

Fifteenmile Watershed Council Meeting

Barlow Ranger District Office, Dufur

June 27th, 2017

6:30 PM –8:30 PM

MINUTES

Attendees:

Shilah Olson, <i>SWCD</i>	Nate Woodard, <i>SWCD</i>	Abbie Forrest, <i>Coordinator</i>
Bill Hammel, <i>Co-chair</i>	Stan Ashbrook	Robert Wallace, <i>WyEast RC&D</i>
Clinton Whitten, <i>NRCS</i>	Gary VanOrman, <i>Member</i>	Katie Pierson, <i>ODFW</i>
David Brewer, <i>Member</i>	Frank Cochran, <i>NRCS</i>	Jason Keller, <i>GeoSystems Analysis</i>
Kameron Sam, <i>USFS</i>	Bill Markman, <i>Member</i>	Jim Olson, <i>Member</i>
Kathryn Arendt, <i>USFS</i>	Jeff Markman	Rosemary Furfey, <i>NMFS</i>
Kevin Masterson, <i>DEQ</i>	Kaola Swanson, <i>TFT</i>	Rob Kirschner, <i>TFT</i>
Meg Belais, <i>TFT</i>	Jason Melady, <i>GSI</i>	

Introduction, Review/Approval of Minutes

Bill called the meeting to order and added an update from the ODA tour to the agenda item announcements. Bill Markman moved to approve the minutes, David seconded and the motion passed.

Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) 2016 Sampling Results – Kevin Masterson, DEQ

Kevin Masterson presented the council with the pesticide monitoring results from the 2016 sampling season. His presentation included project history and partners, monitoring locations and timeframes, what was detected and trends. Kevin said, of the approximately 125 insecticides, herbicides and fungicides that are analyzed, there were only two pesticides detected in Fifteenmile in 2016, which is a major improvement. Two herbicides were detected, but there were not any insecticides. There was not any diuron found at all in Fifteenmile in 2016, which is a trend DEQ would like to see everywhere.

Desethylatrazine was detected three times in Fifteenmile creek at the falls, however it was detected at 0.0 ug/L and the minimum benchmark is 1000 ug/L. Glyphosate was detected once at the falls in October, at 0 ug/L and the minimum benchmark is approximately 1800 ug/L. Kevin reviewed the detection frequencies and max concentrations of herbicides (desethylatrazine, diuron, and simazine), and insecticides (carbaryl and malathion).

For a copy of this meetings presentations visit the watershed council website at http://wascoswcd.org/wcswcd_037.htm

Subsurface Storage Feasibility Study Phase 1 Report – Jason Melady, GSI and Jason Keller, GeoSystems Analysis

The phase 1 status report meeting objectives consisted of reviewing the project concept, summarizing status of work and some initial findings, and to communicate critical unknowns and engage stakeholders in identifying best ways to address issues. Jason Melady provided the council with a quick presentation overview and explained previous work on the above ground surface storage original concept study. He reviewed the predicted cost as well as explained the limited

amount of water (1900 acre feet) allowed to be diverted. The subsurface storage project has the same goal, to store water to use in the summer and leave summer flows instream. Phase 1 is a “desktop” analysis, which involves updating and tailoring common elements of surface storage study, and evaluating physical feasibility and potential fatal flaws and opportunities. Phase 2 is the field evaluation of the concept.

The council members shared concerns and discussed the pros and cons of the project, concepts, alternatives and effects of either subsurface or surface storage projects. They also discussed the elements of taking water out of the stream and putting it subsurface and then transferring that cooler water back instream in the summer.

FAST and Instream Lease Updates – Nate Woodard, Flow Coordinator & Meg Belais, The Freshwater Trust

Nate provided the council with a brief update on the FAST program. He would like to increase participation for the voluntary option FAST 2. Funders would like to see folks participate, whether it’s one day or the entire alert, the fish will benefit from all levels of participation. Participating in FAST is intended to prevent irrigators from being held accountable if there is a fish kill.

Nate also asked the council for thoughts on receiving a flow notification for the losing reach of Fifteenmile Creek. If the council would like notifications, Nate would notify irrigators via email or phone call, when he notices low or no flow. It wouldn’t necessarily be an alert but a notification that there is a risk. The council suggested Nate coordinate with the Watermaster, to figure out who is irrigating to address a low or no flow situation.

Meg Belais shared with the council updates on the future of instream leasing. She said the goal is to keep this area as competitive as possible and continue to get funding for people who want to participate. BPA is cutting funding, and future funding is not guaranteed for one year leases. Going forward, they will be looking at longer leases between 3 and 5 years. The Freshwater Trust is actively exploring options for funding.

Meg also passed out a graph sheet showing water priority dates and the current tier funding system that is being used for FAST. She said The Freshwater Trust wants to make sure compensation is fair for the various water rights and if not, will adjust tiers accordingly.

Updates and Announcements

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 5th, at 6:30PM at the Barlow Ranger Station.

Alexis Taylor the new Director for ODA is in the process of touring all counties across the state. Bill Hammel, Shilah Olson, Abbie Forrest and other SWCD and NRCS staff were able to take her out and show her around our area and share with her some of our projects. Bill was the chauffeur and took Alexis to many locations during our short time. Bill took her up to the ridge to look down into the Deschutes River and discuss the weed management plan; Stan Ashbrook’s with Robert Wallace and Deanna Sudan to discuss LEPA/LESA and the new irrigation technologies; lunch at Kramer’s to talk about the FAST program and PSP before we returned to The Dalles. Once we were at The Dalles, the tour continued to Bailey’s Orchard facility where we took a tour of the cleaning and packing process.

Katie Pierson with ODFW provided the council with a quick update on fish monitoring and Derrek's efforts. She said ODFW is losing funding through BPA so they have been working with the SWCD to apply for a grant that would fund the efforts in Fifteenmile and broaden our area and monitoring efforts. She said fish counts for juveniles were very high this year. Although numbers of fish returning is down, out migration numbers are great. ODFW exceeded their permit level of 2,500 fish, on two occasions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Minutes prepared by Abbie Forrest