

Wasco County Watershed Councils Coordinating Board

Meeting Minutes

USDA Service Center, The Dalles

Wednesday October 2, 2019

2:30PM – 3:00PM

Attendees:

Abbie Forrest, *Coordinator*

Ken Bailey, *The Dalles*

Jennifer Sampson, *SWCD*

Bill Hammel, *Fifteenmile*

Pat Davis, *Chair White River*

Bryce Molesworth, *Mosier*

Denise Stetson, *SWCD*

Welcome, Agenda Review & Minute Approval

Pat called the meeting to order and asked if there were any changes or updates to the agenda? Abbie shared she was not able to update the workplan progress report tracking sheet so that agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

Bill moved to approve the last meeting minutes as presented, Bryce seconded and the motion passed.

Watershed Council Evaluation Assessment Tool

All council chairs were sent the Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool, provided by OWEB, to review and complete based on their individual councils prior to this meeting. Council Chairs sent back their completed assessments to Abbie, who compiled and averaged out the answers from each council for each capacity element and presented the results to the Coordinating Board. Each organizational capacity has several different elements that were to be ranked based on levels that most accurately reflect the watershed councils. The four different assessment capacities that were evaluated are: leadership, adaptive, management and operational. OWEB's tool takes the capacity element rating levels and provided capacity dimension averages. This allows the board to review areas that are stronger than some and compare the elements of capacity that are strengths and areas with room for improvement. There are 4 descriptive levels, with level 1 being the lowest and level 4 being the highest possible score.

The board discussed the average answers and the compiled summary. Most of the board felt that some of the categories don't specifically apply to the Wasco County Watershed Councils as a whole. Board members said that when choosing the capacity element descriptions, they based it off what level they felt best describes their individual councils. The board agreed that the outcome of the assessment tool is a fairly accurate description of the watershed councils. They agreed that recruitment is an element that has not gotten much attention in the last couple of years and volunteer(s) management is also an area that could use improvement, across all councils. The board agreed that this is a good tool for reflection and communication between the different councils.

Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Annual Report

Abbie presented to the board the 2018-2019 Annual Report that was just completed. She briefly discussed the new layout, that included grant dollars, and more detail on individual councils and projects. Board members liked the new layout and that each council had an entire page to talk about projects and meetings.

Pat stated that he and Abbie attend the Wasco County Commissioners meeting once a year to present the Annual Report and discuss council projects. Pat suggested other watershed council folks plan on attending this year. He suggested one representative from each council share what is happening in their watershed to engage more folks than just the chairs. Abbie said she would schedule the next Commissioner presentation and report that date with the watershed councils.

Ken moved to approve the 2018-2019 Annual Report, Bill seconded and the motion passed.

Local Watershed Council Updates

Abbie provided a brief update on local watershed council happenings and their meeting schedules.

Updates and Announcements

Watershed Council Capacity Grant

Abbie shared a quick update regarding the Watershed Council Capacity Grant. She said the final request for funds has been submitted and all completion reporting was finished on September 30th to close out the grant.

OWEB Small Grant Funding

OWEB has approved the next biennium funding for the Lower Deschutes Small Grant team and applications are now being taken. If you have a project or neighbor that is interested in cost share options, have them contact Abbie.

The next meeting is scheduled for a quick check in on November 6th.

Board members discussed hosting a tour for all watershed councils to tour the county to highlight current and successful projects.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20pm.

Minutes prepared by Abbie Forrest.