



Wasco County Watershed Councils Coordinating Board

Mosier, The Dalles, Fifteenmile, White River, Bakeoven and Buck Hollow Watersheds

Meeting Minutes

USDA Service Center, The Dalles

Wednesday December 4, 2019

2:30PM – 3:00PM

Attendees:

Abbie Forrest, *Coordinator*

Ken Bailey, *The Dalles*

Bob Krein, *Bakeoven*

Bill Hammel, *Fifteenmile*

Denise Stetson, *SWCD*

Jennifer Sampson, *SWCD*

Bryce Molesworth, *Mosier*

Phil Kaser, *Fifteenmile*

Welcome, Agenda Review & Minute Approval

Bob called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve last meetings minutes.

Bryce moved to accept the minutes as presented, Ken seconded, motion passed.

Watershed Council Updates

Abbie asked Co-chairs to share updates from their individual councils.

Bakeoven watershed council will be meeting in February during the Neighborhood Meetings. The meeting date has not been scheduled but will update the website with the date as soon as possible.

Fifteenmile watershed council met on December 3rd. Denise presented the council with an update on the FAST program as well as changes to the instream leasing program. The 2020 FAST Plan was approved. There was also discussion around developing an instream leasing program like a FAST Plus, once the Freshwater Trust steps away from the program. Shay Way with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs also attended and presented an update on the lamprey monitoring from the last sampling season. Representatives from GSI Water Solutions, along with GeoSystems Analysis gave an update on the Managed Underground Storage Project. Locations have been narrowed down to 3 potential sites, and the contractors are working on building a proposal for the council to weigh the options of the 3 sites. Many council members are still concerned about the different agency's (ODFW & Freshwater Trust) that are stepping away from Fifteenmile Creek and how that will affect the council. The Board also discussed the water leasing program and how much money Water Resources Department is compensating landowners.

The Dalles council will be meeting in January. The December meeting was postponed to sync with presenters schedules. The agenda will include updates on the lamprey monitoring effort from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and hear of potential lamprey passage barriers in the watershed. The council will receive updates on the Chenoweth Creek Focus Area effort as well as hear from Ryan Bessette with the temperature data from the Mill Creek Side Channel Project.

The Mosier Watershed Council last met in October and will be meeting on January 22nd. The Council is wanting to ask the state legislature for more money to continue repairing commingling wells. They hope that by presenting the great work of the first Mosier Million, they will be able to persuade the legislature for another million to finish replacing the wells in priority zone 1 and move on to priority zone 2. Josh Thompson with the SWCD will be presenting a final report and summary of the Mosier Million project at the January meeting. Council members agree that they would like to also put more of a focus on the streams and creeks in the

watershed and implement more projects outlined in the action plan. The January meeting will start the conversation of developing a surface water subcommittee as well as having a surface water topic addressed per meeting. The hope is to do more outreach and education to irrigators and rural landowners in the Mosier Watershed about water conservation.

The White River Watershed Council will be meeting in February during the Neighborhood Meetings. Meeting date is not yet confirmed.

Watershed Council Work Plan Progress Report

Abbie provided the council with an updated Work Plan Progress Report. The list contains all current council projects and status updates. This list will also be provided at individual watershed council meetings throughout the biennium.

SWCD Annual Meeting

Abbie put out a feeler to see if the Coordinating Board would support asking individual councils to provide a gift basket for the SWCD Annual Meeting. In the past, Abbie has gone to local businesses and asked for donations that were distributed as door prizes throughout the Annual Meeting night. The board suggested limiting the gift baskets to \$100 value. It was agreed that it might help get local businesses to support their councils. Abbie will follow up with individual council members and help gather donations.

County Commissioners Meeting

Abbie and Pat are scheduled to present the Fiscal Year 18-19 Watershed Council Annual Report to the County Commissioners on December 18th. Pat suggested having Council Chairs attend the meeting and share happenings from their individual councils. The board agreed that was a great idea and asked Abbie to send a reminder to the Chairs, with meeting date, time and location.

Updates and Announcements

Neighborhood Meetings – Abbie stated planning for Neighborhood meetings is underway. The Fifteenmile, White River, and Bakeoven Watershed Council's will be hosting meetings immediately following the Neighborhood meetings. Abbie will be putting together a meeting announcement flyer and send updates once meeting dates and locations are confirmed.

SWCD Annual Tree Sale – The Dalles Watershed Council will be co-hosting with the SWCD again this year for a one-day Tree Sale event held at the USDA Service Center. Tree Sale orders are still being taken until January 31st.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.

Minutes prepared by Abbie Forrest.