



Wasco County Watershed Councils Coordinating Board

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

Meeting Minutes
Teleconference
Wednesday April 1, 2020
2:00PM – 2:30PM

Attendees:

Abbie Forrest, *Coordinator*
Ken Bailey, *The Dalles*
Bob Krein, *Bakeoven*

Bill Hammel, *Fifteenmile*
Phil Kaser, *Fifteenmile*
Jennifer Sampson, *SWCD*

Pat Davis, *Chair, White River*
Robert Wallace, *Wy'East RC&D*
Shilah Olson, *District Manager*

Welcome, Agenda Review & Minute Approval

Pat called the meeting to order and asked if folks had a chance to review the minutes from the December meeting.

Bill moved to approve the minutes as presented, Ken seconded. Motion passed.

Watershed Council Updates

Bakeoven / Buck Hollow Watershed Council

Bob shared that the Bakeoven Watershed Council hosted a neighborhood meeting back in February for folks in the South part of the County. The Bakeoven Watershed Technical Assistance grant is still underway and Karen Lamson has been working with landowners to gather a wish list of projects and priority resource concerns. The Bakeoven Watershed Council hasn't been formally recognized by the Wasco County Commissioners for a few years, after the council went offline. Now that the council has regrouped and is working towards another large restoration effort, they decided to request to be recognized again. Bob Krein, Blaine Carver, and Jerod Warnock were all formally appointed by the Wasco County Commissioners earlier this Spring.

White River Watershed Council

Pat was unable to attend the last White River meeting, so Abbie shared a quick update on the council's behalf. The White River Council also hosted a neighborhood meeting back in February at the Wamic Community Center. Several folks from the community were present to receive the agency updates from NRCS, FSA, Wy'East RC&D, OSU Extension, as well as the local SWCD. There were not any watershed council members present, so no watershed council business was conducted, and that half of the meeting agenda was postponed until further notice.

The Dalles Watershed Council

Ken Bailey shared an update from the latest The Dalles Watershed Council meeting which was conducted back in January. Shay Way with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs provided an update on the Lamprey monitoring and to discuss identified lamprey passage barriers within the watershed. She shared examples of PVC "ladders" that are installed next to fish ladders that allow lamprey to migrate upstream without the difficulty of maneuvering 90-degree angles. The council also discussed the Annual Tree Sale event that was ultimately cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis, and strict social distancing guidelines that were in place.

Fifteenmile Watershed Council

Bill briefly shared an update from the Fifteenmile Watershed Council meeting that was held in conjunction with the Dufur Neighborhood Meeting. The Neighborhood meeting consisted of agency updates from FSA, NRCS,

Wy'East RC&D as well as OSU Extension. Once the neighborhood meeting concluded the Fifteenmile Watershed Council meeting started. Items covered during the council meeting included an NRCS SNOTEL Site Winter Snowpack report from Scott Oviatt. OWRD hydrologist Jonathan LaMarche provided an update on his surface water monitoring efforts; specifically focused on the losing reach in Fifteenmile Creek and drought vs. normal precipitation years. Walter Burt, Robyn Cook, and Jason Keller also attended to provide their recommendation for a site location for the Managed Underground Storage Pilot Project. Other updates included information on the upcoming irrigation season and the FAST program.

Mosier Watershed Council

There were not any Mosier Watershed Council members present at this meeting, so Abbie provided an update on their behalf. The last Mosier Watershed Council meeting was held in January. The Mosier Million project was wrapped up, and Josh Thompson provided the council with a overview of the entire project. There were also updates on the Deep Well Project, the Derailment Site Restoration, and the NRCS SNOTEL Snowpack Report. Council members also formed a Surface Water Monitoring Group to develop a plan for monitoring water quality in Mosier Creek, and to conduct streamside landowner outreach.

Watershed Council Work Plan Progress Report

Abbie provided the Coordinating Board members with an updated list of current council projects and status updates.

Board members shared concern around scheduling meetings and how the councils will continue on with business if the social distancing guidelines are to remain in place for the foreseeable future. They also discussed purchasing Zoom or Go-To Meeting to allow watershed councils and the SWCD to continue to meet and share information.

Bob moved to approve the watershed council to purchase Zoom or any other software to use as a meeting tool and use/share with our partners to host meetings. Ken seconded. The motion passed.

Updates and Announcements

Abbie provided the council with a few quick updates and announcements. As previously stated in the update for The Dalles Watershed Council, the Annual Tree Sale was cancelled. Abbie has been working with OWEB and a merchandise company to develop a new watershed council logo. The new logo was printed on several different pieces of merchandise for watershed council swag, and was billed to the watershed council capacity grant.

The next meeting is scheduled for a quick check in on May 6th, 2020.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm.

Minutes prepared by Abbie Forrest.