



Hood River Watershed Group

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

NOVEMBER 28, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Watershed Group Members Present

Ryan Cole	Chuck Gehling	Jeff Hunter	Judy Nelson
Laura Street	Tom Rousseau	Sandi Rousseau	Dawson Farr
Les Perkins	Jordan Kim	Janeen Tervo	John Buckley
Greg Short	Brian Nakamura	Sam Doak	Rob Reagan
Lucius Caldwell	Craig DeHart	Lauretta Burman	Diana Burman
Steve Pribyl	Jim Wells	Anne Saxby	Megan Saunders
Cindy Thieman	Chuti Fiedler	Rick Ragan	Stephanie Perkins
Chip Andrus	Diane Hopster	8 robotics team members	

Welcome and Introductions

At 6:00 pm, Chuck Gehling welcomed everyone to the November meeting. He thanked everyone for coming and invited everyone to introduce themselves. There were 38 people in attendance.

Review and Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

After reading the group's mission statement, Chuck asked if there were any corrections to the October minutes. No changes were noted and the group approved the minutes.

Monthly Informational Presentation

Chuck introduced Diane Hopster and Ryan Cole from the US Forest Service for their presentation "Eliot Branch Debris Flow". The recent debris flow occurred on October 22nd. Brian Nakamura asked how fast the flow would have moved. Debris flows are hard to measure in the field, but some modeling has been done. The advancing front was probably moving about 35 mph. Jeff Hunter asked how much material moved down. Some material made it to the Columbia, but they don't know how much.

Chuck introduced Craig DeHart with MFID for his presentation on the Eliot debris flow. Rick asked if anything happened in Coe Branch. Coe has a large basin about a mile above MFID's infrastructure where debris can drop out. Chuck asked what will be done to the stream. Kat at the USFS is working on that. Cindy asked when the road would reopen. Janeen Tervo didn't have a date yet.

Chuck thanked Diane, Ryan, and Craig for their great presentations. The audience gave them a good round of applause.

~Short Break~

New Business

Cindy reviewed the draft communication and outreach plan. Cindy, Megan, Chuck, Sam Doak, Greg Short, and Mikel Diwan developed the plan over about 14 months of meetings. Operations Committee reviewed it at their October meeting. The communication and outreach plan will be incorporated into the strategic action plan process. It identifies communication goals and objectives, identifies target audiences, and prioritizes communication and outreach activities. Indicators of success need to be developed. The plan's goals include: establishing a unique organizational identity, educating the community about the watershed to inspire actions, and keeping committed HRWG members informed and engaged. Audiences include the community at large, young adults, community organizations, local businesses, orchardists and farmworkers, streamside landowners, rural residential and urban landowners, school-age children, and HRWG members. Cindy noted that the Latino community will need to be engaged within all of these audiences. She also noted that these audiences are not exclusively the audience of the HRWG. Cindy reviewed individual actions for each goal and audience.

Laura Street asked about the HRWG mission. Chuck reads the mission before each HRWG meeting and it is within the pre-meeting slideshow. Cindy mentioned that people receive information in multiple ways (e.g. visual, auditory, etc.). She suggested the mission and a map could be posted on the wall. Chuck suggested a video introduction. Jeff thought the plan looked great. Rick Ragan asked about volunteer projects. Some people are not interested in meetings. Activities could draw in folks who like to get their hands dirty. The subcommittee had discussed a list of standing projects that folks could help with. Greg asked about recreation groups. The subcommittee had discussed these groups, but struggled with what behavior change we'd want or what strategies could be used to capture them. Cindy mentioned that CTWS is not currently an audience because the group had been thinking of them as a core partner, like the irrigation districts. She asked about tribal members as a separate audience. Brian Nakamura thought tribal members should be getting updates about what CTWS staff were doing, but not from the HRWG. The group does not need to provide consensus on the plan until it is finalized with the strategic action plan.

Anne Saxby presented the FY 16-17 budget actuals. The budget is developed based on estimates of income and expenses for the coming fiscal year. The budget actuals show the real income and expenses. The income from projects is not the total project cost, but the amount that was retained after project implementation. Expenses include direct costs and SWCD costs. Direct costs are personnel costs for Cindy and Megan, who are tasked specifically with HRWG duties, as well as rent, copies, etc. expenses which are split 50:50 between the SWCD and HRWG. SWCD costs are time Anne, Jordan, and Kris spent on projects, fiscal management, or employment oversight. These hours are from the time tracking system. Outreach and personnel/fiscal management is split 50:50 between the SWCD and HRWG. FY 16-17 was a good year. More money was retained. Chuck pointed out that income was \$15,000 more than estimated and HRWG ended the year net positive.

Old Business

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership put in for an OWEB technical assistance grant for the Middle Mainstem Columbia Restoration Action Plan project. They've asked the HRWG for a letter-of-support. There were no questions or concerns. *The group provided second consensus approval for a letter-of-support for the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership Middle Mainstem Restoration Action Plan project.*

Reports and Announcements

Cindy presented her monthly Coordinator's report. The strategic action plan is gearing up with the first meeting in December. The facilitator will be Shawn Morford with NOWC. Shawn is very experienced. HRWG expects to hire a science contractor later this winter. Cindy is also working on wrapping up the Odell Dam and Whiskey Creek projects. Brian asked about the Water Bank Feasibility Study. There are no updates.

Megan presented her monthly Project Manager's report. The DID distribution piping OWEB grant has been submitted. The OWEB review team will be touring the project tomorrow. Megan has been working on small grant applications for January.

John Buckley reported that EFID's Highline piping project has another month to go. The EFID ditch salvage captured about 300 lamprey ammocetes and the usual number of other species. Rob Reagan reported that ODFW has everything out of the river currently. Chuck noted that the channel at the mouth of the Hood River is different.

Jordan Kim noted that the County defunded their weed program, but the state is starting a grant program for counties this year. The SWCD would be eligible to apply if they are the designated weed entity, so they have been temporarily designated as the Hood River County weed entity. They are applying for funds to address weeds of concern. The SWCD recently received funding for two properties ODA identified as "significant concern" in their SIA process. They are working with the landowners to fix the problems by next summer. CTWS has also provided fencing material to some landowners. The SWCD may also piece together other funding from DEQ 319, OWEB small grants, etc. to help.

Brian mentioned that ODA led a tour for FDA personnel on the Food Safety Modernization Act. The tour looked at how irrigation practices affect food safety. Growers are concerned about the water quality testing requirement. The current rules require 5-10 *E. coli* samples annually for each takeout, which is expensive.

Summary of Consensus Items and Establishment of Next Meeting

Primary Consensus items addressed tonight:

- none

Secondary Consensus items addressed tonight:

- HRWG approval of letter-pf-support for Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership Middle Mainstem Columbia Restoration Action Plan grant application.

The next Hood River Watershed Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

Adjournment

Chuck thanked the group for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm.

Reported by: Megan Saunders