



Board Briefing Book

September 2024

Prepared by the Team at the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Contents

Meeting Agenda:	3
Prior Meeting Record:	4
Executive Director's Report:	6
Team Updates:	9
Community Programs/Ed Team:	9
New Awards and Projects of Note:	10
Stormwater	12
Science Team:	14
Restoration Efforts:	14
Monitoring and Research Efforts:	16
Communications & Outreach:	17
Federal delegation updates:	18
Social media stats:	18
Media Coverage:	18
DEI Steering Team:	20
Safety Committee:	20
Funding Report:	21
Contracts Report:	22

Meeting Agenda:

Board of Directors
September 19, 2024, 9:30 to 12:00

Teams meeting link: [Join the meeting now](#)

9:30	Call meeting to order Review of Agenda Review and Approval of May Board Meeting Record Introductions
9:40	Executive Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written Report/Board Book Follow Up• Grants Update, Pending and Received• Contracts Update• Personnel Update• Legislative Update• CCMP Update Check In
9:50	Finance Report
10:00	Presentation by Dr. Leslie King – Environmental Justice
11:00	Break
11:10	Board Action items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive and Approve Nominations for Board Membership from Board Development Committee• Review and Approve Policy Revisions• Review and Approve Budget Revisions for 2024-25
11:40	Program Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Programs• Science
11:55	General Updates from Board Members
12:00	Meeting Adjourns

Upcoming Meetings & Events

CCMP Update Walk & Talk at Fort Clatsop NP: September 25th, 2024, 11:00am

Annual Event: October 17th, 2024, 6:00pm

Board Development Committee: October 28, 3:30pm

Executive Committee: November 7th, 2024, 9:30am

Board of Directors: November 21st, 2024, 9:30am

Prior Meeting Record:

Meeting Record Board of Directors May 16, 2024

Members Present: Chair, Dr. Matt Jones; Vice Chair, Rian Sallee; Courtney Schaff; Jane Bacchieri; Dr. Joseph Hattrick; Mary Lou Soscia; Barbara Berquist; Irma Lagomarsino; Dr. Susan Holveck; Chanda Littles; Shauna Hanish-Kirkbride; Yvonne Vallette; John Netto

Presiding Officer: Dr. Matt Jones

Staff Present: Elaine Placido, Erinne Goodell, Jana Magnuson, Chris Hathaway, Paul Kolp, Kari Dupler, Alvey Seeyouma

Meeting called to order by Chair Jones at 9:30

Introduction and Review of Agenda

Action Required: None

Review and Approval of February Board Meeting Record

Action: Approved. Motion by Vallette/Second by Soscia

Presentation by Paul Kolp and Kari Dupler – East Fork Lewis River Project Updates and LCFRB Proposals for Campen Creek, Dyer Creek, and Phases 2 and 3 of Woodard Creek.

Discussion:

- The Board would like to take a field trip to the East Fork project sites
- Discussion about the Communications plan for the East Fork projects. Irma Lagomarsino discussed the goal of a video which would ideally identify what a riverscape looks like when it's healthy.

Action Required: To authorize the Chair to sign authorization forms for the proposals at Campen, Dyer, and Woodard Creek. Motion by Vallette/Second by Bacchieri. Approved.

Presentation by Willie Levenson, Human Access Project

Action Required: None

Board Development Committee Report and Recommendations:

Discussion: Review Slate of Nominations for 2024/25:

- Executive Committee leadership positions for 24/25- Chair – Rian Sallee, Vice Chair – John Netto, Secretary/Treasurer Jane Bacchieri, At Large – Mary Lou Soscia and Rosemary Furfey, Immediate Past Chair – Matt Jones.
- Board Member Terms (with potential additional nominations in September 2024)
 - Continuing to engage in mutual learning with potential new Board Members. The Board recommended engaging with someone from the City of Portland as a local government representative.
- New Committee Member on Board Development – Courtney Schaff

Action Required: To approve the Slate of Nominations for 2024/25 including the appointment of Officers, Terms, and Committee Members, as presented. Motion by Netto/Second by Sallee. Approved

Executive Director's Report

Finance Report

- Presentation and discussion- Quarterly Finance Report
- **Proposed Revision to Finance Policies**

Discussion: Policy Revision in Finance Policies to expand use of Purchasing Cards (P Cards)

Action Required: Approve the proposed Finance Policy Revision to the Purchasing Card section. Motion by Soscia/Second by Vallette. Approved.

Approval of Board Schedule for 24/25

Action Required: Approval of Board Schedule. Motion Bacchieri/Second Netto. Approved

Meeting Adjourned at 12:30

Submitted by: E. Elaine Placido E. Elaine Placido on 5/16/2024

Chair: _____ Rian Sallee

Executive Director's Report:

CCMP Update:

Work on the CCMP Update continues. On September 25th we'll be working with partners at CREST and the National Park Service to host a Walk and Talk to gather input on the update. We will be touring restoration sites at the National Park and talking about our four focus areas; climate change; environmental justice; community education; access and recreation. Lunch and guided activities will also take place after the tour. If you are interested in attending, please let me know as soon as possible.

BIL Workplan and Implementation:

We are currently in our third year of BIL implementation. Details for active projects are below:

- *Environmental Education:* a compilation of various Environmental Education projects focused on work with and within disadvantaged communities. To date \$73,092.18 of BIL funding has been invested in projects that have leveraged additional state and local funding of \$310,175.61 - all the funds have been invested in disadvantaged communities. 2,283 students and 146 volunteers have participated in these Environmental Education BIL projects. Environmental Education BIL projects will be wrapping up their initial funding and moving to the Year 3 award in October.
- *Carbon Sequestration Inventory (CH4C):* is a research project that is assessing the ability of specific habitats to sequester carbon and measures methane releases. The project sites are both located in disadvantaged communities, but the overall project will benefit the entire region. To date the project has invested \$570,416.26 in BIL funds and is currently using both their initial award and subsequent Year 3 award, a revised budget will be submitted with the Year 4 workplan to better capture travel and contractor costs.
- *Campen Creek Reconnection Project* (formerly the Upper Gibbons Creek/Mable Kerr project): This is a project site upstream from the Steigerwald project and within a series of Estuary Partnership and City stormwater management projects. To date \$196,143.00 of BIL funds have been invested and have leveraged additional funding from federal and state resources resulting in a total investment of \$301,345.00. The project is not in a mapped disadvantaged community but may have some benefit to disadvantaged communities who use the area for recreation, so I'm attributing a 10% benefit or \$30,134.50 investment to benefit disadvantaged communities.
- *Habitat Restoration:* a compilation of various Habitat Restoration projects initially focusing on work at the Horsetail Creek Thermal Refuge project. The project has to date invested \$193,303 in BIL funds, leveraged an additional \$48,325.75 for a total investment of \$193,303.00. the project is not located in a mapped disadvantaged community, but members of disadvantaged communities could see benefits from the project related to habitat restoration.
- *Green Stormwater Infrastructure:* this is a compilation of stormwater retrofit projects throughout the study area. BIL funding has been a fantastic vehicle to complete several GSI projects that would have otherwise not been completed. To date \$85,001.91 in BIL funds have been invested with an additional \$640,424.98 in additional federal, state, and local funds. Currently 25% of the investment has directly benefit disadvantaged communities. Planned projects total approximately \$4.95 million in combined BIL and leverage funds; 90% of which will be invested in disadvantaged communities.
- *East Fork Lewis River Floodplain Reconnection Project:* BIL funds have contributed to the larger East Fork Lewis River project, particularly in the Ridgefield Pits section. To date \$492,529.00 in BIL funds have been contributed to the project with an additional \$1,065,747.00 in federal and state funds. While the project site is not in a mapped disadvantaged community, there are large mapped disadvantaged communities in

close proximity to the project site and the site will likely provide benefits to members of disadvantaged communities through the habitat restoration efforts, increased access and increased recreation opportunities. Currently I'm projecting that 25% of the investment to date, \$389,569.00 has benefited disadvantaged communities.

- The Landcover Dataset project: is a project that will update our current landcover data layer. The project will benefit the entire region but could be particularly beneficial to disadvantaged communities by identifying where heat islands exist due to lack of tree canopy or an abundance of impervious surface; where industrial development or highly developed areas could impact water quality or toxics exposure; or potential areas for habitat restoration that leads to improvements in access and recreation opportunities.

BIL Overall performance:

- Total Investments: \$3,746,407.76
- Total BIL Funds Invested: \$1,548,881.35
- Total Leveraged Funds from Federal, State, and local Sources: \$2,197,526.41
- Investments with Impact in Disadvantaged Communities: \$1,614,091.09 or 43% of total investments

Leveraging of EPA Base Funds:

This year our Base 320 Funds benefited from:

- \$2,241,209 in leveraged federal funds
- \$42,114 in leveraged in-kind contributions from federal partners
- \$1,958,501 in leveraged state funds
- \$24,084 in leveraged in-kind state contributions from partners
- \$426,325 in leveraged local public funding
- \$20,070 in leveraged in-kind contributions from local public partners
- \$75,000 in leveraged private funding
- \$296,928 in leveraged in-kind contributions by individuals
- A total of \$5,084,231 in leveraged funds and in-kind contributions from 30 different funders and 4,402 individuals who gave a total of 18,254 hours of their time.

Since our last meeting I've participated in:

- ANEP External Affairs Committee Meetings - 2
- ANEP Executive Committee Meetings – 1
- Participated in one EPA/NEP EJ Community of Practice meeting
- Participated in one Ross Island HAB Planning meeting
- Completed one recruitment –Limited Duration Research Tech
- Participated as the Ex Officio member of the PE team for the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
- Met with Partners at:
 - Human Access Project
 - CREST
 - Spirit Lake Toutle Cowlitz Rivers Community Collaborative
 - WA RCO
 - CWCOG
 - Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians
 - NPS
 - Oregon Solutions – to talk about Fox Creek daylighting project
- Participated in a site tour at the EFLR with congressional staffers.

- Participated in an Environmental Ed field trip at Seaquest State Park.
- Attended one pre-bid meeting at Ilwaco
- DEI Meetings x3
- Participated in a NAO workshop on shifting to a 4-day workweek and another on the changes to the FLSA changes.
- Participated in two PMEP Steering Committee meetings
- Attended the kickoff of Phase 2 of the Vancouver Lake Technical Advisory Group
- Attended one information session on the Columbia River Treaty
- Attended one Lower Columbia Solutions Group- Science to Policy meeting for the 2023 dredging and monitoring season
- Attended the Confluence Legacy event

Team Updates:

Community Programs/Ed Team:

Totals for Education Programs from **May 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024**

- 39 classes within 14 schools
- 964 students
- 61 class lessons
- 21 student field trips

Totals for Education Programs the 23-24 school year from **September 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024**

- 133 classes within 49 schools
- 3,190 students
- 347 class lessons
- 80 student field trips at 19 sites: Salmon Creek, Steigerwald Lake Wildlife Refuge, Vancouver Lake, Meldrum Bar/Willamette River, Fox Creek, Scappoose Bay, Veteran's Park, Tenny Park, Burnt Bridge Creek, Seaquest State Park/Silver Lake, Lacamas Creek Park, Meadowbrook North, Forest Park, Gibbons Creek, Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge, Lewisville Park, Wapato Access Park, Cathedral Park, Sandy River Delta.

Totals for Volunteer + Community Programs from **September 1, 2023 – August 30, 2024**

- 32 volunteer events
- 538 volunteers engaged (179 youth & 359 adults)
- 11,558 plants installed
- 5 sites for events: Burnt Bridge Creek, Sandy River Delta, Veteran's Park – Scappoose, Steigerwald Refuge, Salmon Creek

Totals for Big Canoe Programs from **April 1, 2024 – August 30, 2024**

- 50 Big Canoe paddle programs
- 1,008 participants (594 youth/414 adults)
- 34 community partners
- 7 waterway access locations: Willamette River from Cathedral Park, Willamette Park, Fred's Marina; Coffenbury Lake; Cullaby Lake; Vancouver Lake/Lake River; Tualatin River from Cook Family Park

New Awards and Projects of Note:

Building on current partnerships for *RCO and Washington State Parks No Child Left Inside* program proposal due October 31st. This project would continue partnerships with WA State Parks and Cowlitz County schools in Kelso, Longview, and Woodland.

Our *East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Partners in Conservation* STEAM Paddle Project received full funding (\$25,571) and has been in full swing throughout the summer. We have two public schools in East Multnomah County that we will provide programming for this fall within this project to complete all goals.

Working with the *City of Washougal* to create a project application for Education & Community Engagement phase of the Campen Creek Reconnection Project to be submitted to Washington Department of Ecology Centennial Grant Program October 16th. The City of Washougal will be the primary sponsor of this application. *RCO Outdoor Learning Grant* funded project sponsors will gather in Olympia on September 17th for a day of workshops, learning, and project sharing. Our current *Outdoor Learning Grant Explore Local* project includes collaboration with Confluence Project Native Educators, and Valerie Pufahl (EP Education Programs Manager) and Heather Gurko (Confluence Education Manager) will participate on a panel for the event to share about incorporating Native Educator and Tribal Partnerships into programming. Valerie will also collaborate with other sponsors to share about program and student assessment practices.

Collaborative Conservation and Stewardship at the Sandy River Delta: The purpose of this project is to work with Indigenous Traditional Ecological & Cultural Knowledge specialists is helping to resurrect, reestablish, and reclaim ways of knowing and caring for place that can only add to any efforts to restore and protect our environment. We are co-leading this project with Confluence. This 3-year project is being funded with a Metro Nature in Neighborhood grant and EPA Base funds. In June, we completed some on-the-ground field work to conduct water quality testing and blackberry removal around the margins of the cattail wetland. Alvey and Marci also met for our project kickoff field walk with our project partners including Courtney Yilk (Confluence staff), Greg Archuleta (Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde), Christine and Clifton Bruno (Wasco), Brance (USFS Botanist/Invasive Plant Coordinator), and Bill Weiler (formerly with the Sandy Basin Watershed Council) on site for a field walk. Marci is working with Courtney from Confluence to finalize a more detailed project plan for a SOW for our contract with Confluence for our portion of the Metro NIN grant. We are also working on the plan to continue site testing this fall for cattail and other plants.

Land Care Collective: (formally referred to as “Next Steps” group)- Marci continues to work with partners from BES and West Multnomah SWCD as a member of the Land Care Collective steering committee. The Land Care Collective works to build a network of reciprocity between Indigenous leaders and land care organizations to take better care of the land, its waters, and its peoples. The Land Care Collective comprises land care agencies and non-profits, as well as Indigenous leaders working in the realm of land justice who may work for those entities and/or be Indigenous knowledge holders, educators, independent consultants, or otherwise interested in land justice. We are centered in the wider region near the confluence of the Willamut and Nichi-Wana or the Willamette and Columbia Rivers.

The steering committee is planning for a field gathering at Wapato Island Farms on September 16, 2024. This will be an opportunity to continue to build connection and momentum for our work together. The steering committee is also helping to support planning for 2-day overnight Indigenous Leadership retreat scheduled for November 2024. Local Indigenous leaders are organizing a retreat to provide space and opportunity for Indigenous community to connect and strategize around collective goals at the intersections of ecological healing, environmental justice, food sovereignty, community health and wellness, and systemic change. The visioning done at this retreat will create a foundation for future collaboration and partnership with local agencies and organizations. The Estuary Partnership is contributing \$5,000 of EPA Base 8 funds to support the work of the Land Care Collective.



LAND CARE COLLECTIVE INDIGENOUS LAND & LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Indigenous peoples are distinctly equipped to help address the deeply-rooted and all-encompassing social and environmental issues that we are ever more urgently facing today. Indigenous cultural knowledge, teachings, and lifeways have great potential to help right the balance of natural systems that support thriving, interconnected communities. There has been a notable growth in interest among agencies and organizations to uplift Indigenous voice and vision and requests for Indigenous community engagements.

To respond to this call, local Indigenous leaders are organizing a retreat to provide space and opportunity for Indigenous community to connect and strategize around collective goals at the intersections of ecological healing, environmental justice, food sovereignty, community health and wellness, and systemic change. The visioning done at this retreat will create a foundation for future collaboration and partnership with local agencies and organizations.

What: 2-day overnight retreat
Who: 30 local Indigenous leaders
When: Summer 2024
Where: Metro River House

Current Sponsors:

- ✦ Metro
- ✦ West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District
- ✦ Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

In order to provide a comfortable experience for participants that is conducive to strategizing around collective goals, we are seeking financial contributions. Our sponsors will help us provide stipends for participation, meals, childcare, transportation, camping gear, and collaborative materials during the retreat.

The full cost of the summit is **\$160,011**. We have begun to secure some funding but are still short of our total goal. Please consider making a donation today!

Contact: Serina Fast Horse
serina@kimimelaconsulting.com

Stormwater

Stormwater Project Manager: Adam and Chris are mostly successfully managing the stormwater projects themselves in coordination with contractor doing the work. Adam has added significant value with contracting, invoicing, reporting and other missing pieces. As such, at this point, we remain on pause and do not currently plan to reopen this recruitment.

Baker Bay (Ilwaco, WA): In July the project went to bid. Eight contractors attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting in Ilwaco. One contractor, Rognlin's submitted a bid. The bid was about \$400,000 above the construction budget. Staff worked with Ecology to reduce some project elements and Ecology is adding about \$158,000 to the project budget. The City of Ilwaco sent the contract to Rognlin's, Rognlin's signed the contract, and the City will soon. Once the contract is signed, there will be a change order to reduce the contract amount and reduce project elements to arrive at the construction budget we have. In addition to Ecology adding funds, they will extend the project deadline to June 30, 2025. A pre-construction meeting will take place in September and actual construction will start soon thereafter and take 3-5 months depending on weather and other factors.

Grattix Box Project: The Grattix Box project is complete. No new info.

EPA Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Fund the Funder: All stormwater projects, except the Baker Bay project, are now a component of this grant. Through Year 1 of the six-year grant, staff has essentially secured the grant's \$1.5 million in match.

Stormwater Design and Engineering On-Call List: The Estuary Partnership continues to utilize our stormwater design and engineering on-call list to solicit bids for new projects – most recently for Chief Joseph Elementary School in Portland.

Chief Joseph Elementary School (Portland Public Schools, North Portland): We started working with Chief Joseph prior to receiving our EPA School Stormwater award and used their concept plan and a letter of support to help receive the grant. We are now returning to that project. After running a small RFB from our on-call list, we selected Parametrix to develop concept designs and construction documents for depaving and stormwater retrofits at Chief Joseph school. Potential construction in fall 2025.

Mittleman Jewish Community Center (SW Portland): We signed a contract with Blossom Construction to build the MJCC facility. Groundbreaking took place in early August. Concrete was poured in late August. Additional elements (liner installation, soil installation) will take place in September. The Estuary Partnership, Blossom, and PJA students will plant the stormwater facility in fall 2024.

Christ the King Lutheran Church (Tigard): In August, staff submitted a \$90,000 grant to the Tualatin SWCD to continue work at Christ the King Lutheran Church (a site identified through a previous Tualatin SWCD grant). If funded, the project would design and build stormwater retrofit facilities within the church's parking lot. Funding decision likely to come in early November.

Creston Annex Head Start (Portland Public Schools, SE Portland): Similarly, we joined a project being developed by KPFF, PPS, and staff from Creston Annex Head Start to add stormwater management to their existing parking lot, improve pedestrian connections, and enhance a habitat garden for the head start youth. We became the project manager, helped rework an existing City of Portland Percent for Green grant, and became the grant recipient of a \$275,103 grant to design and build the project. We hired KPFF to do the design and engineering work. They have developed a concept plan which is being reviewed by PPS. We hope for construction in summer 2025.

Evergreen High School (Evergreen Public Schools, Vancouver): Staff developed an Ecology SFAP grant application to design stormwater retrofit facilities at Evergreen High School in Vancouver. The City of Vancouver submitted that grant. Ecology's final funding decision was made in late June, and they are funding \$379,306 of the design project. Staff are working with the City of Vancouver to set up an MOU to acknowledge the Estuary Partnership's project management responsibilities and establish the flow of funds from Ecology to the City to the Estuary Partnership. The project will likely get started in late 2024 or early 2025. The Estuary Partnership's share, (\$66,936) will come from EPA School Stormwater Project funding. The project will create designs for stormwater retrofit projects within multiple parking areas on the Evergreen campus.

Fort Vancouver High School (Vancouver Public Schools, Vancouver): Staff began developing a new Ecology SFAP grant application to develop stormwater retrofits at Fort Vancouver High School (and/or Hudson's Bay High School). We hired Robertson Fick Engineering to scope project opportunities and to develop initial concept designs that can be submitted as part of a grant application submitted in October 2024. Staff is working with the City of Vancouver to get their permission to be the official applicant (the Estuary Partnership is an ineligible applicant for SFAP funding – so we need a city/county/port partner.)

Sunnyside Elementary School (North Clackamas School District, Clackamas): Final construction documents have been completed and the \$26,996 Clackamas County WES RiverHealth grant spent and closed out. The EPA stormwater grant will fund project construction in fall 2024. Staff are working with the non-profit Verde Builds as a potential construction contractor. We expect to receive a bid in early September. to build a stormwater retrofit project at Sunnyside School. Construction will likely take place this fall with students involved in planting the area in October/November.

Rigler Elementary School (Portland Public Schools; NE Portland): We expect the stormwater retrofit project at Rigler Elementary School to be one of our flagship projects. In late January 2024, Rigler was the site of a visit from EPA Regional Administrator Casey Sixkiller along with other EPA staff. Juncus Studio has created 50% construction drawings which are being reviewed by PPS district staff. The project team recently met with the new Rigler Principal and all other project stakeholders. Staff submitted two grant applications in July/August to help build the Rigler project: a \$348,023 grant to the City of Portland Percent for Green Program, and a \$40,000 grant to the Rose Foundation Columbia River Fund. The Rigler PTA (Padres Unidos de Rigler) is receiving \$23,000 from the EMSWCD to contribute to the project's construction. Construction is tentatively scheduled for summer 2025.

Glencoe Elementary School (Portland Public Schools, SE Portland): We "joined" a project in development by the Glencoe PTA and PPS at Glencoe Elementary School in SE Portland. With our EPA funding and expertise, we have become a go to source for these types of projects. We worked with the school and PPS to rework an existing City of Portland Percent for Green grant application, to become the project manager, add funds, and be the official grant recipient of a \$109,890 grant. We hired Juncus Studio to develop a schoolyard concept plan, identify areas for depaving and stormwater management, and work with the community. Juncus has created the concept plan. PPS district staff are reviewing the plan – after which we will present it to the school and PTA. We hope for construction in summer 2025.

Washougal High School and Surrounding Streets (Washougal): Geotech work took place to identify soil types, infiltration rates, etc. Unfortunately, soil conditions are not good for infiltration – so the project's benefits will be mostly focused on water quality (versus also helping reduce high flows in Campen Creek). The City may add additional utility work to the project to take advantage of the project. Robertson Fisk Engineering will likely have concept designs available for stakeholder review in September. Ecology is providing \$390,502 and the Estuary

Partnership about \$20,000 from our EPA School Stormwater Program grant in match. This is a design only project at this stage.

Science Team:

Staff Updates:

The Science Team, along with Community Programs staff, will be attending a 2-day Wilderness First Aid and CPR training at the end of this month. The Team completes this safety training every other year.

Our two summer *Research Technicians*, Ona Underwood and Sam McCarell, have been with us since early July and are critical help with our Monitoring Team's field data collection and processing. It is hard, hot, and mosquito-ridden work, and they both have shown really great attitudes. We hope that they can use the experience and knowledge they learn with their time at the Estuary Partnership to their advantage in finding their next job. If interested in learning more about them and their skills, please reach out to Sneha or Catherine.

Miscellaneous Projects:

The Bay to Bay: Community Resiliency project with Washington Sea Grant and Pacific Conservation District is complete. A Resiliency Plan developed through the project is available from the Coastal Hazards Resiliency Network website: [Baker Bay and Grays Bay: Community-Based Coastal Resilience Strategy report](#). We hosted 4 workshops each within Baker and Grays Bays regions that have each garnered over 30 participants. Methods and outcomes from the workshops are provided within the report.

Science Work Group – The monitoring team provided an overview of the new drone and its sensors at the May 28 Science Work Group. This was well attended. We are developing another meeting for early November to discuss overall monitoring efforts in the lower river.

Grant applications:

We are still awaiting the final word on which of the 4 grant applications the Restoration Team submitted to the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) will be funded. LCFRB facilitates the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Salmon Recovery Funding. The grant applications include requests for Dyer Creek construction, Campen Creek construction, Woodard Creek Ph 2 construction, and Woodard Creek Ph 3 feasibility assessment.

Restoration Efforts:

Steigerwald: No new update. The team continues working to establish the plantings, monitor the effectiveness of restoration actions, and occasionally provides site tours and presentations.

East Fork Lewis River Reconnection Project: The East Fork Lewis River (EFLR) Reconnection Project continues to move towards construction. The Estuary Partnership and design and construction management team finalized project design, and on August 23, we hosted a site visit with contractors interested in being pre-qualified to bid on the project. Construction is slated to begin in April 2025.

Horsetail Creek Phase 2 – LCEP and USFS staff installed two beaver dam analogs (BDAs) at the floodplain site in August. These human-made structures, built with willow poles and livestakes, mimic beaver-made dams and provide many of the same ecological benefits, such as habitat complexity for juvenile salmon. We have just a couple more plant establishment maintenance treatments and infill plantings before this Phase 2 of the Horsetail Creek floodplain project is complete.

Horsetail Creek Thermal Refuge Enhancement – Continuing to work on resolving long term stewardship issues for this project so that it can move forward. We completed a feasibility study assessing the potential for constructing a cold-water refuge at the confluence of the Columbia River with Horsetail and Oneonta creeks. Currently, we are evaluating the next steps, including funding options and long-term maintenance and ownership.

Mason Creek – Completed final engineering designs and continuing to work with landowners to gain support for the project. Mason Creek is located about 1 mile downstream of the EFLR Reconnection project. Mason Creek is an important tributary of the EFLR for rearing salmonids and is typically several degrees (Celsius) cooler. Restoration efforts will focus on a 1-mile section of Mason Creek above the confluence and on a ½ mile section of the East Fork Lewis River. The project will reconnect a 10-acre off-channel wetland, improve riparian conditions, increase instream habitat quantity and quality, and enhance existing cold-water refuge areas. We completed the final design package, which includes engineering drawings, cost estimate, design report and material specifications. Project design and permitting was funded by the LCFRB-RCO. We anticipate requesting funding from LCFRB for construction of this project in 2025.

Woodard Creek Ph 2 - We've completed final designs and permit applications. We are requesting funding for construction from the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) this year for construction in 2026. We received funding from the State of Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office Salmon Recovery Funding Grant for a restoration project completed in 2021. The project will reconnect the channel to the entire valley bottom in an area impacted by historic road building, timber harvest, and mining. The project will take place on U.S. Forest Service land, and they are our partner on this project. After multiple reviews by USGS, USFS and a third-party engineering firm, we revised the design package in late 2023 and early 2024. We are applying to LCFRB-RCO for a third restoration phase that would occur downstream of Phase 2; this is a very complex project that would take years to design and permit.

Crabapple Creek and Multnomah Channel Marsh Reconnection Project - This project includes two restoration components –enhancement and reconnection of the 278-acre Multnomah Channel Marsh Natural Area (MCMNA) floodplain site and the replacement of the Crabapple Creek culvert under Highway 30. In August, the team completed the Crabapple Creek Crossing Feasibility Assessments and identified four feasible concept alternatives to replace the undersized culvert under Highway 30 and the railroad. We are working with Metro, ODOT, the railroad, and ODFW to select the preferred alternative which improves fish and wildlife passage at this location. Upstream of Hwy 30, we are partnering with West Multnomah SWCD on the Wildwood Golf Course to do riparian revegetation along a small section of Crabapple Creek. Downstream of Hwy 30, at the MCMNA floodplain site owned by Metro, we completed the wetland delineation and submitted permit applications to install 10-12 beaver dam analog (BDA) structures. We have begun Section 106 cultural consultation on the overarching project and are continuing to identify funding opportunities for this watershed scale restoration project. The stewardship team will host several events at the MCMNA site this summer and fall.

Campen Creek Floodplain Reconnection – The team finalized engineering designs and continues to work through the regulatory process, with a focus on cultural resources compliance. We also learned that our LCFRB-RCO funding application is likely to be awarded, meaning that construction is fully funded. We anticipate completing all permits in spring 2024 and constructing the project during summer/fall 2025.

East Fork Thermal Project- The project team released an RFP in spring of 2024 seeking a design firm with experience developing thermal refuge projects. The team ultimately selected Natural Systems Design (NSD), after reviewing the received proposals. A contract was signed in July, and we have begun initial work on the project including planning a site visit with NSD in early September and initiating data exchange. Our project team has also been collecting temperature and water surface elevation data this summer at the proposed project sites. Installed data loggers will be retrieved in late summer or early fall. At that point, we will be working with NSD on analyzing data and developing initial project alternatives and planning for additional field data acquisition next summer. The project is being funded by RCO through the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board.

Franz Lake National Wildlife Refuge – With BPA funding, we worked with the USFWS to refine and select the preferred restoration alternative for the site. We currently are contracting with Wolf Water Resources to complete the 60% design, at which point we will submit all permit applications. This site is also one of our long-term monitoring sites under the Ecosystem Monitoring Program.

Mirror Lake Upstream Reconnection Project (Rooster Rock State Park) - The team's application to OWEB for project design ranked first for technical assistance applications in the region and likely will be funded. Currently, the team is working to select an engineering firm to help with project design and will begin the alternatives analysis and design this fall.

Lower Columbia River Barrier Assessment – Continuing to assess fish passage barriers across the lower Columbia region of southwest Washington. We are visiting identified features which are missing passage severity information in the current database and collecting this information where possible. The data will feed into a decision support tool that will be used to prioritize barriers for passage improvement in these watersheds. Current work on the decision-support tool includes development of an intrinsic potential dataset by NOAA fisheries. This is a species-specific stream habitat quality indicator for salmonids, which together with stream length information will provide an indicator of where maximum salmon recovery benefits may be obtained by removing or retrofitting the thousands of existing culverts and other passage barriers in the region. The project is funded by RCO through the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board. Originally scheduled for completion this fall, we have received an extension through next fall, in order to allow for development of the intrinsic potential habitat quality data set.

Monitoring and Research Efforts:

Ecosystem and Action Effectiveness Monitoring:

- The Monitoring Team continues to collect, analyze, manage, and report vegetation communities; water elevation and temperature; and sediment accretion rates for Ecosystem and Action Effectiveness Monitoring Programs.
- The Team is continuing to disseminate our data along with the data collected by our research partners through Tableau dashboards. Currently, we create hybrid reports with abbreviated PDF summaries of results and methods, and Tableau dashboards for more detailed information.
- The Team has been using the new drone to fly Ecosystem and Action Effectiveness Monitoring Programs' sites along with partner restoration sites. The Team hopes the high resolution LiDAR data which can be used to produce high resolution DEMs and site topography will be useful by partners in the design phase of their projects. We are testing this out this summer.
- Summer field monitoring is almost complete. The Team has been out in the field almost every day since early July.
- The funding for these monitoring programs has been provided by BPA since 2003.

Columbia County Water Quality Monitoring:

We are able to continue our water quality monitoring program in multiple Columbia County watersheds in partnership with the Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District for another year as a result of their support to the work. The program had been funded by OWEB, Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District, and internal EPA NEP funds, but OWEB recently declined our last grant application to sustain the water quality monitoring program. Data from this program is regularly shared with the ODEQ and is publicly available.

Methane Carbon Flux Study (CH4C)

The Monitoring Team with our partners continue to collect data at the two sites in the Columbia River Estuary. In partnership with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, we continue to collect carbon methane flux as well as soil and vegetation community data at their 200-acre brackish wetland restoration site in Youngs Bay. OHSU and PSU researchers installed and now maintain an eddy flux covariance tower and soil chambers, while LCEP researchers capture LiDAR and multispectral imagery from our UAV in Spring and Summer 2024. A second eddy flux covariance tower was deployed near a long-term monitoring site at Tongue Point, Oregon, which is maintained by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's Coastal Margin Observation Platform Program (CRITFC CMOP). This research is funded by EPA under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to NEPs.

Background: Most restoration and protection activities within the lower Columbia River are thought to not only sequester carbon, but also have large methane emissions, which creates uncertainty for their benefit as climate mitigation. Importantly, carbon registries and funding agencies are unable to certify or prioritize tidally influenced riparian wetland or riverine restoration projects as natural climate solutions (NCS). This then limits the ability of conservation practitioners to implement these types of projects for the goal of sequestering carbon. This project will resolve these critical uncertainties to ensure that NCS projects are climate additional and measurable within these tidally influenced freshwater habitats. Researchers are measuring carbon and methane fluxes at various restored and undisturbed habitats representing the estuarine-tidal freshwater gradient of the lower Columbia River. Within each site, researchers will deploy an eddy covariance flux tower to capture the site carbon and methane flux. Within each site, soil chambers will be deployed at locations that represent the diversity of vegetation communities, topography, soil conditions, and groundwater to capture the intra-site diversity of GHG exchange. Researchers will map each site's plant communities and topography using UAVs and multiple sensors and machine learning in order to extrapolate results from the soil chambers to the larger site. The research is being conducted by four research groups: ourselves, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), and Portland State University (PSU).

Communications & Outreach:

Our *Annual Celebration* is next month on October 17. [Details are here.](#) Big thanks to those who have already dropped off or plan to contribute art or wine! Hopefully you can bring those to the Board meeting, or feel free to bring it by any time the office is open.

Event sponsors are:

Mainstem (\$10K): Consor

Tributary (\$5K): Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Wolf Water Resources, Inter-Fluve

Floodplain (\$3K): MacKay Sposito, Parametrix, Robertson Fick, and Port of Portland

Beer sponsor Hopworks

Wine sponsor Cooper Mountain (Duck Pond Cellars also donated 6 cases).

Oakshire's Portland Beer Hall is holding a fundraiser for us September 17 (two days before the meeting). \$1 from core pints and 10% of food and brew sales all day will be donated to the Partnership.

Federal delegation updates:

Appropriations: The Senate Committee recommended \$885,714 per estuary in their Interior funding bill. This represents an increase of \$35,714 per estuary over what was enacted in fiscal year 2024. As a reminder, the House maintained the NEP funding at \$850,000 per estuary. Every member of congress in the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership's study area that we asked, signed onto our appropriations request (due to their positions on the appropriations committee, Sen. Murray and Sen. Merkley are unable to sign on to appropriations requests)

Estuaries Week resolution: The National Estuaries Week Resolution officially designates September 21-28, 2024, as "National Estuaries Week." Each year, resolutions are introduced in both the House and Senate. Members have the opportunity to co-sponsor the resolution, similar to when they co-sponsor a bill or sign onto a letter. Requests to co-sponsor have been sent to every congressional office within the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership's study area. Senator Wyden's office has confirmed their support.

Senators Merkley and Wyden sent a shared press release promoting the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership's third year of National Estuary Program Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding (\$909k). We provided a quote and assisted with promotion. News articles about the funding are listed in the media section below.

Congressional staff tours: The Estuary Partnership organized a tour of the East Fork Lewis River Reconnection Project for staffers from Representative Gluskamp Perez and Senator Murray's office. The tour's purpose was to convey the important ecological, economic, recreational, and flood/erosion reduction benefits associated with this project and to share our appreciation for their boss's support for funding decisions that benefit this project and the work of the Estuary Partnership. Clark County Public Works, the Clark Skamania Flyfishers, and an erosion-impacted landowner along the East Fork project site also attended and contributed to the tour.

Steward of the Year: the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership has selected Congressman Earl Blumenauer as the 2024 Steward of the Year. This is his final year in office and this award recognizes his longstanding support for our work. He is expected to attend the Annual Celebration to accept the award.

Social media stats:

Top Facebook post by reach: [Water Trail trip feature August 1](#) with 2,494 impressions and 29 engagements

Top Instagram post: Fieldwork Friday post from the East Fork with 394 impressions and 37 interactions.
<https://www.instagram.com/p/C77A3kfNWy6/>

Top LinkedIn post: Advertising for the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership's open habitat restoration project manager position with 473 impressions and 14 engagements
<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7231379980679569408>

Media Coverage:

[Grays Bay flooding and sea level rise workshop announced](#). The Wahkiakum County Eagle, May 15, 2024.

[Grays Bay flood & sea level rise workshop series wrap-up](#). The Wahkiakum County Eagle, May 30, 2024.

[Public invited to final workshop on Baker Bay hazards.](#) Chinook Observer, June 3, 2024.

[County completes acquisition of Ridgefield Pits for habitat restoration.](#) Clark County Today, July 30, 2024.

[Clark County buys Ridgefield Pits, opening the way for a \\$20M restoration.](#) The Columbian, July 31, 2024

[Merkley, Wyden announce \\$900,000 grant to improve water quality.](#) The Chronicle, August 13, 2024.

[Senators Merkley and Wyden announce \\$909,000 EPA funding for Lower Columbia River projects.](#) Klamath Sports and News, August 12, 2024.

[Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership receives EPA grant for local projects.](#) Columbia River Ship Report, August 16, 2024.

[Paddlers learn environmental lessons while exploring Lake River, Vancouver Lake on big canoe tours.](#) The Columbian, August 22, 2024.

DEI Steering Team:

The DEI Steering Team continues to meet monthly. Over the last three months we have been working on several topics including:

- The design of the Small Groups including creation of a guidebook for the small group facilitators
- Updating the Quarterly Calendar
- Considering all-staff training opportunities
- Meeting Records are here:
 - [July Meeting Record](#)
 - [September Meeting Record](#)

Safety Committee:

The Safety Committee met on August 13 and held its quarterly office self-inspection on August 22. Current projects include the following:

- Reviewing our fire extinguisher procedures and weighing the possibility of providing fire extinguisher training to staff.
- Considering updates to our emergency procedures to improve communication with staff members outside the office during emergencies.
- Continuing work on our Safety Manual, which will centralize safety policies, procedures, and documentation for easier reference.

Funding Report:

Grant Report 7/1/2024 through 9/13/2024

Program Area:	Sum of Grant Ask Amount	Sum of Grant Funded Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> EJ and DEI	\$ 195,000.00	
Preparing	\$ 195,000.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring	\$ 1,579,751.00	\$ 17,738.00
Awarded: No Match	\$ 17,738.00	\$ 17,738.00
Closed - Declined	\$ 448,000.00	
Submitted	\$ 1,114,013.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Paddling & On-water	\$ 19,998.00	
Submitted	\$ 19,998.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Restoration	\$ 260,649.00	
Selected: Awaiting Agreement	\$ 260,649.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater	\$ 970,568.08	\$ 489,196.00
Awarded: No Match	\$ 109,890.00	\$ 109,890.00
Selected: Awaiting Agreement	\$ 379,306.00	\$ 379,306.00
Submitted	\$ 481,372.08	
<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted	\$ 921,582.00	
Preparing	\$ 646,479.00	
Selected: Awaiting Agreement	\$ 275,103.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Awarded: No Match	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Grand Total	\$ 3,952,548.08	\$ 511,934.00

Total based on current status of proposal:

Proposal Status	Sum of Grant Ask Amount
Awarded: No Match	\$ 132,628.00
Closed - Declined	\$ 448,000.00
Preparing	\$ 841,479.00
Selected: Awaiting Agreement	\$ 915,058.00
Submitted	\$ 1,615,383.08
Grand Total	\$ 3,952,548.08

Contracts Report:

Contracts Report 5/20/2024 through 9/13/2024					
Contracts Awarded to Estuary					
Partnership	Contract #	Dollar Value	Purpose	Date Signed	Notes:
EPA Base Funds	02J36801-1	\$ 850,000.00	EPA Base Funds	7/31/2024	
BIL Year 3 Award	02J55401	\$ 909,000.00	BIL Funds	7/18/2024	
Percent for Green- Portland BES		\$ 109,890.00	Greening Glencoe Playground Stormwater Retrofit	6/18/2024	
License and Access Agreement	PW24-129		Log and materials staging for EFLR project	5/22/2024	
Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District	CSWCD WQ 24-25	\$ 17,738.00	Columbia county Water Quality Monitoring Program	7/23/2024	
Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District	CSWCD WQ 24-25 Amendment 1		Define Scope of monitoring tasks	9/6/2024	No cost amendment
Percent for Green- Portland BES		\$ 275,103.00	Creston annex Head Start Stormwater	8/15/2024	
Gray Family Foundation		\$ 18,000.00	Environmental Education	5/30/2024	No contract, just notice.
Totals:		\$2,179,731.00			
Contracts Let by Estuary					
Partnership	Contract #	Dollar Value	Purpose	Date Signed	Notes:
NOLS Wilderness Medicine	22081		NOLS Wilderness First Aid Class	7/15/2024	All costs associated with hosting NOLS WFA class, will be invoiced upon course completion.
Ash Creek Forest Management	12-2023 Amendment #1	\$ 45,207.08	Amending contract for plant maintenance	5/23/2024	Additional funds
Wolf Water Resources	15-2024 Amendment #1	\$ 2,000.00	To add \$2000 to existing contract	8/11/2024	new contract total \$7,391
Natural Systems Design, Inc.	Mar-25	\$ 149,968.00	EFLR Thermal Refuge Project	8/1/2024	
Blossom Construction	Jan-25	\$ 63,410.00	Work at MJCC	7/23/2024	
Robertson Fick	32-2024	\$ 24,470.00	Ft. Vancouver and Hudson's Bay HSs stormwater retrofit scoping and design	7/10/2024	
Wolf Water Resources	24-2024 Amendment #1		Extended duration of contract	6/26/2024	Amended end date from 6/30/2024 to 9/30/2024
Interfluve	38-2024	\$ 136,874.00	EFLR - 2024 Construction Phase Engineering Services	6/25/2024	
AINW		\$ 9,980.60	Archeological resources monitoring at Campen Creek/Washougal HS	6/21/2024	
KPFF	37-2024	\$ 84,560.00	Creston Annex Stormwater Retrofit	6/12/2024	
AINW	19-2024 Amendment #1		Extended duration of contract	6/10/2024	Amended end date from 6/30/2024 to 12/18/2024
Native Ecosystems NW	13-2022 Amendment #2	\$ 17,500.00	Amended Contract to add funds	5/31/2024	Added \$17,500 in additional funds, new contract total as Amended is \$77,500.
University of Washington	11-2024 Amendment 1	\$ 16,614.00	Amended Contract to add funds	5/28/2024	Added \$16,614 to contract, new contract total as Amended \$117,846
Wolf Water Resources	26-2023 Amendment #2	\$ 39,255.00	Amended Contract to add funds	5/23/2024	Added \$39,255 to contract, new contract total as Amended \$147,325.
Wolf Water Resources	36-2024	\$ 101,223.00	Franz Lake NWR Design & Permitting	5/23/2024	
Totals:		\$ 691,061.68			