



Hood River Watershed Group

*"...to sustain & improve the
Hood River Watershed through
education, cooperation, & stewardship"*

OCTOBER 22, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Watershed Group Members Present

Chuck Gehling	John Buckley	Shane Keep	Phil Simpson	Sam Doak
Cindy Thieman	Heather Hendrixson	Megan Saunders	Susan Hess	Jurgen Hess
Jim Wells	Greg Short	Alix Danielsen	Dac Collins	Ashley Aversa
Andrea Sapuay	Larry Martin	Brian Nakamura	Gary Asbridge	Dan Spatz

Welcome and Introductions

At 6:05pm, Chuck Gehling welcomed everyone to the October meeting and started a round of introductions. There were 20 people in attendance.

Review and Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

Chuck asked if there were any corrections to the September minutes. No changes were noted and the group approved the minutes.

Monthly Informational Presentation

Alix Danielsen, Watershed Restoration and Outreach Project Manager at the Watershed Group, presented on the *Clean Rivers Coalition: An Introduction to Oregon's Statewide Clean Water Outreach Campaign*. The Clean Rivers Coalition, Oregon's new clean water outreach coalition, is a voluntary collaborative that brings together local government, state and federal agencies, watershed councils, SWCD's, and water related non-profits. The CRC is developing a statewide outreach platform and a new outreach campaign that combines science and Community Based Social Marketing. The campaign will be informed by stakeholder feedback, a public survey, and the development of a pollutant risk database that the CRC used to help prioritize water pollutants. As a member of the steering committee, Alix gave an overview of the CRC, the pollutant risk database she developed, public survey results from DHM, and how people can benefit from the CRC campaign.

Introduction to Columbia Insight

Susan Hess and Dac Collins gave an overview of Columbia Insight and how it began. Susan encouraged folks to become a member, to let them know what you want to hear, and to tap into the resources on their website (columbiainsight.org). Dac further expanded on their focus on water and highlighted some of their recent stories on water. They write about who is using our water – salmon, people, farmers, utilities and water management agencies, and recreators. Recent stories have focused on efforts to reintroduce salmon above the Grand Coulee, the Hanford Journey event, the Kingsley Reservoir Expansion Project updates, and the Columbia River Treaty Negotiations.

Old Business

Proposed Watershed Group logo

The design of the new HRWG logo has been through several rounds of edits, incorporating feedback from members at the annual picnic and the September meeting, the Operations Committee members, and staff. Alix and Cindy asked for any final input on the proposed version of the logo. *The group provided second consensus approval for the proposed final logo design.*

Hood River Delta Fish and Water Temperature Monitoring – OWEB grant

At the September meeting Cindy had introduced the plan to apply for an OWEB grant for monitoring temperature and fish presence at the mouth of the Hood River and Nichols Basin. However after a meeting with ODFW, the

Port, and the Tribes, it was clear that there wasn't enough agreement on monitoring methodologies. It may be a project for next fall, but for now, the OWEB grant is on hold. Phil asked how much money we were going to ask for. Cindy said between \$50,000-100,000.

CIG Pipeline Pollinator Habitat Project

Alix provided general background on the project and noted that the grant agreement was signed within the last month. Alix is working to kick off the project in the next few weeks. Cindy noted that the grant application came up while the Watershed Group was on summer hiatus (June-July), which is why we are asking for post-grant award consensus. *The group provided post-grant award second consensus approval for the CIG Pipeline Pollinator Habitat Project.*

Reports and Announcements

Coordinator Report:

Action Plan – Cindy noted that a Request for Qualifications was sent out to three local companies for work involving looking at the Action Plan from the science perspective. The work could include GIS analysis, map creation for the Restoration Strategy document, compilation and organization of existing relevant data, monitoring protocol review, development of a monitoring database, and an independent science review of the Restoration Strategy. RFQs were submitted by Cramer Fish Sciences, WPN, and Interfluve. Cindy worked with Heather Hendrixson and Kathryn Arendt to review the submissions and they have honed in on two of the three for contracts.

Cindy also noted that fish sampling was done at the Odell Dam Removal project site with CTWS. Approximately 17 cutthroat trout were found. After data collection, the fish were returned to the creek.

Project Manager Report:

Alix gave a brief update on current projects, including kicking off the Financial Plan process with Fresh Take, the OWEB grant resubmission for the Neal Creek Instream Habitat Restoration Design Project, the progress of the DID Distribution Pipeline Project, the HRWG website, Salmon Days, and the West Fork Jones Creek planting.

Member Announcements:

Phil Simpson announced that they have just finished screw trapping and pulling out the traps. It was a good fall – they tagged over 1,000 juvenile steelhead and Chinook. They are also trying out a new system for tracking/survivability modeling to understand what is going on with fish in the fall (some are leaving as juveniles in the fall, and some are showing up at the White Salmon).

Megan Saunders thanked those that helped with the FID salvage. She noted that the return flow side channel seemed to be providing very good habitat – lots of fish were found there. The shutdown ended last week, but water is really dirty so they aren't running much. FID is still waiting on the Kingsley Reservoir permit.

John Buckley noted that the water was very high and dirty now. He drove up to Clark and Polallie: over 400 cfs at Polallie and 1100 cfs at Tucker Bridge; probably from overnight warming. EFID cut water back and found a 17 inch lamprey by the sand trap.

Summary of Consensus Items and Establishment of Next Meeting

Items that Received First Consensus:

None.

Items that Received Second Consensus:

- HRWG approval of the final logo design.
- HRWG approval of post-grant award second consensus approval for the CIG Pipeline Pollinator Habitat Project.

The next Hood River Watershed Group meeting will be November 26, 2019.

Adjournment

Chuck thanked the group for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:52 pm.

Reported by: Alix Danielsen