

## MidCoast Watersheds Council Meeting notes 12 Nov 08

**Introductions:** 17 folks

**Recorder's report:** 4 official actions

Motions to endorse tech team recommendation re Lincoln SWCD stream monitoring approved

Moved/pass tech team recommendation re restoration project on NF Beaver Creek

Moved/pass tech team recommendation re restoration project on Bummer Creek

Moved/pass to submit the Bummer Creek habitat design technical assistance grant.

**Treasurer's report:** \$55,000 in bank

**Education: Using Water Temperature Measurements from Fiber Optics to Understand Stream Dynamics-John Selker (OSU engineering dept)**

Re-creating a habitable river

Backround: Dr. Kelker has a backgorund in physics and electronics engineering. He moved to Oregon in 1977 and has been an engineering professor since 1991, studying hydrology, rainfall patterns, with a particular interest in instrumentation. He is now concentrating on measuring water temperature. He wants to understand new ways to measure the river. Using stream temp for management purposes.

He has developed a new measurement tool using patterns of back-scatter of laser light sent thorough a fiber optic cable placed in stream. The system measures temperature at 1 meter intervals along the cable, with precision of one tenth a degree or better.

The goals are to locate and map variation in temperature within a stream, both spacially and through time.

He has applied the tehcnology in HJ Andrews forest—in steep mountain headwater streams, and measured the effects of log jams on temperature. During the day temp increased over bedrock then at night decreased. Over grave, (with some subsurfaace flow) temperature varied less. Where water went subsurface under a large log jam, the daily variation in temperature disappeared.

He also worked in a stream in Switzerland, which comes out of a pipe, and flows thorough a straight, shaped bricked channel through fields, then forest. In part of teh run through fields, reeds were growing in the water. The water warmed rapidly in the open section, maintained in the section with reeds, and cooled in the forest. So he recommended leaving reeds in place to help reduce temperature gain.

He also worked in the John Day basin. They are calibrating temperature before and after restoration projects to measure temperature effects. He talked about problems with growing riparian vegetation –deer and elk eating the plantings. They used dogs to keep the deer and elk out, and compare to wolves in Yellowstone.

His general recommendation: really look and think hard before doing any work on a stream. Scott Thurow on the John Day says think and know what you are doing. Walk the river. Make

sure you don't make it worse. Work in multidisciplinary teams, with hydrology, engineers, fish bios, riparian vegetation experts. Lay out your design, and send your plans to your worst critics.

**Refreshments** and conversation with John

**Technical Team Report:** small tech team meeting, brainstormed a few items, no decisions to be made

**Basin Planning Team Reports:**

**Siletz:** monthly report handout and request for permission to write grants. Repairs of Mill Park boat ramp. Letter from City of Siletz-outreach and grants for development of Mill Park. Outreach event in October poorly attended. Surrounding property owners generally in favor. Important historic/cultural areas not present. Grant permission: MOU is needed for each grant type to describe roles. Make sure that the grants make a clear connection to the mission and goals of the MCWC. Make sure the linkages are clearly stated and reviewed. Large debris is inventoried. Cost out removal fees and write grants to remove the debris from the river. James Ray (ODFW) winter steelhead brood stock collection, lactic acid problem and high mortality rate, angler caught still has high mortality rate so stopped for now.

**Yaquina:** first field trip this Saturday to watch Simpson Creek salmon watch. Family friendly visit. James Ray will be there.

**Salmon-Drift:** Peter filling in for Corinna. Eco trust grant application. 3-4 person fisher crew for 9 months on lower Salmon River. Preserve clearing and planting that has been done. USFS culvert design, assessment of culverts in upper Salmon River area for fish habitat. Doing fish counting above Schooner Creek fish ladder-field notes easy to keep. There are no redds or fish.

**Administrative Committee Report:** approved the financial report, scheduling of the annual meeting in February, annual report needs to be done. We need a meeting in January but date problem

**MCWC mtg will be Jan 7<sup>th</sup>** place to be announced

Olalla Creek project, beaver pond project,

Nominations to board in January

February event-send out an email to see if folks would come on a Saturday

Conferences attendees and handouts, good to share it somewhere. File available in education department. Name and date of conference. Index or website link

**Education Committee Report:** Virginia is asking for input regarding the study of the Siletz and Yaquina by students from the charter schools. They want to know if there is a data base somewhere or any agency that might be interested in what they find out. They are looking for direction and guidance for surveys and monitoring activities. Please let me know as soon as possible so I can let the teachers and student know.

**Coordinator's report:** Conservation districts conference-highlights presentations about organic farming, marketing ideas and small forest timber harvests, mill doesn't give a good price for some items, oak flooring, large maple for cabinetry, has a solar drying kiln. Organic gardening how to get started and interact with markets.

OWEB conference in Eugene: Emphasis on restoration keeping global warming in mind, reduce carbon foot print, more resilient to increase in temperature. How can we keep riparian zones

healthy with increased temperature. More precipitation, less snow, seasonal won't be much change, dryer summers, larger storms, larger rain events, think of resilience in how we design culverts and put in bridges rather than culverts in some cases. Think of higher water levels for plantings. Chad Predicke talked at banquet. Put together a business of picking up garbage, received help of donated barges. 5 million pounds of garbage picked up out of Mississippi River. His initial goal was 465 river miles to clean up. He "hitchhikes" up the river-gets rides with those who are going up river.

**Action:** Stacy announced her work with the 319 grant, 3 main objectives: 1) water quality improvement projects; temperature, sediment, etc. 2) Educational tools and technical assistance-TMDL plans; 3) post implementation effectiveness monitoring  
Stacy is requesting MCWC help, presentation, information distribution, storm drain marker replacement, fish friendly car washes. Which agricultural lands do we know about?

Rennie made a motion to approve signing on for \$2000 LSWCD in kind match grant and a letter of commitment by Friday Nov 14<sup>th</sup>. Sam seconded the motion. Passed

Tech team is available to you, time is available as match

**Announcements:** Handout: Wells and well being of Oregon Meeting Well Symposium 8-5:30  
Dec 11<sup>th</sup> NW Viticulture Center 215 Doaks Ferry Road NW Salem

Near shore action meeting. OPAC meeting November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, public comment if you sign up between 1:00 to 3:45 everyone can talk. Ask all of us to attend and encourage us to speak. Varied viewpoints should be heard. Contact Rennie for details