



**Moses Lake Watershed Council Virtual Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 – 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

Attendance:

Marie Lotz (Grant County Conservation District-GCCD), Elliott DeLong (GCCD), Harold Crose (GCCD-Chair), Mike Riggs (City of Moses Lake Council Member), Ty Swartout (Citizen), Ron Sawyer (Grant County Tourism), Chris Overland (Moses Lake Irrigation & Rehabilitation District-MLIRD), Bill Aukett (City of Moses Lake-Stormwater), Brook Otis (Trout Lodge), John Roos (GCCD), Rhonda DeVito (HydroFLOW Representative), Kelsey Jacobs (Grant County Department of Health-GCDH), Deanna Elliott (GCCD), Kris Ribellia (GCCD)

Crose called the Moses Lake Watershed Council (MLWC) meeting to order at 10:00 am. Introductions were made.

Council Member Reports/Updates:

City of Moses Lake – Riggs reported the City is working on updating the Shoreline Management Program that affect uses and modifications in the shoreline areas including sewer, septic and building a stormwater comprehensive plan. Aukett added they are giving citizens the opportunity to give input on the tools such as drywells to drain Moses Lake and disperse soils. MLWC will have an opportunity to have input as well. Riggs noted in meeting with the Association of Grant County Cities and Towns there was interest in MLWC work and support for long range management of lake resource. They also recognized the need of the lake go beyond the boundaries of the lake.

Grant County Health District – Jacobs reported they have had a few calls about the filamentous algae on the lake and sent pictures that do not look like blue/green algae scum. Sawyer asked Grant County Tourism had PDF and flyer the City among others want to use for your approval do you have status? Jacobs replied that Stephania Shopbell was going to go over the flyer with the Health Office Dr. Brzezny for his input and will check on status.

Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District – Overland reported they sent a message to Marc Maynard with Bureau of Reclamation their appreciation for distribution of feed water through Rocky Coulee waste way and 22. Requested a repeat for 2021. Work continues on the 2021 aquatic treatment plan includes peroxide treatment this year for algae. Putting together 2021 sampling plan that will most likely include sampling toxins for Connelly Lake like last year and dovetail into a research project with Gene from Tetra Tech as they look into opportunities that impact internal loading using a phased approach. Looking into another project that might offer some water quality improvement through a higher winter elevation similar to the old dam elevation. He has documents on all if interested in learning more. Crose said to plot a path forward to take all the information on data into one strategic plan for the future.

Grant County Conservation District – Crose reported continue to work on the Department of Ecology (DOE) Cyanobacteria Algae grant that was awarded to GCCD to do work on the lake. DeLong stated that the requirements for the grant have been completed and submitted along with edits on the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and

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waiting for limnologist to review. Should know by the end of February any comments they may have. Crose asked DeLong to explain the importance of the QAPP and why it has to be done first before work can begin on the grant. DeLong said to meet requirement on grant have to meet QAPP to make sure our data is interchangeable on sampling protocol and labs being used. Crose said in past it was brought up the need for data and consistency and we will eventually get there. Crose also reported working on several projects tied into the lake. He appreciated what Riggs stated the issues of the lake go beyond the lake boundaries. It is a lot larger scale and learning daily the contributing factors into the lake such as the nitrogen issues not just phosphorus. USBR is working on a study with Washington State University and US Geological Survey on the Adrian Sink and how they contribute is an example how they broaden the perspective the knowledge base as we start working towards implementation for Best Management Practices (BMPs) on the lake. He also went on to say we have broadened our technical audience since forming the MLWC and all are communication with each other. The GCCD is waiting for funding that will kick-in April and will open up opportunity to hire staff to dedicate time to the lake (MLWC). GCCD has several projects including secluded fencing project on the north arm of the lake that should be complete within the month.

Trout Lodge Fish Hatchery has been working with USBR on a project. Otis reported they are working closely with USBR who is putting in a by-pass structure north of the hatchery. They are still working out final details but should give Rocky Ford Creek more water to flush out the system. Should break ground later this year and may see more water flow through the region.

Overland asked if there are plans to get the Rock Ford flowmeter functional again? USBR is not present, Crose will follow-up with USBR this month.

Crose went on to report that GCCD is partnering with Grant County Fire District #5 on a new building at the end of Nelson Road at their Training Center. The Fire District will continue to use the facility for training while GCCD will be housed there. Also available to the MLWC for regular and public meetings will be an education facility that will have a 150-capacity meeting room and classrooms.

Department of Ecology – Nobody present but Crose stated that the GCCD had been working with Amanda Richardson with the department on the several grants GCCD applied for (WaterSMART) that is directly tied to the water quality on Moses Lake. She was instrumental in contributing and editing the grants.

US Bureau of Reclamation – No report was available as no staff was available.

Grant Update:

WaterSMART – Crose reported the WaterSMART grant is through the USBR. Richardson was part of the team to complete the grant.

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Odessa Ground Water Replacement Project (OGWRP) – Crose reported this is a 10-million-dollar grant proposal.

GCCD is also looking into other grants such as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Columbia Basin Development League (CBDL) Annual Conference:

Riggs reported the CBDL is holding their annual conference virtual this year. The event will be held March 4th from 9:00 am to 10:45 am. Topics include: Economic Impact of the Columbia Basin Project, Partner Collaboration, View from Canals, OGWRP to date, Steps to Complete the Columbia Basin Project, Washington Water Law and Secondary Use Permits, Who Funds Water Infrastructure Projects. Riggs encouraged the group if you would like to learn about the expansion to sign-up on CBDL website before 2/19/2021 or the price increases from \$25. Riggs and Crose are both attending the conference.

Outreach:

Outline – Crose said the MLWC needs to formalize an outreach plan. Ribellia and DeLong created a template and shared it with the group. Ribellia went over the template: Purpose: To develop a strategic and coordinated public information and outreach plan to help inform and engage the public in MLWC activities and community-based restoration efforts within the Moses Lake watershed. Objectives: Increase public awareness, increase public input to develop and implement community-based solutions, increase long-term engagement in watershed restoration efforts. 2021 Timeline: February develop outline of the Plan, March develops draft Plan, April begins implementation Plan, Feb-April maintains and improve existing channels of communication. Who: GCCD staff will develop and MLWC gives input. Draft Outline of the Plan: Purpose, Goals/Objectives, Key audiences, Method of outreach, Campaign, Programs, Implementation. Sawyer said the Grant County Tourism recognizes the importance of consistent messaging and campaigning. They created a logo and have been working on campaigns for Grant County. There is funding available for those type of tasks. Sawyer asked if Ribellia would be available February 17, 2021 to share the plan with the Grant County Tourism group, she will attend.

Recent Lake Conditions:

Crose reported last month there was several phone calls from the public about algae floating on the north arm of Moses Lake. Overland stated bubbles become trapped in the filamentous algae, which then float up to the surface. Swartout reported the algae was black – not a blue/green – and mat looking and the water is discolored. Overland said unfortunately the water is too low to take a boat out to go view it.

DeVito asked what are the peroxide treatments and how is it applied? Overland said It is their hope the peroxide treatments will help destroy the cells and can be applied in pellet or liquid form applied by a boat. Crose said there are two strategies in treating the lake – treat the algae and treat the historical loading.

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Communications:

HydroFLOW Update – Devito updated the group on her efforts in trying her technology called HydroFLOW. (Osmosis forces water into the bacteria and/or algae, creating osmotic pressure, which ruptures the cell membrane and causes the cell to perish). She said last meeting she attended the group encouraged her to get a hold of a variety of agencies that may have approval process to install the device. She had discussions with WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Eric Pentico, local biologist. He suggested she talk with McCann with USBR, Harsh with DOE, Jackson with WDFW, and Schmuck with WDFW along with Grant County Development Services and City of Moses Lake. Feedback she received from WDFW they are interested and would like to see studies especially at fish hatcheries. They want to make sure the signal does not affect the fish. DeVito added the device kills bacteria and scales, all diseases in fish go away making the fish healthy. Schmuck asked how the device discriminates good and bad algae? DeVito says there needs to be a study done to see how the device works on a large scale. If HydroFLOW could get a chart on the growth (speciate) of algae in the lake they could see how the device works with slow growing vs fast growing algae. The device kills fast growing algae. The HydroFLOW team would like to set up a meeting the week of March 2-4th in the afternoon to talk about details and there could be a Q&A for those interested in learning more. Crose said GCCD staff will set-up a virtual meeting and for DeVito to work with Lotz on meeting set-up. DeLong asked when the device eradicates the cell what does it do with the microsystem entering into the water? DeVito is not sure if this has been researched but they do know it is safe for animals. Crose said there may be an opportunity to put in a grant application to do a study on the device. DeVito went on to say that those she talked with that some agencies will not require a permit and some see the benefits and are willing to contribute money towards it.

Grant County Tourism – Sawyer reported he has been working on getting the two new Grant County Commissioners about the efforts going on with the MLWC. DeVito commented she saw an advertisement on the TV about Grant County being a fun spot to be. Sawyer said they have firms they work with that help create the commercials and Mike Meseberg (MarDon Resort) does the voice overs. Crose stated that Sawyer has been doing an excellent job in the outreach he has been doing.

Crose said GCCD is forming a Team that will be dedicated to the MLWC efforts and outreach. They are also looking at similar organizations and how they are structured and will bring recommendations to the MLWC. He went on to say outreach is key and keeping the public engaged. Swartout reiterated that communication is a huge piece and we cannot lose momentum now and build on it.

Swartout said the Carp Tournament is scheduled for May 22, 2021. They are looking for sponsors for prize money, especially since their biggest contributor (TriState Outfitters) is closing its doors.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:36 am.

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