

**Joint General Member and Steering Committee Meeting**

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

Date: December 10, 2009

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 PM

**Attendance and Role Call for Quorum:**

John Caruso, Chair, Marion County Citizen  
Suzette Boudreaux, Economic  
Mike Kroon, Natural Resources  
Bill Sanderson, Economic  
David Embleton, Salem Alternate

Larry Trosi, Santiam Water Control District  
Irrigation District  
Brent Stevenson, Santiam Water Control  
District Irrigation District

**General:**

Matt Knudsen, Marion County  
Bob Lusk

Eric Andersen, Oregon State University  
Sarah Dyrdaahl, Calapooia Watershed Council

Contractors: Elizabeth (Liz) Redon and Pamela Archer

**7:00 PM Steering Committee Meeting Called to Order**

***Meeting Call to Order—Review Mission***

***Roll Call for Quorum: Quorum Confirmed***

***Public Comment and Announcements:***

Operations meetings are the last Wednesday of every month at 8:00 am, typically at Neufeldt's.

Contact Liz Redon in advance for agenda.

***Approval of Minutes:*** Members reviewed minutes for November 2009.

Correction: Page 3, 8b. NRCS cannot recommend contractors but WC can do this.

Suzette Boudreaux motioned to approve minutes as corrected, Mike Kroon seconded.

***Decision:*** Minutes for November 2009 approved.

**7:15 PM Presentation: Santiam Fish Passage Barrier Inventory Project, Eric Anderson, Water Resource Science, Oregon State University. "Prioritizing culverts to restore aquatic connectivity." Email: andersee(at)onid.orst.edu**

Background: Data gaps in assessment regarding fish passage barriers, assessment noted that 10% of culverts have been surveyed and 53% of those surveyed were impassable. NSWC partnered with SSWC and then OSU for culvert inventory and prioritization scheme to aid in decision-making. Aquatic connectivity is important, as fish need access to different parts of the stream at different times. What drives our decision to repair culverts? (1) Degree of passage impairment, (2) Biological benefit, and (3) cost of project.

Used USFS modeling software "Fish Xing" to rate culverts: culvert attributes, stream flow, fish swimming ability = passage status of culvert. Eric used winter steelhead, but can assess Chinook, cutthroat, chub, program is flexible but can sometimes overestimate barriers. Model is a "decision-aiding tool," as managers ultimately make the decision. Model takes multiple layers of information together, and using regressions, ranks the factors to come up with the ultimate prioritization score. Fish Xing gives fish passage report for each culvert: low passage design flow, high passage design flow, percent of flows passable, passable flow range, depth barrier, leap barrier, velocity barrier, pool

depth barrier.

Most culverts were impassable to adults, juveniles, or both. Most high priority culverts are in upper reaches of basin. NSWCC culverts (assessed for winter steelhead): 10 high priority, 5 medium, 15 low priority (of 30 culverts surveyed). Information will be shared with others and is already being used to direct and inform NSWCC projects.

### **8:00 PM Presentation/Discussion: Work Plan Progress Review**

Handout: North Santiam Watershed Council/Council Coordinator July 2009-June 2011 Work Plan

- *Council Objective #1: Landonner Restoration Projects*
  - Summer/Fall Project Pictures from recently completed projects:
  - Snake Deford: large wood placement, new bridge, will be enrolling in CREP
  - Stout Creek: large wood placement and vegetated soil lifts, embrace secondary channel. Have report from River Design Group which will help us do more projects.
  - Respect the River: addresses impacts of dispersed recreation—road decommissioned with fencing added
  - Associated with OWEB council support report
  - Greenwood—help with crossing, enrollment in CREP
  - Snake Deford—RDG assess river conditions
  - Valentine and Bear Branch: Meyer Memorial Trust (strategic tributaries). Sarah: lower 2/3 of Bear Branch are fine with allowing council access to lands, upper reaches are a hard sell.
  - Mad Creek: ODOT will fund this
  - Cold Creek: USFWS project waiting from spring 2010 deadline
  - Heritage seedling: oak savanna restoration, last planting will be in March 2010
- *Council Objective #2: Calapooia-Santiam Collaboration*
  - Covered last meeting, see November 2009 minutes
- *Council Objective #3: Santiam Basin Fish Passage Barrier Inventory and Restoration*
  - Eric Anderson presented progress today
- *Council Objective #4: North Santiam Watershed Action Plan*
- *Council Objective #5: “Your Watershed, Your Community” Education and Outreach*
  - Will be updating distribution lists, get the word out more to media outlets
  - Pamela Archer will help with
- *Council Objective #6: Build Partnerships*
  - More about going to meetings and interacting with other organizations
  - Comes with time commitment and Liz is serving on two boards.
  - Can re-prioritize if council wants
- *Council Objective #7: Project Partners*
  - More about the projects that come out of the partnerships
  - Upper north Santiam habitat restoration: in-stream habitat restoration where fish are relocated in stream
- *Council Objective #8 North Fork Annual Clean-Up Events*
  - Clean up will occur in spring with a weed control component
- *Council Objective #9: Council Member Recruitment and Training*

- Q. Do you like having watershed council 101 and other council “short courses?”
- A. YES, have two new members
- *Council Objective #10. Coordination Services*
  - Someone has to plan meetings and take minutes.

**8:15 PM Progress Reports-**

Treasurer:

- Budget for council support provided by Cascade Pacific. Will review projects quarterly.

Operations:

- Liz presented “Operations 101” because of new members
- Liz presented council budgets and MMT budget (see handout)

Projects:

- **Landowner Recruitment**-see “Work Plan Progress Review,” above
- **Hatch Side Channel**- see “Work Plan Progress Review,” above
- **Snake Deford Creek**- see “Work Plan Progress Review,” above
- **Mad Creek/ODOT**—ODOT called and is ready to make an agreement to work out details. Construction would happen in summer.
- **Stout Creek**- see “Work Plan Progress Review,” above
- **Heritage Seedling**- see “Work Plan Progress Review,” above
- **Weed Inventory and Control and Water Supply Planning**—working with city of Salem and water supply planning process. There is an initial report from stakeholders on whether using stakeholders for the planning process would be a good idea or not. Will be interviewing more watershed residents.
- **Pending funding: Cold Creek Culverts & Upper Bennett Dam**
- **Greenwood**—Jon Tucker working on bridge

**8:25 PM Other Business –**

Bill Sanderson: Was contacted by local fisherman regarding increased the water in Valentine Creek and the gravel backing up behind Upper Bennett Dam. There have been changes to the channels, and can only boat in the North Channel now. Flows are also restricted in that area.

**8:30 PM Meeting Adjourned**