Lower Columbia River

Watershed Council

Working toward balanced ecosystems that support healthy watersheds and sustainable natural resources

to support an economic base and viable communities

Draft

Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2019

Chairman Ian Bledsoe called the September 17, 2019 meeting of the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, held at the Clatskanie P.U.D. Building, to order at 7:00PM.

Council members present: Ian Bledsoe (Chairman), Chip Bubl, Gary Olson, K.C. Van Natta (Council Co-Chair), Agnes Petersen, Marilyn Van Natta (Secretary), Gary Soderstrom, and Randy Bergman.

Others present: Paul and Heather Gibbons, Alex and Julie Broquet, Al Petersen, Mark Kohn, Terry \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and Allan Whiting (Council Coordinator).

**Public Comment:** Agnes Petersen spoke on the subject of recruiting new board members and the history of the founding of the organization.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the August 20, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the corrected minutes was made by Chip Bubl and seconded by Gary Soderstrom. Motion passed.

**Financial Report:** The financial report was read and reviewed by the board.

**President’s Message:** Chairman Bledsoe spoke about board improvement and improved projects.

**PRESENTATION:** The subject of native plants was presented by Chip Bubl and Allan Whiting. The history of the introduction of reed canary grass to Western Oregon and its interference with native plants was the topic. It may have seemed like a good decision at the time, but its deterrents have surfaced since. It has a high genetic plasticity that allows the grass to turn on the appropriate genes for the conditions present. Canary grass has alkaloids that limit weight gain in livestock, and has been shown to limit whitetail deer recovery.

Management options would include: flooding the land with two feet of water from spring to fall; mechanical removal, being difficult to attain; and an herbicide option that would be excellent initially, but not complete, and with a residual effect of the herbicide.

The subject of when to plant a treated stand was discussed, as well as the possible competing plants. The plants that might compete with canary grass were also discussed. They included willows, red osier dogwoods and other conifers that could get established.

**Proposed Quaterly Schedule of meetings:** Discussion was held regarding the number and placement of board meetings. A proposed quarterly schedule of October, January, April and June with an annual site visit in July was suggested. Agnes Petersen moved to accept this proposal. There was no second, and the motion was withdrawn. There continued a discussion of six meetings per year, held as determined by the chairman of the board and the co-ordinator. Chip Bubl moved to accept this proposal. It was seconded by Gary Soderstrom. Agnes Petersen called for the question. Motion passed.

**Project Updates:** Coordinator Allan Whiting reviewed project updates.

Sauvie Island Wildlife area – restore access to backwater wetlands for salmon, comparing canary grass to wapato, difference in elevation (vegetation – elevation survey).

Westport Slough - questions regarding changing cattail and other grasses. Natural changes of greater or less water discussed. Islands are growing due to sediment deposits. Channel is deepening, also.

Friends of Fox Creek – There is a second planting project. It includes the city of Rainier, the SWCD and students from Rainier Schools to be involved in planting next year.

There are two projects under discussion for an OWEB grant: one on Conyers Creek and the other on Carcass Creek. A preliminary design for Conyers Creek was presented. Discussion of access to the project land was discussed. The Carcass Creek project is below the falls and includes some side channels. It was suggested we combine a meeting with ODFW.

The subject of chum salmon in Clatsop County was also discussed. It was suggested that a presentation at the next meeting might cover this subject.

**Old Business:** SAP action was tabled. Allan will make some changes before the next meeting.

Next meeting will be held in October or November, to be decided.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bledsoe at 9:02PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Van Natta, Secretary