

Wasco County Watershed Councils Coordinating Board

Meeting Minutes

Conference Room, USDA Service Center, The Dalles

Wednesday, October 3rd 2018

3:00-3:30

Attendees:

Abbie Forrest, *Coordinator*

Phil Kaser, *15mile Co-Chair*

Pat Davis, *WR Chair/CB Chair*

Bryce Molesworth, *Mosier Co-Chair*

Ken Bailey, *The Dalles Co-Chair*

Tatiana Taylor, *SWCD*

Robert Wallace, *Wy'East RC&D*

Shilah Olson, *SWCD*

Bill Hammel, *15mile Co-Chair*

Welcome

Pat called the meeting to order at 3:00PM

Council Updates

Abbie asked each of the councils to give a brief update of what their councils had been doing.

Fifteenmile WSC- Phil Kaser

Phil explained that the Fifteenmile Managed Underground Feasibility Study was ending, and the council heard a final report at their meeting in September. Phil expressed his concern that few senior water right holders attended the September meeting. There is another meeting on November 6th to further discuss the project. Phil noted that it is extremely important to have irrigators at the meeting to express their opinions on the project.

Shilah Olson mentioned that the consensus is that irrigators are neutral on the project, provided no extra work is required on their part. There are some exceptions that are against the project, however the majority of the council and irrigators are interested.

Ken Bailey noted his belief that if regulation continues to get stricter on Fifteenmile, irrigators may show more interest. Phil expressed his concerns about the operations and maintenance of the project if it were to get implemented. He views that dilemma as one of the biggest points of concern for the project.

Robert Wallace mentioned that there are still big efficiency gains to be made in Fifteenmile. There are only a couple pivot irrigation systems in the valley, and many of those could benefit from sprinkler upgrades. Robert noted that he is not discouraging the water storage program but is emphasizing the projects that could still be implemented.

Mosier WSC-Bryce Molesworth

Bryce explained that the well driller is still in progress for the Mosier Million Project.

Abbie mentioned that Mike Igo had been in contact with her regarding Acorns. He will have Acorns at the Mosier WSC Meeting on October 24th that are ready to be planted.

The Dalles WSC- Ken Bailey

Ken explained that the council had met in September and heard updates from biologists with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs in regards to their lamprey studies. The council also received updates on the Mill Creek E.coli sampling and the recent changes to the Annual Tree Sale. The council is planning on co-sponsoring a day for the annual tree sale to perform outreach and promotion of the watershed council.

Ken mentioned the Yamhill SWCD rents out the fairgrounds and has their plant sale over three days. The event brings in approximately \$10,000 worth of plants.

White River WSC- *Pat Davis*

Pat explained that the council received a presentation from the Forest Service about their Rocky Burn thinning project. The council discussed the piping project on Juniper Flat, which is a huge water savings project. Pat mentioned the potential for electricity generation due to the high amounts of water year-round.

The council heard updates on the RCPP program and the joint diversion and fish screen project on Threemile Creek. The project was intended to save 3cfs in the ditch, leaving 1cfs back instream for fish habitat. Currently the creek is 100% allocated for irrigation and goes dry. Unfortunately, the grant to OWRD did not go through and the NRCS funding will run out before this application can be resubmitted.

Abbie mentioned that she would invite Courtney Schaff to the November meeting, when the annual report will be approved.

Adjourn

Pat Adjourned the meeting at 3:30PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 7th, 2018.

Minutes by Tatiana Taylor