



The Dalles Watershed Council

Fostering stewardship of Threemile, Mill and Chenowith Creek Watersheds

Wasco County SWCD 2325 River Road Suite 3, The Dalles OR, 97058

Phone: 541-296-6178 x102 Fax: 541-296-7868

October 15, 2020

5:00 pm via teleconference

Attendees:

Martha Blair, *Member*

Abbie Forrest, *Coordinator*

Drake Gilbert, *SWCD*

Ken Bailey, *Co-Chair*

Ryan Bessette, *SWCD*

Smita Mehta, *DEQ*

Katie Pierson, *ODFW/NRCS*

Although the council meeting lacked a quorum, council members present agreed to review and discuss the agenda items and table any council business until the next meeting.

Informational packets containing details on each agenda item were provided to council members, the watershed distribution list and posted on the watershed council website, prior to the meeting.

Agenda Review and Minute approval from last meeting

There was not a quorum for this meeting, so minute approval was tabled until the next meeting.

Mill Creek E.coli Monitoring Results and Sample Analysis Plan (SAP) – Drake Gilbert

Drake prepared an overview of this Summer's E.coli monitoring results and drafted a SAP for the council's review. Drake explained there were more samples that had been gathered since the completion of this report, however he felt it prudent to provide the council with this information sooner rather than later. The extra data that was gathered will be analyzed and he plans to compare average concentrations. This new information will be presented at the next watershed council meeting. Ken suggested comparing the pre-liminary data from this time last year with streamflow.

The skyline tributary and Mill Creek at 5.6 were the two locations that had E.coli levels that were consistently surpassing the benchmark levels for recreational waters. Drake explained the site selection has been narrowed down to 6 sites (previous years had upwards of 12 sample sites), that were sampled the entire season without any variation. Next year he plans to pinpoint more sampling locations around Mill Creek 5.6 and upstream of the Skyline tributary, to determine where the cause of the high concentrations. One goal is to sample skyline for more than just caffeine, but that will be a discussion for later on when there is a quorum. There are not many locations or contributors in the Skyline area, as most of the water is subsurface. It was recommended to identify individual parcels and chat with those landowners and gain access/permission to sample from their property. Drake will work on identifying parcels this winter, and reach out to those folks in March, when he returns full-time with the SWCD. Smita asked if anybody had chatted with the folks from the City about sewer lines? Abbie says she has worked with Council Co-chair and City worker Steve Byers, in the past. Most all of the lots along Skyline are out of City limits.

The SAP is required by DEQ as part of the volunteer water quality monitoring program, and has recently been updated. Drake has incorporated new language with the guidance from DEQ as well as more information on the current status of the Mill Creek project and the council's goals. A draft has already been submitted to DEQ for review, and will be available for the council's approval by the next meeting. Martha and Ken both complimented Drake on his good work, updating the SAP.

Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) 2020 Monitoring Results – Abbie Forrest

Kevin Masterson with DEQ, provided the most recent PSP monitoring results through June 2020 for the council. Although Kevin wasn't able to attend the teleconference, Abbie reviewed the information that he

provided. There were 6 pesticides or pesticide degradates (breakdown products) were detected in Wasco streams between March and June 1st, 2020. Glyphosate had 2 detections, AMPA (Glyphosate degradate) had 4 detections, 2-Chloro-4-isopropylamino-6-aminopyrimidin-3(1H)-one (atrazine or simazine breakdown product) had 6 detections, DEET (mosquito repellent) had 5 detections, Hexazinone (Velpar) had 3 detections, and Malathion had 1 detection. Kevin's overview stated *"These findings match up with previous years' monitoring results (to date) fairly well. There's nothing unusual or particularly noteworthy here. DEQ and ODA will be very interested in seeing the malathion and carbaryl results for the remainder of the spring and summer. In 2019, the average malathion concentration in streams increased over 2018 because of 2 detections over the standard that were detected on the same day at two Mill Creek locations. However, there were still only 5 malathion detections in 2019, compared to approximately 20 per year in the earlier years of monitoring (2011-2015)."*

Martha asked if we know how long this program will continue, or how long it may be funded? Ken stated that he has not heard when funding will end, however this program is very big throughout the state and he anticipated would continue for a while.

East Cascades Oak Partnership (ECOP) – Abbie Forrest

Abbie stated, included in the packet is an overview of the collaboration of the East Cascades Oak Partnership, as well as project update from the Wasco County Forest Collaborative Forest Restoration Technical Assistance grant. Also included are brochures outlining the partnership goals and vision. There was also a Declaration of Cooperation asking for the watershed councils support to the ECOP effort. Abbie added that the Oak Partnership has been a previous topic with the watershed, and the SWCD recently approved signing the Declaration to show their support for the effort. Ken added that it is a good program, although not technically a partnership, we are declaring our cooperation. It is a great opportunity to get everyone working on this effort and outline goals. Signing the declaration is non-committal and is not a legal partnership. Drake added with information that he gathered after speaking with the Mosier Watershed Council, and some of their concerns with signing the declaration.

Katie also added that ECOP has been doing a lot of strategic planning and education. She has been participating on the technical side and learning how to assist moving forward with climate change and all of the changes that are happening to our forests. She stated there is success in numbers and support from partners is always beneficial, especially when reaching out to funders. Drake asked Katie, the status of the management plan and when we could expect to see a draft of the governing documents? Katie said some progress has been delayed due to funding opportunities being postponed. There is not a strategic plan ready for consumption, but the ECOP website does a great job of explaining ECOP and their plans for managing different "threats" and how we can co-exist with things that are impacting our oak systems.

Annual Tree Sale

Included in the informational packet was the Tree Sale Plant list for the Spring 2021 Sale. A date for the annual event has not yet been selected, but Abbie stated she will keep the council informed as more information is available.

Next Meeting Date and Format

Ken suggested using a web-based meeting platform such as Zoom or GoTo for our next meeting. He and Martha agreed that it is easier to see what is going on and engage in the meeting. It may be something that we need to get used to for the future, trying to conduct meetings, during the Covid crisis. Ken added that we may get more participation from folks who won't have to drive to town to attend the meetings. Martha and Ken both liked the informational packets, and that they had time to review the information prior to the meeting date. The next meeting date was selected for Wednesday, December 9th 2020 at 5:00pm.

Martha Blair's term on the council is set to expire on December 30, 2020. She stated she was willing to be reappointed at the next meeting, should there be a quorum.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:40pm.
Minutes prepared by Abbie Forrest.