

**North Santiam Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes**

Joint General Member and Steering Committee Meeting

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

Date: October 9, 2008

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Attendance:

Role Call for Quorum: Present: John Caruso (Marion County Citizen, Chair), Tom Fencil (Middle Subbasin), Bruce Rogers (City of Salem), Suzette Boudreau (Economic) Dave Bonebrake (Linn County), and Jon Tucker (Lower Subbasin). Quorum confirmed.

General: Darren Cross, Greg Taylor, Dave White, Erik Peterson, Scott Eden, Ron Beven

Contractors: Elizabeth (Liz) Redon

7:00 PM Steering Committee Meeting Called to Order

Public Comment and Announcements:

- Liz Redon announced that the 5th Annual North Fork Clean-Up Event is scheduled for Oct 25 at 9 am to noon. Volunteers should meet at the ODF building at North Fork Rd and Hwy 22 and lunch will be provided at the end of the event.

Approval of Minutes: Members reviewed September 2008 minutes. Suzette Boudreau motioned to approve minutes. Bruce Rogers seconded. Members approved.

Decision: September 2008 minutes approved.

7:15 PM Presentation: Army corps of Engineers Biological Opinion for Willamette Projects and the North Santiam Watershed Recommendations, Greg Taylor and Erika Petersen

Greg Taylor explained that the 1999 listing of salmon and steelhead on the Endangered Species Act triggered a biological opinion process to document impact of the dams on listed fish and to provide a list of mitigation actions. There are three action agencies under consultation for this process including the Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration and Bureau of Reclamation. The Army Corps of Engineers completed a Biological Assessment, and then National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA Fisheries and US Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Biological Opinion in July 2008. The Army Corps will evaluate actions in the biological opinion using three primary criteria including technical feasibility, biological benefit and cost/benefit analysis. The actions in the Biological Opinion under consideration fall into the following categories:

- Flow Management- There will be more accountability to meet flow targets, and there will be research to revise these targets.
- Fish Passage- Includes upstream and downstream passage at Detroit and Big Cliff Dams. First action is likely to be a retrofit at Minto Hatchery to improve trap and haul activities. Design is underway and this is likely to be a 2012 project. Also looking at different options to assist with

downstream passage including reservoir drawdown, pulsing flows, spill and other outlets. Might consider downstream passage facilities by 2023.

- Water Quality- During initial interim period, Corps will alter operations at the Detroit Dam to improve water temperature and dissolved gas conditions. Likely to install a water temperature control tower (e.g. Cougar Dam tower) by 2018.
- Habitat Restoration- Corps will work with partners to restore habitats. This will include making large wood from the reservoir available for downstream restoration. They will also establish a program for off-site habitat restoration. This will include developing a program to assess needs and identify priority projects. They will need to complete at least two highest priority projects by 2010, and complete additional habitat projects each year from 2011-2023. ***This is the area most likely will need an active partnership with the watershed council to complete work.*** The Corps will also be inventorying revetments to identify locations for removal and stream bank restoration. The Corps will begin with revetments they currently maintain.
- Hatcheries- Will work to minimize risk to wild populations. Projects in this category are primarily in the McKenzie.

There are several “authorities” that will enable the Corps to work on these projects including:

- Water Resources Development Act of 2007
- Section 3138- Upper Willamette Ecosystem Restoration. Although one of the definitions limits studies from Albany and up the Willamette watershed, Greg suggested follow-up to determine if the Santiam is still included.
- Section 4073- Ecosystem Restoration and Fish Passage Restoration

8:15 PM Nomination Committee-

Liz Redon reported that the nomination committee did not have a chance to discuss candidates but would bring nominees to the next meeting.

8:30 PM Progress Reports-

Treasurer: Liz Redon announced that she did not receive reports from Cascade Pacific RC&D.

■ **Projects:** Liz Redon gave a slide show of the summer 2008 projects on the Hatch Side Channel. She reported that the 2 additional culverts were replaced, engineered log jams were placed and noxious weed removal is underway. Over the fall and winter, Erika Lang will be working with landowners to complete native plantings along the waterway.

Pending Proposed Projects:

- Upper and Lower Bennett Dams Fish Passage

8:50 PM Other Business - None

9:00 PM Meeting Adjourned