

Approved January 17, 2023

## Clackamas SWCD Board Meeting Minutes for December 20, 2022

INT	Directors:	In Person: Jeff Becker (Chair), Roger Fantz (Treasurer), Don Guttridge (Secretary)  Via Zoom: Jim Johnson, Jesse Nelson (Vice Chair), Jan Lee, Joan Zuber								
	Associate Directors:	Via Zoom: PK Melethil, Anna Rankin								
	Directors Emeritus:									
PRESENT	Staff:	In Person: Scott Eden, Tami Guttridge, Gus Liszka, Cathy McQueeney, Heather Nielsen, Jenne Reische, Nathan Tucker, Lisa Kilders, Chris Lapp Via Zoom: Suzi Cloutier, Jason Faucera, Clair Klock, Sam Leininger								
	Partners:	15								
	Guest:	Joe Matteo (Beavercreek Hamlet)								
	NOT PRESENT:									

## 1 – CALL TO ORDER and ACCEPT AGENDA / PUBLIC COMMENT / DIRECTOR REPORTS / MANAGER'S REPORT ON COMMITTEES

**A.** Call to order – Chair Becker called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 4:25 p.m., December 20, 2022, in the Clackamas SWCD conference room at 22055 S Beavercreek Rd, Beavercreek, Oregon.

Chair Becker asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. District Manager Lapp asked to introduce the new employee before item 1E.

- B. Public Comment No Public comment was given.
- C. Director reports -
  - Director Lee wished everyone a good holiday season.
  - Director Nelson reported that the Portland Water Bureau had submitted their land-use application for a water treatment plant to the City of Portland for approval. They will also be approaching the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners regarding property in

Page 1 of 6 – Approved minutes of the December 20, 2022, Board Meeting. The Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or whether all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the District. The District is an equal opportunity employer.

Clackamas County. Portland Water Bureau wants to remove 1.3 million cubic yards of topsoil, creating 300 plus truckloads a day on the rural roads. Nelson is working with the Oregon Department of Agriculture to keep a focus on protecting the agricultural lands in the area from being affected by the possible water treatment plant. Nelson is also busy digging trees at this time of year.

• Director Fantz reported he is getting ready for the predicted freezing weather.

## D. Partner reports – No report

District Manager Lapp introduced Heather Nielsen, the new Conservation Investments Coordinator. Nielsen spoke to the Board about her experience working with Clackamas County Water Resource Department and as an environmental consultant. She looks forward to working for the District.

Staff Tucker noted that on her third day at the office, Nielsen started work on a grant that was due the following week. The Board welcomed Nielsen to the team.

- **E. Manager's report on committees** District Manger Lapp reported on the following committees:
  - The Finance Committee is staying connected via e-mail.
  - The Equity Team met on December 1, 2022. Staff McQueeney will report later in the meeting.
  - The Safety Committee met on December 8, 2022. They discussed the finalized Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). The COOP has been distributed to all employees who are to keep a hard copy at their homes and will be given to the Board of Directors. Staff Cooley completed a workplace hazard assessment, and the committee is investigating opportunities for "Active Shooter" training, possibly with Homeland Security. Safety signs are being made for the farm to warn the public to stay out of areas where work is being done, or that are unsafe.
  - The Strategic Planning Committee met on December 12, 2022, to review the strategic planning document that has been forwarded to the staff and Board for review. Please take the time to complete the review and send comments to Amy Stork Consulting.
  - The Watershed Council Grant Review Committee met on December 13, 2022. Staff McQueeney will review the recommendations later in the meeting.

### 2 - MINUTES

A. November 15, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes – Minutes of November 15, 2022, Regular Board meeting were presented. The Board Secretary has reviewed the minutes.

<u>Director Fantz/Guttridge moved/seconded</u> to approve the November 15, 2022, minutes as presented. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. <u>The motion carried unanimously.</u>

## 3 – FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. Review and accept financial reports – Staff Tucker presented the November 30, 2022, Financial Reports. The current total assets at the end of November were 12.2 million, total liabilities were 6.5 million with net assets being 5.7 million.

Tucker then reviewed the profit and loss statement. The District received \$2.1 million in tax revenues in November. Expenditures for November totaled \$166,351.00.

<u>Directors Fantz/Guttridge moved/seconded</u> to approve the November 30, 2022, Financial Reports as presented. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. <u>The motion carried unanimously</u>.

B. Disbursements – Staff Tucker reviewed the Automatic Clearing House (ACH) payments which totaled \$5,697.37.

The regular disbursements numbered 101228 to 101259 with no breaks or voids in the sequence. The check run totaled \$ 86,875.86 with \$18,569.56 from the conservation fund. There were two checks that were reissued from the previous month as they were lost in the mail, check numbers 101229 and 101230.

<u>Directors Guttridge/Fantz moved/seconded</u> to approve the December 2022 Disbursements as presented. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. The motion carried unanimously.

## 4 - OTHER FINANCIALS

- A. Audit Approval The Board of Directors discussed the Audit report and chose not to approve the audit until the opinion statement has been reviewed and the audit is complete.
- B. Watershed Council Grants Staff McQueeney reported on the Watershed Council Grant Committee meeting held on December 13, 2022. The District had budgeted \$85,000 for grants to watershed councils for the 2022/2023 fiscal year. The watershed councils asked for \$106,850 dollars. Directors discussed a few of the awards recommended by the committee. Staff McQueeney noted that the recommendation for the Clackamas River Basin Council should be \$13,000, not \$15,000, and the Pudding River Watershed Council was receiving \$150.00 more than requested. Please see the spreadsheet with the committee recommendations as a part of these minutes.

<u>Directors Guttridge/Lee moved/seconded</u> to approve the committee recommendations for Watershed Council Grants with the correction of the amount for the Clackamas River Basin Council to \$13,000, for a total of \$85,000. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. <u>The motion carried unanimously</u>.

## 5 – PROJECTS, PROGRAMS

A. Media Policy Review - District Manager Lapp presented the Media Policy for the District. The

Page 3 of 6 — Approved minutes of the December 20, 2022, Board Meeting. The Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or whether all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the District. The District is an equal opportunity employer.

policy outlines those people who are responsible for communicating to the media and is part of the Advocacy policy. This policy is to be used as a reference tool. Directors noted that the policy is in line with procedures used in the past and it is good to have it clearly outlined.

<u>Directors Johnson/Guttridge moved/seconded</u> to accept the Media Policy as presented. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. The motion carried unanimously.

**B.** Conference Room Use Policy – District Manager Lapp presented the edited Conference Room Use Policy. Added to the policy were updated insurance requirements that were reviewed by the District's insurance provider, a closing time for the building, and a capacity limit.

<u>Directors Guttridge/Johnson moved/seconded</u> to accept the Conference Room Use Policy as presented. The vote was as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. <u>The motion carried unanimously</u>.

- C. Equity Team report Staff McQueeney reported that the Equity Team had met on December 1, 2022. They discussed their accomplishments for the year and what they hoped would happen in 2023. Highlights included regular meetings, coordination of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training for staff and Board, updated staff and Board biographies. These activities resulted in staff having a sense of being heard by others within the organization. Looking forward to 2023 the committee identified topics in the strategic planning process that they thought would benefit from an equity lens and facilitated discussions. They also hope to establish a plan for continued equity education and implement changes to staff meetings to include organizational conversations.
- D. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training funds proposal District Manager Lapp spoke with the Board regarding funds that had been budgeted for further DEI training. After the two facilitated Board and staff retreats, it was decided that further facilitated meetings, perhaps on a quarterly basis, would help with team building. Lapp stated that Staff McQueeney had approached Amy Stork regarding whether she would be willing to continue working with the District. Stork indicated that she is interested in doing so. Board Directors were in favor of Lapp getting a quote for the service and would like to discuss this at a later meeting.
- E. American Rainwater Systems Association (ARCSA) National Conference Staff Klock reported on his attendance at the ARCSA conference. Klock noted that the Clackamas SWCD has been active with ARCSA since 2007, and he has been a volunteer board member on and off since 2009. The Conference was held in Indianapolis, IN, this year. Rainwater harvesting is currently being used for stormwater management, there were examples in the forms of rain gardens in subdivisions, for large-scale flood mitigation, and in commercial toilet systems, to name a few. There is also a new array of "plug and play" rainwater harvesting systems available for home and commercial use. Klock hopes to see the District install a self-sustaining rainwater system to use on our property for irrigation, septic and/or fire suppression systems in the future.

## 6 - PERSONNEL

## 7 – BOARD AND MANAGER REPORTS

- **A.** Education and Outreach report Staff Kilders gave a PowerPoint presentation with highlights from the local watershed council reports on how they used grant funds this year. Kilders noted that the District grant funds are unrestricted, allowing the councils to use the funds as needed for their organization.
  - The Pudding River Watershed Council used their grant for an in-stream wood debris project and for staff time.
  - The Clackamas River Basin Council used funds for staff time and to help coordinate the "Gardening for Wildlife" seminar which last year attracted 40 to 50 attendees.
  - The Oswego Lake Watershed Council ran a "Soil your Undies" campaign and added to an Oregon White Oak project.
  - North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council used funding for staff time and for their annual Christmas tree recycling project. Trees are collected and placed in streams for fish habitat.
  - Please see the PowerPoint and the Outreach program report which are a part of these minutes.

Land Management report - Staff Liszka reported on the Equipment Rental Program. The program was re-started in September when Liszka was hired. The large no-till drill was rented out non-stop until the rains started. Liszka made or had repairs made to the drills and prepped equipment to be put to bed for the season. She noted that the program would benefit from a second large drill or cultipacker. She felt there are a few pieces of equipment owned by the District that are not being used as they do not fit the needs of the customers., She recommended that the District consider investing in other implements. Liszka would like to see if a survey of some type could be conducted to see what farm equipment would be most helpful.

Liszka also noted that the current farm tractor does not meet the needs of the District. The tractor is too small to move the equipment the District owns and to do much of the work needed on the farm. Liszka was encouraged to do research on the needs of the District and report back. Please see the Land Management report which is part of these minutes.

## 8 – PROPERTY, PLANNING

- A. Strategic Planning Retreat # 3 District Manager Lapp reminded the Board that the third strategic planning retreat is scheduled for January 19, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please contact Lapp or Staff Kilders if you will be unable to attend in person.
- B. Review of Draft Strategic Direction District Manager Lapp reported that the draft Strategic Direction report was reviewed by the Strategic Planning Committee and had been sent out for review by the board and staff. Lapp asked that everyone take the time to review the report and send comments back to Amy Stork no later than January 9, 2023. This is important.

## 9 - OTHER REPORTS

- Associate Director Melethil reported that he had been physically present for the November meeting and asked that the minutes be corrected.
- Staff Tucker reported that he had received a reply from Auditor Richard Winkel stating that he had not completed his comments regarding the audit.

## ADJOURN AND NEXT MEETING

• The next regular meeting will be on January 17, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

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• There being no further business, Chair Becker adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tami L. Guttridge Office Administrator

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-	CSWCD Watershed Council Support Grants, FY 22/23	s, FY 22/23						
2	Recommendations to Board 12/20/2022							
м	Watershed Council	Awarded for FY 19-20	Awarded for FY 20-21	Awarded for FY 21-22	Requested	Recommended	Awarded FY 22-23	
4	Clackamas River Basin Council	\$15,000	0\$	\$9,000	\$15,000	\$13,000		
5	Greater Oregon City Watershed Council	\$10,000	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$8,000		
9	Johnson Creek Watershed Council	\$10,000	\$0	\$7,000	\$10,000	000'6\$		
7	Molalla River Watch	\$20,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$15,000	\$10,000		
∞	North Clackamas Watersheds Council (receives no OWEB WCS funding)	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$16,000	\$20,000	\$18,000		
9	Oswego Lake Watershed Council (receives no OWEB WCS funding)	\$10,000	000'2\$	\$7,000	\$15,000	\$10,000		
10	Pudding River Watershed Council	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$7,000	\$9,850	\$10,000		
11	Sandy River Basin Watershed Council	\$12,000	\$5,000	\$0				
12	Tryon Creek Watershed Council (receives no OWEB WCS funding)	\$7,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$6,000		
13	Tualatin River Watershed Council	\$4,000	0\$	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$1,000		
14	TOTAL	\$118,000	\$50,000	\$65,000	\$106,850	\$85,000		
16								
17	Budgeted for FY 22-23 \$85,000							

## Support Grant-**Annual Report Partnership** Highlights

Good dirt. Clean water.





## The District is rebuilding the Watershed Council Support Grant funding with budget increases every year.

**Budgeted FY 21-22** 

**Budgeted FY 20-21** 

\$65,000

\$50,000

\$118,000 **Budgeted FY 19-20** 



## In our last round of partnership grants awarded in early 2021, the District awarded \$65,000 to watershed councils.

Clean water.	
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Good	

Watershed Council	Support Grants awarded in March 2022
Clackamas River Basin Council	000'6\$
Greater Oregon City Watershed Council	\$5,000
Johnson Creek Watershed Council	\$7,000
Molalla River Watch	\$8,000
North Clackamas Watersheds Council (receives no OWEB WCS funding)	\$16,000
Oswego Lake Watershed Council (receives no OWEB WCS funding)	\$7,000
Pudding River Watershed Council	\$7,000
Sandy River Basin Watershed Council	0\$
Tryon Creek Watershed Council (receives no OWEB WCS funding)	\$5,000
Tualatin River Watershed Council	\$1,000
ТОТАL	\$65,000

As part of the grant agreement, a report is required at the end of the year. A full-length report will be compiled and available in January.

Here are the highlights...

# Highlights from the Pudding River Watershed Council include:

- District funding paid staff time to work on the Abiqua Creek Large Wood Project (channel spanning structure). This project was completed in the Fall of 2022. (photo below)
- In addition to funding staff time for outreach and participation in partner projects, staff was able to attend the CONNECT conference for valuable training.





## Highlights from the Clackamas River Basin Council include:

CRBC took the lead on melding the recorded version fourth year that our partnership (CRBC, CSWCD, and presentations for our 2022 workshop. This was the of the Gardening for Wildlife (from 2021) with live Backyard Habitat) offered this workshop.

Most of the funding supported staff time with some Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) revegetation funding used as leverage for a Clackamas River project.



earn how to create wildlife-friendly spaces in your own yard or community area by ncorporating native plants and wildlife abitat components.

lesign techniques. View examples of gardens lesigned with native plants. Learn how to map First Session: Get an overview of naturescaping



This two session class will be offered on two Wednesdays via Zoom:

Class is FREE, but space is limited-register now!

> fter class session - get a personalized design tormwater, lawns, roots and pollinators. Discover local certification programs, Bonus Participants can win prizes! (Mason bee boxes, pooks, posters, guides, native plants and more econd Session: Find out how to manage onsultation on your garden plan.

Dates: Wednesday, April 27th | 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Wednesday, May 11th | 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM To Register: Please register on Zoom using this QR code

Or, call Tami at 503.210.6000 or email her at touttridge@conservationdistrict.org

Conservation Carbamas Conservation District this class is presented through a partnership with





Thank you for the unrestricted grant funding to watershed councils and other CSWCD partners.

Clackamas River Basin Council

## Highlights from the Oswego Lake Watershed Council include:

 We have been able to make progress with outreach and education initiatives through in-person, virtual, and hybrid events, including a Soil Your Undies promotion that was a huge success with Lake Oswego residents.

 Funding also helped with Oregon White Oak habitat enhancement projects, including the expansion of the Westlake HOA project. This project

includes invasive species removal and planting of native plants.



## Highlights from the North Clackamas Urban Watersheds Council include:

- Funding allowed the coordination of volunteers to install recycled Christmas Trees as salmon habitat in the Willamette River side channel (right).
- Funding also paid for staff time to work on the Kellogg Creek Restoration & Community Enhancement Project.



NORTH CLACKAMAS WATERSHEDS COUNCIL

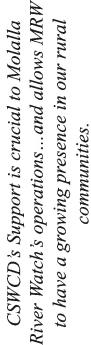
Allies of the Kellogg Creek Restoration & Community Enhancement project with Senator Merkley. (left)

We very much appreciate CSWCD's willingness to provide vital funding for our baseline operations. Without that, the growth we are experiencing would not have been possible.

## Highlights from the Molalla River Watch include:

- CSWCD grant funds were used to partially cover costs for Molalla River Watch's 29th Annual Spring (April) and Fall (September) Molalla River Cleanup and Enhancement Events.
- Funds also supported survey volunteers

   counting amphibian egg masses in Molalla
   Recreation Corridor where many northern
   red-legged frogs lay eggs.









## Highlights from the Johnson Creek Watershed Council include:

- The bulk of this year's funding will go toward a pickup truck that will be purchased at the beginning of 2023.
- Funds were also used to partially fund our AmeriCorps members and provide professional development/training opportunities for staff.



Johnson Creek Watershed Council Thank you for helping us complete these projects/programs through the General Support funding!

## Highlights from the Tryon Creek Watershed Council include:

 The unrestricted funds from the District paid for staff time to coordinate the Lake Oswego United Church of Christ project to first, remove heavy invasive vegetation, then plant native plants.

Staff time was also used for site visits. Hold outreach events and participate in projects with partners.



We greatly appreciate CSWCD's Partner Funding! It makes our work, in Tryon and collaboratively, better and more impactful. Thank you!

## Highlights from the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council include:

operational component of our specifically to fund rent as an District funds were used

budget.



Greater Oregon City Watershed Thanks for the support of the Councill



## Highlights from the Tualatin River Watershed Council include:

 District unrestricted funds allowed the purchase of a peristaltic water pump for eDNA sampling.









December 20, 2022

## BRIEFING NOTE FOR THE CLACKAMAS SWCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Lower & Middle Clear Creek Strategic Implementation Area Update

## **Open House**

The Oregon Department of Agriculture hosted their open house for the Lower and Middle Clear Creek SIA the evening of November 16th at the Springwater Grange. Twenty-one residents from the watershed attended, along with representatives from ODA and staff from the outreach and planning departments at the District. Ryan Beyer from ODA presented on the SIA's key components:

- 1. Compliance with Oregon's agricultural water quality regulations.
- 2. Voluntary, incentive-based conservation.
- 3. Monitoring to track water quality and landscape conditions.
- 4. Collaborative partnerships, like those with the SWCD.

District staff spoke briefly during the presentation about the resources we can provide to help landowners voluntarily address water quality concerns. There was also a District display, and several staff were available before and after the presentation to meet with landowners and answer questions. Planning staff were invited on several site visits after the event. The District also contributed SIA grant dollars to pay for the grange rental.

## **Project Update**

Technical and planning assistance continues to ramp up in the SIA watersheds. Planning staff have been meeting with landowners to help develop strategies and implement practices to improve natural resource conditions on their land. At one farm in the SIA, cattle had access to streamside and pond areas, resulting in a lack of riparian vegetation, and eroding streambanks due to disturbance. To prevent continued nutrient and sediment inputs to these streams, staff worked with the producer to develop a system that worked for them to exclude the cattle from the streamside areas and revegetate the streambanks, while still allowing "water gaps" for the cattle to drink from. We helped the landowner by providing technical specifications and some of the material costs for conservation practices to help stabilize stream bank slopes and exclude cattle from streamside and pond areas with fencing. More practices are planned, but this is a great start. By providing fenced water ramps at two pond locations, the cattle now have a place to drink from with a firm rocked ramp, at a single point rather than open access to the stream. They are excluded from the stream and riparian area, where continuous

cattle access can negatively affect surface water quality. Areas with disturbed ground near the water were mulched with straw and seeded with annual ryegrass prior to the rainy season.





Pond Area - Before

Installed water gap, where cattle can drink.

## Sustainable Parrett Mountain Fair

On November 13th, Scott Eden attended and tabled at an inaugural event, the Sustainable Parrett Mountain Fair which was held at the "Our Table Cooperative," on Morgan Rd. in Sherwood. This was organized by a local group of neighbors interested in restoring local ecosystems and building resilience in their community. Planning staff had also worked with some of the organizers and presenters on riparian or oak habitat restoration projects. The folks tabling at the event were all local resources or lived in the area, and had experience in recycling, waste reduction, sustainable energy production, adaptive vegetable gardening, beekeeping, and habitat restoration with native plants. Many of the several dozen who attended were interested in attracting wildlife by planting native plants, controlling invasive weeds, or managing their forestlands. They also provided some native seeds for pollinators and live stakes of several native shrub species.



In related habitat conservation work, the Oak Prairie Working Group

https://www.theintertwine.org/projects/oak-prairie-work-group is an affiliation of professional habitat restoration practitioners and has mapped oak clusters and patches in the Intertwine area and developed an Action Plan. There is some significant oak habitat in the Parrett Mountain area, and also some areas where restoration could improve habitat connectivity. A future oak habitat restoration program could target this area for restoration work as there are some enthusiastic landowners and existing and improvable habitat areas.

Scott provided technical information and flyers and resource documents, including, but not limited to the links below.

https://woodlandfishandwildlife.com/

https://cascadiaprairieoak.org/documents/Landownerguide.pdf

https://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/files/white oak guide.pdf

https://willamettepartnership.org/oak-accord/

http://www.heritageseedlings.com/shop/wpimages/the-willamette-valley-landowners-guide-to-creating

https://www.theintertwine.org/sites/default/files/Oakscaping%20Guide.pdf

https://www.oregonconservationstrategy.org/strategy-habitat/oak-woodlands/

## Cascadia Prairie-Oak Partnership Conference

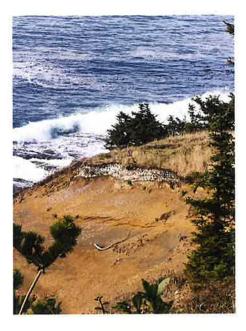
Planner Nicole Ahr attended and presented at the Cascadia Prairie-Oak Partnership Conference (CPOP) in Vancouver, Washington on November 7-10<sup>th</sup>. CPOP is a large community of organizations and people committed to prairie-oak species conservation and recovery efforts from the Willamette Valley, Puget Trough, Georgia Basin ecoregion and beyond. The partnership holds a conference every two years, but with the pandemic, there has not been a conference since 2018. Nicole was selected to speak about our Oak Conservation Implementation Strategy funding effort over the last five years. The first day of the conference included several field trips, including one to the largest known remnant wet prairie in Washington called Lacamas Prairie Natural Area Preserve that is managed by Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The site has several rare plants including a large population of Bradshaw's lomatium. There were good conversations about weed control and native seedings on this site and lessons learned.

Conference session highlights included Revitalizing Fire Across Our Shared Landscape, Grazing, Imperiled Birds, Restoration Approaches, Mapping and Monitoring of Oak Ecosystems, Camas Communities and Collaborations, and Restoration Impacts and Outcomes. The sessions and panels were very informative, as well as the conversations that were had with other people restoring oak and prairie habitats. Nicole was very impressed by the diverse topics and particularly enjoyed hearing from the many indigenous voices on the fire panel, who discussed a variety of topics including the differences between cultural burning and prescribed burning. The grazing panel was also very interesting, as it included a rancher who primarily leases land for grazing his beef cattle and is able to graze lands outside of the vulnerable native plant blooming season, to both conserve and promote those plants (e.g. camas), while also feeding his cattle. There was also a large dairy farmer who has been grazing his dairy cows while successfully conserving and enhancing endangered plant populations on his land. Many of the conservation practices that were discussed are also practices that we recommend through our District planning team.

## **Archaeology Awareness Training**

Drew Donahue, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) technician, was given the unique opportunity to attend the annual Archaeology Awareness Training hosted by Oregon Parks and Recreation. This four-day training was hosted on the coast in North Bend Oregon, where multiple state agencies attended including Oregon Parks and Recreation, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

The training was multifaceted where the Tribal perspective and Western perspective of archeology was brought together. Multiple presentations were given from tribal members (including Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Confederated tribes of Warm Springs), archeology professors from Universities, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO). Tribal members offered hands-on learning experiences including flint knapping, traditional technologies, and the group attended multiple field trips to archaeological sites and culturally important sites on state lands.



Shell midden eroding into the Pacific Ocean. Shell middens are deposits containing shells, animal bones, and other refuse that indicates human settlement.

Although this was a state policy focused training, Drew was able to inquire about private landowner rules and regulations in regards to Archaeological Resources from SHPO. There was an overarching theme of prioritization on mitigation rather than reclamation of land, which is similar to the process that the District's partners go through.

There are over 45,000 archaeological sites in Oregon and only 20% of Oregon has been surveyed for archaeological evidence. Oregon is also unique in that it is one of the few states with a Legislative Commission of Indian Services where the state can offer services to Indian's directly. Many tribal members expressed the ease of working with Oregon compared to other states because of this commission. Their website includes contact

information of tribes, land acknowledgements, and more.



Collections of cans that are considered historical artifacts since they are older than 50 years.

Lastly, from Drew's perspective, tribal members emphasized coordination rather than consultation. Actively engaging with your local tribe and becoming co-partners, but also acknowledging that they are understaffed and need to keep their focus on high priority projects. The confederated tribes are sovereign nations recognized by the federal government and wanted to stress the importance of contacting the right person when outreaching. If you are interested in partnering with the tribes, then reach out to the appropriate tribal staff members, NOT the Tribal council or Chief. Every tribe has unique beliefs, prioritizations, governance, and opinions; therefore, it is important when outreaching to learn and respect these different facets of these nations.

## Land Management Program Bi-Monthly Report

December 12, 2022

## **ODFW Tax Incentive Program Hearing (WHCMP)**

On December 8, our coalition of SWCDs and regional partners group working to get the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Management Program back up and running in ODFW's North Willamette Watershed District was asked by Representative Pam Marsh and the House Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (HENR) to reprise our presentation from June about Legislative Concept (LC529) proposed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).



Figure 1 - Recording of the December 8 hearing on the WHCMP program

This second hearing was to introduce LC529 along with several other Legislative Concepts the committee was sponsoring. We presented with ODFW about the changes to the WHCMP program which focuses on streamlining the program administratively and adding prioritization of habitats so that enrollments result in high quality habitats for the capacity expended.

Clackamas SWCD staff have been working locally with ODFW's North Willamette Watershed District office on a pilot to help gather monitoring data to address their monitoring backlog on enrollments. Since LC529 looks to change the monitoring from required to discretionary for ODFW, we have paused

the pilot. We'll take the lessons learned from that effort into discussions about how to streamline the program when rules are revised if the legislation passes.

Here is a link to the hearing from December 8:

https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/mediaplayer/?clientID=4879615486&eventID=2022121025

- WHCMP LC testimony starts at 13:54
- Legislator questions start at 37:04
- Hearing ends at 48:17

## National Water Quality Initiative

The technical advisory committee for the Molalla National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) met on December 8<sup>th</sup> to continue discussions on establishing continuous and spot monitoring in the lower section of the river near Canby.

The upfront cost for monitoring is significant, and the US Geological Survey (USGS) can't offer financial assistance until at least a year from now. However, USGS felt that if our local technical team could get a station established there could be future investment by USGS to maintain it for a longer period.

Outside funding will be required to establish a continuous monitoring station, but less expensive alternatives could be explored such as using the City of Canby intake data and making it more readily available to USGS. If funding can't be secured ahead of next spring, a much smaller monitoring scope could be undertaken around the taste and odor issues with the hopes that grant could be secured for the following year.

Staff are also working to submit the newest draft of the Drinking Water Plan to NRCS for review, and hopefully approval. Once we gain approval, we can close out the grant and focus on requesting implementation dollars in 2024.

## Conservation Resource Center (CRC)

Now that the equipment rental program has been put to bed for the winter, work at the farm has shifted to getting caught up on deferred maintenance and organizing the farm for more efficient operation.

Deteriorating fences have been dismantled and unusable posts are being hauled away. Metal from fences and unused equipment is being recycled, and vegetation management continues.

As we are approaching the halfway mark of the fiscal year, we are looking at the budget to actual figures to determine what we can take on this year and what will be further deferred. The items we are likely to work on before June 30 include the painting of outbuildings, exploring replacement of the southern border fence, developing plans for staff office space in the shop, and looking at how vegetation at the property could better reflect our conservation goals.

One additional item of importance will be to procure essential tools and equipment for managing the farm. Among those would be consideration of a tractor that better suits our needs. The current tractor is not capable of lifting the large seed drill and becomes unstable with relatively small loads. Having a more suitable tractor would increase capacity and safety for day-to-day operations at the farm.

### **ODF Fuels Reduction Grant**

Staff are in the process of evaluating the work that has been completed to date under the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) grant so that we can redirect funds to other objectives on the participating properties.

Of the proposed 100 acres of work to be completed, over 80% of those acres have been treated, with 75% of the funds expended. The remaining work consists of a bit more thinning, pruning, chipping, and riparian plantings. In addition, participating landowners have nearly doubled the number of matching fuels work they are doing. This has been facilitated by having access to contractors while they are already on site and their overall satisfaction with the work done under contract through the grant.

Figure 2 - Comparison of treated and untreated areas of the same forest on property just adjacent to the community forest

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