



Hood River
WATERSHED GROUP

Hood River Watershed Group

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

DECEMBER 28, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Watershed Group Members Present

Chuck Gehling	Cindy Thieman	Alix Danielsen	Sam Doak	Ryan Gerstenberger
Steve Pappas	Heather Hendrixson	Brian Nakamura	Patrick Hayden	Greg Short
Megan Saunders				

** This meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom.

Welcome and Introductions

At 6:06pm, Chuck Gehling welcomed everyone to the December meeting. There were 11 people in attendance.

Monthly Informational Presentation

No informational presentation this month.

Review and Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

Chuck asked if there were any corrections to the November minutes. The group approved the minutes.

Old Business

Letter of Support for EFID WaterSMART Grant for the Oanna-Yasui sub-lateral pipeline project

Cindy explained that this is one of the sublaterals off the Central Pipeline and the piping of it would eliminate eight overflows. The project would pipe approximately 11,000 feet, which is still only about half of the total length. EFID asked for \$2 million, and the total project cost will be around \$3-4 million dollars.

The group provided second consensus to write a letter of support for the EFID WaterSMART Grant for the Oanna Line.

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Grant Application

Cindy walked the group through a spreadsheet that breaks out the scope of the application, the estimated costs of projects, and the estimated match. The scope includes habitat restoration, water conservation, water quality, and technical assistance projects. The total amount the partnership plans to ask for is about \$6.5 million, which will be spread out across a six-year slice of the projects included in the Strategic Action Plan. The group discussed details about the Tony Creek fish passage project, Dee diversion options, and details about the grant application itself.

Heather expressed concern about not having all the grant details prior to providing second consensus and would like time to review the grant before it is submitted. Brian noted that the grant application is more of a framework for what will be done over the six-year body of work. Cindy confirmed this and added that OWEB is investing in the partnership and the types of projects and outcomes. They are also reviewing the application in terms of feasibility and partnership effectiveness.

There are a few details to still work out, including biennium budgets and capacity. Cindy will work with partners to flesh out these details over the next two weeks.

The group provided second consensus to submit an OWEB Focused Investment Partnership grant application.

501(c)(3) development: review and feedback on organization narrative; plan for upcoming meetings

Cindy walked the group through the organizational narrative that was developed over the last month as part of the process of developing draft bylaws. The intent of the document is to provide a starting point for discussion about the possible structure, governance, and membership of a non-profit HRWG. The document includes details about the board of directors, the HRWG membership and committees, decision-making, and the CEO/executive director.

Cindy asked the group if anyone had thoughts on whether there should be pre-designated positions for the board. Sam explained why he feels there shouldn't be pre-designated positions, largely because the board should be populated by people who are invested in the organization and are willing to do the work. Others agreed. Brian Nakamura suggested that a stakeholder group or committee could be created that could serve as an opportunity for representation of specific interests. Megan expressed interest in making sure that irrigation district representation (and other interests) is reflected somehow, perhaps in the bylaws.

Cindy asked the group for thoughts on whether the group should continue to use the double consensus model as a nonprofit. Chuck, Megan, Greg, and Sam all thought double consensus would not be effective at the board level.

The next bylaws committee meeting is January 14th to continue the process of refining draft bylaws. A draft will be ready for review at the January Watershed Group meeting.

Reports

Watershed Coordinator updates – Cindy has been working on the FIP app.

Restoration and Outreach Project Manager updates – Alix has been assisting with the FIP application, has been working on 501c3 documents, submitted DID annual reporting to OWRD, participated in a meeting with ODFW to discuss the Tony Creek fish passage project, oversaw the road improvement project at Neal Creek site 1, and worked with BPA on refining the Neal Creek Phase 2 project design.

Announcements

Brian noted that EFID has been working on getting a temporary construction easement from the County so that they could proceed with their piping project, but it has been delayed because Mikel Diwan is leaving.

Ryan noted that it is a slow time for fish, but 2022 forecasts show that it might be a better year for Chinook. Ryan expects it could be a more normal year/~1,000 fish year here in the Hood.

Summary of Consensus Items and Establishment of Next Meeting

Items that Received Second Consensus:

Approval for the letter of support for the EFID WaterSMART Grant for the Oanna Line.
Approval to submit an OWEB Focused Investment Partnership grant application.

The next meeting will be on January 25th from 6-8pm.

Adjournment

Chuck thanked the group for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:56 pm.

Reported by Alix Danielsen.