water Supply Planning Oregon Solutions proposal pending Santiam Water Control District approval or alternatively removing the Districts name prior to proposal submission.

8:30 PM Progress Reports-

Treasurer: Liz Redon provided reports from Cascade Pacific RC&D.

Projects: Liz Redon provided projects and grants status update using the tracking table included with meeting materials (see attached).

Pending Proposed Projects:

- Upper and Lower Bennet Dams Fish Passage

8:50 PM Other Business –

- **Salem Update on Pipeline-** Barry Buchanan provided an update on the City of Salem pipeline construction project. He explained that the City has withdrawn their permit application for the pipeline construction due to the economy, the City currently has 20 years capacity and to wait for results from studies associated with the Army Corps biological opinion.
- **Bennet Dams-** Bill Sanderson expressed concern that work is not underway to better understand downstream migration problems at the Upper and Lower Bennet Dams and that City of Salem work to improve upstream migration on the Lower Bennet Dam has been delayed. Barry Buchanan explained that the Lower Bennet Dam was always on the unfunded list. Furthermore, when the City invested in the new fish ladder at Upper Bennet Dam, it was expected that it would lead to mitigation credits for their pipeline project and it did not. Therefore, the Lower Bennet Dam project is on hold to align with the pipeline permit application (which is currently been pulled) so that it can meet mitigation requirements. Members continued discussing concerns associated with downstream migration. Liz Redon explained that she has made inquiries on the project concept and has run into a couple of problems. First, technical advisors (e.g. OR Department of Fish and Wildlife) have said that while there could be problems associated with downstream migration, it is not likely to be the highest priority limiting factor for anadromous fish (i.e. there are more important problems in the basin that need to be addressed). Without technical advisor support and since funding for research or studies is so limited, it is not a very fundable project at this point. Given the state of the economy this type of funding is even more limited.

9:00 PM Meeting Adjourned