

South Santiam Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday January 16, 2018

Attendance: Eric Andersen, Katie Kohl, Nancy MacHugh, Lee Peterman, Nancy Gilmore, Ken Crouse

The group met at the Lebanon Public library at 3pm with welcome and introductions.

The November meeting minutes were approved with minor edits.

The Council board approved the second quarter financials. Eric explained what the financial forms contain and how to read them.

Eric discussed the upcoming departure of our shared project manager with the North Santiam Watershed Council. The SSWC and the NSWC have shared staff for several years. In the last year and a half there have been two project managers that were employees of the NSWC, but also did work for the SSWC on a contract basis. Those individuals have all left to take different jobs. The reasons generally being career advancement, pay increase, full benefits and stable non-grant reliant funding. It is understood that staff will eventually take other jobs and advance their careers. The SSWC must then find replacement(s). Eric is working with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to hire one of their employees, Jean Paul Zargola, for the planting season and possibly beyond. JP is an experience project manager that currently serves as the Luckiamtute Watershed Council's project manager. JP's hourly rate is higher than Tyler's and this will have an effect on how fast the grant funds will be spent. The current planting season and upcoming year are well planned out with identified activities (e.g. planting) scheduled. JP will be overseeing the planting season at several sites on Upper Thomas (Doornebal, Hendricks), Crabtree (Doerfler, Hafner), lower Hamilton (Springbank, Tye, Udell) and light interplanting at Studhorse Creek (Mang). Tyler and JP will tour sites to get JP up to speed prior to February 1 planting start date. Rosario has been informed of the change as have the landowners.

The SSWC needs to make a decision on a long term solution on who will be acting as the Council's project manager. Currently Eric would work with Tyler on existing and new projects. In the future it may be best to go with JP for overseeing some of the existing or new projects, with Eric overseeing a other projects and/or providing guidance as needed. The Council currently has several open grants and projects at different stages of development, as well as 2 pending OWEB applications (e.g. restoration and stakeholder engagement).

Additional projects that are ongoing include the final wrap of the South Santiam All Lands Collaborative grants from the Ford Family Foundation (action grant) and an Oregon Department of forestry grant that is administered by OWEB (Trout Creek).

Because the grants are in the SSWC name, we are required to complete grant reports and work with funders on closing out the grants, changing grant deliverables, etc. Eric is completing the final report for the Ford grant which is due on Feb 28. Any unspent grant funds will be returned to Ford (~13k). There is a bank account for SSALC that will be closed once funds are returned to Linn County, city of Sweet Home and the SSWC as per instructions from the Oregon Department of Justice, Charitable Activities division. Eric is helping to arrange a stewardship contracting workshop as part of fulfilling the grant requirements of the Trout Creek grant, which closes March 30. The USFS, Jane Barth and others are taking the lead on the workshop. The SSWC is taking a supporting role. Other additional projects include the Partners of the South Santiam which is behind on a start date.

Board elections are planned for March 20. Norm Kaldahl has stepped down from his role as board chair after 12 years of service. The Council will be selecting a board president this spring. Our board member Rob Emmons, city of Lebanon representative, has taken a job with the city of Albany and will no longer be able to serve. We are currently looking to recruit a new board member for that position. Lee Peterman will be reaching out to the small woodlands association to see if there is any interest from members of that group. The Council is looking for representation from the agriculture community. All other board members will be reaching out as well.

Angela was not present to give an update on the education program but Eric updated the group. The Youth Watershed Council Lebanon chapter is in recruitment stage due to a large number of students who graduated last spring. There is currently one member. The YWC Sweet home chapter also had some participants graduate last spring, but there are currently some who are participating. Recruitment is an ongoing aspect to YWC as students graduate and naturally cycle through the program. The 2018 Outdoor School is expected to have 474 student participants, which is a very high number. Angie helped the Lebanon and Sweet Home school districts write the grants for ODS funding. Full funding was secured which will pay for Angela's ODS time. Securing education funding is still a challenge due to OWEB's priority change away from education grants, which has allowed us to build the education program. This coupled with Angela's decision to accept a job with the city of sweet Home in April of 2018. The Council is currently determining what direction the education program should take in terms of program focus and staffing. For example, is the position switched to part time or a contractor? Do we eliminate or reduce some elements of the program (YWS, SalmonWatch, ODS, etc). The education committee is working through realistic options so we can determine what direction to take this spring.

Eric requested an employee review and provided a template that board members could use for evaluation. Angela will also have an employee review. The board will provide feed back in March.

Eric is setting up speakers for the year, with a focus on water and water quality. Potential topics included proposed cooling towers on Santiam river dams, an informational talk on the LaComb irrigation district, a talk about water rights from the new water master, water efficiency, water treatment plant operation, drinking water testing and land use change in the Willamette valley.

The dates for SSWC meetings in 2018 are Feb 13, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, August 21, September 18, October 16 and November 20. All meetings are from 3pm to 5pm and at the Lebanon Public Library. The BBQ and projects tour is tentatively scheduled for July 20. The holiday luncheon is tentatively scheduled for December 7.

Lee Peterman noted that the Linn County Small Woodlands Association will have their annual seedling sale and goods from the woods on Saturday Feb 3 from 8am until 12pm at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 5pm.