Minutes

# Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council Minutes

June 27, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom O’Leary at 2:01pm after a tour of Elder Creek Fish Passage and Chewaucan River bank stabilization projects. Tony Longacre, of the USFS assisted with the tour.

## In attendance

Marci Schreder, Colleen Withers, Tom O’Leary, Matt Withers, Roger Linton, Pete Talbott, Brandi Neider, Jack O’Leary, Justin Ferrell of the Lakeview SWCD

## Approval of Minutes

John moved to approve the minutes as read. Pete seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## Financial Reports/Discussion

Colleen explained the actions she has taken since the April meeting. She has been working with Don Liddycoat, CPA in Lakeview. Don has reviewed the Council’s general Quickbooks records and filed the 2018 tax return. Colleen reported there are some Quickbooks changes she and Don need to make in order to “clean up” the books. She will meet with Don this summer to accomplish that and will keep the Council updated if anything new arises. Colleen said she is thrilled with the Council’s partnership with Don, and believes he is a great fit to help manage the Council’s finances.

## New LCUWC Business

Marci discussed the large number of projects the Council is managing. She explained that she, Brandi, and Colleen are doing their best to perform their tasks, but they can look forward to completing several projects this summer and no longer needing to manage them, other than for monitoring purposes. The completion of these projects will help relieve some of the Council’s workload.

Marci highlighted several major projects the Council is currently managing. The Forest Health projects are ongoing and are progressing well. The Deep Creek Town Diversion project is in the middle of implementation and is also progressing well. Marci then noted the Focused Investment Projects (FIP) the Council will be in involved in throughout the next 6 years. She reiterated the unique opportunity the FIP provides and looks forward to the excitement of accomplished much with a large amount of funds.

Other projects highlighted included Muddy Creek Fish Passage (located on KV Bar Ranch and the Juniper RV Park) and the Telling the Story project. Marci reported that she is impressed with the video the Telling the Story team is producing. She believes it will do justice to the uniqueness of Lake County and the connection of agriculture, particularly ranching, to watershed enhancement projects.

Brandi provided an update on the Council’s Forest Health projects. She discussed the Thomas Creek Forest Health project, which could potentially include over 150 land owners. She said a Technical Assistance grant is secured for the project and mapping/inventory crews have been hired to collect data. Brandi explained how the mapping/inventory crews will collect data with smart-tablets. This will assist with funding prioritization. Brandi mentioned this project may be a candidate for another FIP given its large scale and complexity.

Brandi also discussed the second phase of North Warner Forest Health Project. She reported a strong willingness to participate among landowners. She and Marci have currently contracted 3 contractors to perform the work. She and Marci are in the process of producing and signing all agreements necessary to initiate the project. Brandi and Marci have updated the landowner agreement and distributed it for the Board to review. The Board approved the landowner agreement and encouraged Brandi and Marci to continue utilizing it.

## Final Discussion

Marci discussed the Council staff succession plan. She confirmed that she and her family will be moving from Lake County. She is currently applying for new positions, with varying starting times. She could be starting a new job as early as August 1. She plans to ensure a smooth transition for the Council, and will keep the Council updated as her job search progresses.

Marci, Brandi, and Colleen also discussed a very serious succession matter involving potentially hiring a third contracted staff member to the team. As Brandi and Colleen work to balance other life responsibilities as well as accomplish necessary watershed tasks, a third member to assist in the relieving the Council’s large workload would be beneficial. Marci is a difficult person to replace. Marci, Brandi, and Colleen encouraged the Board to consider this option and believe it would be in the Council’s best interest to distribute responsibilities thinner.

Tom mentioned a potential need to meet monthly as the transition progresses. John reiterated that the Board would be willing to meet any time or any place to ensure a smooth transition.

## Next Meeting

September or October 2019, unless otherwise necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 3:48pm.