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February 15, 2017

Board of County Commissioners
Clackamas County
2051 Kaen Road
Oregon City, OR 97045

TO: Jim Bernard, Chair
Paul Savas
Martha Schrader
Ken Humberston
Sonya Fischer

RE: Molalla River Watch Watershed Council 2016 Annual Report

Molalla River Watch, Inc. (MRW), the watershed council for the Molalla River, is eager to provide Clackamas County Commissioners a report of our activities and accomplishments for 2016. We continue to promote respect and understanding of the Molalla River Watershed through education and conservation for present and future generations. MRW activities included restoration and enhancement projects, adult and youth environmental education, stream surveys, amphibian and turtle surveys, and community outreach. Our signature community events include River Cleanups every spring and fall, in addition to trail improvement projects that bring people together to enhance the enjoyment of the Molalla River Watershed.

MRW continued riparian restoration efforts at eight former dispersed campsites on Bureau of Land Management Land (BLM) in the Molalla River Corridor. This effort was possible by the receipt of a DEQ 319 grant of \$15,000 in 2014 plus \$10,000 of in-kind match from BLM and volunteers. Almost 3,000 native trees and shrubs have been planted along the Molalla River by Wilderness International Youth Conservation Corp Crews, scout troops, and volunteers lead by MRW team leaders during our SOLVE River Cleanup events and specific project events.

MRW started on the ground work with the OWEB (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board) Small Grant Cedar Creek- Molalla River Restoration Project for 2.5 acres of riparian streambanks and floodplain. We led Wilderness International crews of at risk youth to pull enormous amounts of invasive English ivy on this restoration project. MRW has started working with Native Ecosystems NW to continue with site preparation, weed control, and purchasing and planting native plants.

Our 24th Annual Spring & Fall Molalla River Cleanup & Enhancement Events were very successful. MRW continued to give educational talks to volunteers about the Molalla River and importance of picking up trash. MRW asked the landowner of the OWEB Small Grant Cedar Creek- Molalla River Restoration Project to speak to volunteers to highlight our partners and services we offer. The landowner informed volunteers about MRW's role in providing opportunities to improve their property for fish and wildlife and how they have gained a better understanding and appreciation for the plants and animals found on their property. The cleanup event we held in October had one of the largest number of participants compared to our previous Fall Cleanup events. New participating volunteer groups included Oregon Child Development Coalition, Oregon City High School, and LaSalle High School. Regularly participating groups included Johnson Controls, Inc. and Cub Scout Pack 161.

MRW partnered with Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District to create the Molalla-Pudding Rivers Celebration held May 2016 at Canby Community Park. Community residents attended and learned about local amphibians and turtles, a riverfront landowner's perspective on restoration, aquatic invasive species, local conservation projects with Wilderness International Youth Conservation Corp, local watershed facts, and aquatic insect diversity. Boy Scout Troop 258 sold hamburgers to fundraise for trips and helped with event set up and wrap up. Other booths were staffed by Molalla River Alliance, Pudding River Watershed Council, Oregon State Marine Board, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, and Canby Historical Society. This was a great opportunity to show families the importance of improving water quality and protecting habitat to support the locally diverse wildlife they may not have known about previously. The kids especially liked looking at the aquatic insects under the microscope.

MRW hosted two community presentations: a) the Molalla Watershed headwater streams survey and, b) the Amphibian and Turtle surveys presentations were provided during MRW Board meetings in January and March. Both were attended by individuals from the community that had previously never been involved with MRW and they expressed interest in MRW activities.

In April, our Education program provided hands-on scientific experience for Molalla High School students on a field trip to Aquila Vista Environmental Education Area developed in partnership with the BLM. Along with MRW Project Coordinator and Board Chair, Bethany Wray from Wilderness International helped lead activities. Students learned about forest ecology, aquatic insects, beavers, and native plants through hands-on activities. Additionally, MRW Project Coordinator and our Board Chair assisted Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District and Pudding River Watershed Council in teaching environmental education to Boy Scouts from several troops to fulfill their Soil & Water Conservation Merit Badge requirements.

MRW developed and was awarded the OWEB funded Molalla Strategic Side Channel Restoration Designs and Outreach project contracting with Bio-Surveys Biologist Steve Trask with support from Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District and Clackamas County. The project has started providing outreach to approximately 50 landowners and creates site specific restoration designs for 17 side channel along 12 miles of the Molalla River from the Highway 213 Bridge upstream to the North Fork Molalla River. We have successfully surveyed 11 side channels with Bio-Surveys, LLC.

MRW continues to work with Clackamas County Parks & Forests, Dumpstoppers, Clackamas County Department of Transportation & Development (DOTD), Clackamas County Soil & Water Conservation District (CSWCD), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), the Bureau of Land Management – Salem District (BLM), Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), SOLVE, and many other regional and local agencies, businesses, groups and schools to develop and implement strategic restoration projects.

Molalla River Watch Watershed Council appreciates the support of Clackamas County and the Board of County Commissioners. The most recent Molalla River Watch, Inc. newsletter, "Splashes from the Molalla River" can be accessed from our website at <http://molallariverwatch.org/news/2016-MRW-Newsletter-Summer.pdf> and a pdf is attached along with this annual report letter.

Sincerely,



Bill Taylor
Board Chair
Molalla River Watch Watershed Council

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