

Board Briefing Book

November 2024

Prepared by the Team at the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

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## Meeting Agenda:

Board of Directors

November 21, 2024, 9:30 to 12:00

Teams meeting link- [**Join the meeting now**](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_MmViMzQwMjItYTUyMi00ZDRkLWFhOTUtMWJjZDdlYWFlYzQ3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%229aff84ff-9e53-4d8d-a7ab-a31c8ec2f150%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%225a804c55-d79c-4dc7-a90d-85d29e98e1e0%22%7d)

9:30 Call meeting to order

Review of Agenda

Review and Approval of September Board Meeting Record

Board Member Introductions

9:40 Executive Director’s Report

* 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 Program Presentations:

 Chris Hathway – Stormwater Green Infrastructure (20 minutes)

 Jenny Dezso – Multnomah Channel Marsh Natural Area (20 minutes)

11:00 Break

11:15 Policy Revision – Update the Language in the Board Development Plan to align with Board Policy and Bylaws

 ***Action:*** Approval Required

11:30 Board Forms for 2024-25:

* Board Profile Grid Updates
* Board Demographics Survey
* Board Commitment Form
* 990s

11:45 Board of Directors General Comments

12:00 Meeting Adjourns

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Board Development Committee: January 27, 2025, 3:30pm

Executive Committee: February 6, 2025, 9:30am

Board of Directors: February 20, 2025, 9:30am

## Prior Meeting Record:

 **Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership**

**Board Meeting Record**

Thursday, September 19, 2024   9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon   Estuary Partnership Offices

**Members Present**:  Mary Lou Soscia, Rosemary Furfey, Matt Jones, Rian Sallee, Amy Boyd, Susan Holveck, Margaret Magruder, Barbara Bergquist

**Ex Officio Members Present**:  Yvonne Vallette, John Netto, Shauna Hanisch-Kirkbride, Courtney Shaff

**Presiding Officer**:  Rian Sallee

**Staff Present**:  E. Elaine Placido, Madeline Marucha, Jana Magnuson, Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky, Erinne Goodell, Catherine Corbett, Marci Krass, Alvey Seeyouma, McKenzie Miller, Erica Keeley, Valerie Pufahl, James Sterrett, Paul Kolp

**Other Present:** Dr. Leslie King, Matt Harding, Trang Lam

**Review and Approval of May 16, 2024 Meeting Record**

***Action: Approved.***

**Executive Director Update**

**Contracts.** Director Placido gave a report of current and pending contracts.

**Personnel.** Director Placido reported that the Temporary Paddle Leader position was coming to its end for the summer. Additionally, the Monitoring Team is beginning its search for a Research Scientist III.

**Legislative Update.** Director Placido reported that there is uncertainty in the legislative sphere due to the upcoming November elections.

**Board Commitments.** Director Placido reminded the Board to turn in their [Board Commitment forms](https://www.estuarypartnership.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/Board%20Commitment%202024.25%20%281%29.pdf).

***Action: None Required.***

**Finance Report**

**Budget vs. Actuals.** Director Placido gave a report of the [FY24 Statement of Activity](https://www.estuarypartnership.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/FY24%20Statement%20of%20Activity%206.30.24.pdf).

***Action: None Required.***

**Environmental Justice Seminar,***Dr. Leslie King*

Dr. King delivered the first in her series of [Environmental Justice seminars](https://www.estuarypartnership.org/environmental-justice-series-24-25) for the Estuary Partnership. The presentation gave an overview of Environmental Justice and introduced the topics that will be discussed in future seminar sessions.

***Action: None Required.***

**Action Items**

**Board Nominations**. The Board considered the nominations of Trang Lam and Matt Harding to join the Board of Directors.

***Action: Approved.***

**Policy Changes.** Director Placido presented [several policy revisions](https://www.estuarypartnership.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/Policy%20Revisions_Board%20Mtg%20Memo_9.16.2024.docx) to the Board. These included a reversion to the 2020 Board structure that omits the Secretary/Treasurer position. In the Employee Handbook, the logo gear policy was revised and a section on leave for first responders was added. The revisions also included Finance Policy amendments to improve efficiency in receiving bank statements, allow honoraria to be paid, and change policies on check signers.

***Action: Approved.***

**Budget Revision.** Director Placido presented [revisions to the 2025 budget](https://www.estuarypartnership.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/2025%20ORG%20Budget%20%282%29.pdf) to help the GL codes match the format of the budget.

***Action: Approved.***

**Program Reports**

**Community Programs Team.** Valerie Pufahl reported that the team was coming to the end of a successful paddle season. The team has benefited from having Kristen Klever as a temporary Environmental Educator; she will be with the team until November.

**Science Team.** Catherine Corbett reported that the Monitoring Team is finishing a busy field season. Sneha Rao Manohar has been invited to present on the team’s carbon sequestration work. The Restoration Team is on track to begin EFLR construction next summer. The CREC conference will be held next spring.

***Action: None Required.***

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Submitted by: Elaine Placido, Executive Director; Madeline Marucha, Operations Coordinator



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Next Meeting: November 21, 2024

## Executive Director's Report:

#### CCMP Update:

* Work on the CCMP Update continues. The CCMP Walk & Talk in Astoria was a successful event and resulted in solid feedback and comments to help steer the CCMP Update. The Board Chair, Rian Sallee, was able to attend.
* New Guidance was issued early last week and has updated guidance on climate change specifically. This is a good opportunity to highlight the work that was completed on SLR as well as other assessments completed by partners.
* If you are interested in perusing the comments we’ve collected on the four update areas, the comment matrix is located [here](https://estuarypartnership.sharepoint.com/%3Ax%3A/g/EWpdFNqhfWdOqZfEerpZ-PUBKB0fP6cQ1IU_qFpQ20Nmnw?e=zWBQNg).
* The comments below are the comments received that specifically address Environmental Justice in the CCMP:
	+ Consider the impacts from recreation on treaty rights
	+ I would love to incorporate TEK into the whole project management process from design through construction to end restoration and monitoring. As an organization, I'd like to see us prioritize participation in education summits, conferences, and gatherings based on tribal knowledge.
	+ Acquisition projects that benefit fish and wildlife while returning land to tribes. OWEB rules require a conservation easement on our acquisition projects most federally recognized tribes are not willing to use OWEB funding for this reason. We should pay tribes for their time reviewing our requests and developing acquisitions.
	+ Conceptually partners and stakeholders should have equitable treatment (fair treatment via EPA) and meaningful engagement in environmental decision making that may affect their communities. Reference Department of Interior EJ Strategic Plan for Goals/Activities or NOAAs recently released EJ strategy. NOAAs includes 3 goals that may be relevant.
	+ First Foods - Focused reveg plans for restoration sites
	+ IT was cool to hear that you're testing traditional foods for toxins. More of that! And Allowing traditional harvest everywhere as much as possible.
	+ "Craft into a How Statement:

New approach: How can we reflect our long-term commitment to change in the CCMP? What does the implementation of the Estuary Partnership’s different approach to addressing communities look like (i.e., vs. taking a project to an area)? How to have a framework for approaching communities? How do we share credit in a real way? Do we have to have ownership and put our name on things? How do we balance giving the community work with community engagement? How do we find out what communities need? From them? From partners? From study? Can we hire a community liaison from within the community to help as a bridge? The group decided that this area would be the basis of a good “How” in the updated CCMP.”

* + The updated CCMP should help us clarify how to work across broad geography, while still EJ focused. Reference to the Equity Map or disparity mapping?

#### BIL Workplan and Implementation:

* We have submitted our BIL Year 4 Workplan, which is an extension of the Year 3 Award and is consistent with the existing 5-Year Workplan.
* We have several projects still working on Year 1 & 2 funding and Year 3 funding and are ready to move into Year 4 funding when that is awarded.
* The intent is to submit the Year 5, final year, Workplan in mid-summer next year after evaluating all the BIL projects. This may change based on direction from EPA Region 10. Anecdotally, some NEPs have been told to submit their final workplans immediately, we have not been told to do that.

#### EPA Base Funds:

* We have received our 320 award for the current year. The intent is to submit our next 2-year workplan on the normal schedule in late spring.
* New guidance was issued early last week (the 12th of November) which provides new direction for workplans in the coming years. Primary changes are around climate change assessment and adaptation and how to address in workplans and CCMPs.

#### Legislative Update:

* The External Affairs Committee (ANEP) has met and considered signing on to support S.50 a bill from Senator Whitehouse to create a fund for coastal restoration from wind power revenue. All of the Pacific NW NEPs were hesitant to sign on based on a lack of parity for Tribes and the apparent lack of support in coastal communities for wind energy. ANEP more generally will offer a letter of support.
* After meeting with Congresswoman Bonamici and discussing her Coastal Restoration Act, previously her Blue Carbon Bill, I’ve asked ANEP to consider taking on a supportive role similar to S.50 for this legislation. The External Affairs Committee will begin that work and work with staff to draft a letter of support.
* We will be on the hill the end of March again this coming spring.
* No decision on pursuing reauthorization of the NEP has been made yet. I would anticipate a decision from ANEP in the coming 6-8 months.

#### Since our last meeting I’ve participated in:

* ANEP External Affairs Committee Meetings – 3
* ANEP Executive Committee Meetings – 3
* ANEP Director’s Meeting – 2
* Attended one Estuary Partnership Board Development Committee meeting
* Attended the PMEP Annual meeting virtually
* Participated in a tour of the MDMNA project site with Congresswoman Bonamici and staff
* Participated in two Ross Island HAB Planning and/or Coordination meetings
* Participated in the Pope & Talbot Clean Up Open House at the Port of Columbia County, Oregon
* Attended the Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group Virtual Fall Meeting
* Led and participated in an Estuary Partnership Admin/Finance Team Retreat
* Met with Partners at:
	+ Washington Department of Ecology
	+ Human Access Project
	+ CREST
	+ Spirit Lake Toutle Cowlitz Rivers Community Collaborative
	+ WA RCO
	+ CWCOG
	+ NPS
* Attended one bid opening for the EFLR construction project
* Participated in one PMEP Steering Committee meeting

## Team Updates:

### Community Programs/Ed Team:

Totals for Education Programs for the 24-25 school year from **September 1, 2024 – November 4, 2024**

* 62 classes within 20 schools
* 1,416 students
* 98 class lessons
* 18 student field trips at 6 sites: Salmon Creek, Steigerwald Lake Wildlife Refuge, Vancouver Lake, Meldrum Bar/Willamette River, Burnt Bridge Creek, Willamette Park/River

Totals for Volunteer + Community Programs from **September 1, 2024 – November 4, 2024**

* 6 volunteer events
* 77 volunteers engaged
* 3 sites for events: Multnomah Channel Marsh, Salmon Creek, and Steigerwald

Totals for the 2024 Big Canoe Program Season from **April 1, 2024 – October 31, 2024**

* 56 Big Canoe paddle programs
* 1,133 participants (635 youth/498 adults)
* 37 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

***A few Education Program highlights*** 😊

* We have an **Education focused volunteer** beginning with us the week of 11/4/2024 -- ***Thomas Hull*** *is a recent grad, knowledgeable bird enthusiast, student of ecology, former OR Zoo camp leader, and spent recent summers conducting field studies. He is also a* ***former 5th grade student in our program from Camas, WA****!* He is interested in supporting our education programs while he applies for full time work in his field, and we are enthusiastic to have him on board.
* **Kristen Klever** has been a huge asset to our team in her limited duration position as *Environmental Educator – Paddle Program Specialist*, where she provided Canoe program leadership throughout the season, supported streamlined logistics, consistent communication with partners, and has been an all-around creative, positive, steadfast educator on our team. This fall she has been supporting field trips and volunteer events in a much needed way. Her time in this routine role will come to a close after Thanksgiving and we hope to secure funding to have her return in a similar capacity in spring 2025. Due to staffing need and Kristen’s availability and interest, we will keep her on for intermittent shifts through the winter as needed.
* **A few teacher highlights received through support letters** for our NCLI application:
	+ *Most notably, we saw an increase in our school’s state science exam scores from 33% to 55.8%, which I strongly attribute to this enriching outdoor experience.* -- 5th grade teacher, Northlake Elementary
	+ *The experiences our students have gained through this program are beyond measure. For many it will be something outside of their imagination. With such an immersive experience in the outdoors, our students come back with awareness and dreams about continuing to interact with nature and seeing the interconnectedness of it all. This all leads to greater understanding and buy-in with our STEAM classroom work. This is a truly precious opportunity for our kids.* -- STEAM teacher, Barnes Elementary, Kelso

### New Awards and Projects of Note:

Submitted our Southwest Washington Education Outdoors project proposal for RCO and Washington State Parks No Child Left Inside program on October 31. This project would continue partnerships with WA State Parks Upper Cowlitz Ranger District and Cowlitz County schools in Kelso-Longview, as well as extend programming to four schools in Vancouver/Clark County. Kelso-Longview participating teachers enthusiastically supported the extension of this programming for their students and we hope to secure these funds to maintain programming for them through 2027. RCO request is $149,132 in tier 3, which requires a Q&A with evaluators on March 3-7, 2025. We anticipate having a ranked list of projects by May 2025.

Our Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District CONETualatin Paddle Access Project received full funding ($19,998) to fund a series of Big Canoe programs for Washington County partners in 2025. This is an extension of our recent TSWCD Conservation Education project and will build upon existing partner relationships, including Afghan Support Network, Confluence/Hillsboro School district Title IV program for Indigenous Education, Bienestar/Bird Alliance of Oregon for Latinx families, Lutheran Community Services Northwest/Refugee and Immigrant youth programs, among others.

The City of Washougal submitted our application for an Education & Community Engagement phase ($354,450) of the Campen Creek Reconnection Project to the Washington Department of Ecology Centennial Grant Program on October 16th. The City of Washougal is the primary sponsor of this application. If funded, this project would support 2.5 years of additional planting, site monitoring and maintenance, volunteer events and student class lessons and field trips for area schools.

Submitted a pre-application for *Metro Nature in Neighborhoods Nature Education and Outdoor Experiences* program to fund two seasons (2025 and 2026) of Big Canoe programs for strategic partners in the Metro region, as well as support funding for a seasonal Big Canoe leadership position ($97,812 total request). The seasonal position would be aligned with the position we piloted for summer 2024 – *Environmental Educator – Paddle Program Specialist*, to support program logistics and partner communication consistency throughout the summer season. This funding would secure 28 paddle program offerings for six or more long-time partners serving culturally-specific communities such as Blueprint Foundation Grounding Waters mentorship programs for Black-identified youth, ELSO Wayfinders youth STEAM camps for Black and Brown youth, Confluence spring and summer camp programs for Native and non-native youth to learn from Indigenous elders and educators about culture and lifeways. We should be notified on November 15th if we are invited to submit a full application.

Our current *RCO OSPI Outdoor Learning Grant* project is successfully transitioning the Career and Technical Education component to supporting 80 eighth grade Environmental Science students from Frontier Middle School in the Evergreen District to explore restoration ecology through a series of 6-7 class lessons and 3 field trips to Salmon Creek. Students will learn about water quality monitoring, plant families and habitats, site assessment and selection, careers in restoration, and how to create planting plans prior to installing the plants for their project. We are excited about this new school partnership and curriculum development opportunity. Andy Bauer is the lead educator for this project – ask him about it if you see him!

*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 Wilamut 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.

### Stormwater

Baker Bay (Ilwaco, WA): Construction is scheduled to start Monday, October 21. Negotiations with Ecology have been finalized – the project will cut four elements (three BioPods and a section of pervious pavers) and Ecology will add $149,125 to the project’s construction budget. Ecology will also extend the project timeline to June 30, 2025. Rognlin’s Construction out of Aberdeen, WA is the project contractor. MacKay Sposito is the Construction Management firm. KPFF continues as the project engineer.

EPA Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Fund the Funder: This grant continues to be instrumental to our ability to work on new projects, secure additional funding, and complete projects. We are currently working on more than 10 projects associated with this grant (all projects below) and have four outstanding grant applications for to raise funds for additional work.

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

Chief Joseph Elementary School (Portland Public Schools, North Portland): We have signed a contract with Parametrix to develop concept designs and construction documents. They have completed an initial survey that identified the site’s buried/hidden stormwater infrastructure. A project kick off meeting with all partners will take place in October-November 2024. Potential construction in fall 2025.

Mittleman Jewish Community Center (SW Portland): Construction has successfully wrapped up on this project and the facility performed as expected during an intense September rainfall. The Estuary Partnership, Blossom (the project contractor), 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): Staff presented at a joint Creston Annex – Creston School PTA meeting to gather feedback on the Creston Annex project. Project contractors, KPFF and Learning Landscapes continue to move forward with project designs. We hope for construction in summer 2025.

Evergreen High School (Evergreen Public Schools, Vancouver): Ecology and the City of Vancouver will soon sign a contract for the Evergreen High School Stormwater Improvement Design project which will allow the Estuary Partnership to start work. We still need to sign an MOU with the City of Vancouver to outline the flow of funds, project management responsibilities. Ecology will provide $379,306 in funding for the design project. The project will likely get started in 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): In coordination with the City of Vancouver, Estuary Partnership staff wrote and had the City submit on Oct. 15 an Ecology SFAP grant application to develop stormwater retrofits at Fort Vancouver High School. We will learn about initial funding decisions in early 2025. The project requests $302,301 from Ecology and the Estuary Partnership will provide the $45,345 cost share through out EPA grant. The Estuary Partnership is ineligible to apply for SFAP funding, so the partnership with the City as the applicant is critically important.

Hudson’s Bay High School (Vancouver Public Schools, Vancouver) This project is nearly exactly the same as the Fort Vancouver High School project just at a different school. Estuary Partnership staff wrote, and the City submitted an Ecology SFAP grant on Oct. 15 for a stormwater retrofit design project at Hudson’s Bay High School. The SFAP application requests $344,956 from Ecology and the Estuary Partnership will provide $60,875 in project match. We will learn initial funding decisions in early July 2025.

The hope is that the Fort Vancouver and Hudson’s Bay projects could be implemented with the same contractors, and within the same timeline to achieve cost and timeline efficiencies. If funded, because of long Ecology timelines, neither of these projects will realistically start until January 2026.

Sunnyside Elementary School (North Clackamas School District, Clackamas): We are close to signing a contract with Verde Builds to have them build the Sunnyside Elementary School project. Verde Builds a non-profit, social enterprise, general contractor focused on the green economy. They are an arm of Verde. We like the idea of partnering with a non-profit construction firm on these projects to help advance our environmental justice goals. Construction will take place during winter 2024-2025.

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. We received notification in October of a $60,000 award from the Rose Foundation to help fund the project’s construction. We are still waiting on the $348,023 grant application to the City of Portland Percent for Green Program.

Glencoe Elementary School (Portland Public Schools, SE Portland): We continue to work with the landscape architect (Juncus Studio), PPS, and the Glencoe community to refine the vision plan for the schoolyard and to identify priority opportunity areas for stormwater management. The site is somewhat complicated given a large retaining wall and poor ADA access to a lower schoolyard. We still hope for construction in summer 2025.

Washougal High School and Surrounding Streets (Washougal): Initial design work continues on this project. 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.

### Science Team:

#### Staff Updates:

One of our two summer Research Technicians, Ona Underwood, will be staying on to help with drone data image processing and field data collection support through February 2025. She has been with us since early July and has been critical to our Monitoring Team’s field data collection and processing. She has learned a lot and will be a great addition to any monitoring team. If interested in learning more about her and their skills, please reach out to Sneha or Catherine.

We are in the process of hiring a Research Scientist III position to support our Carbon Methan Flux Research and Ecosystem Monitoring Program. We received a lot of applications and are winnowing them down to a short list for interviews. We hope to have the successful applicant start in late January or February.

#### Miscellaneous Projects:

Landcover Dataset – We just signed a contract with NOAA Coastal Change Program to update our 2009 landcover dataset. The updated dataset should be complete in spring/summer 2025, and will have a 1-meter resolution. The new dataset will allow us to compare landcover to the 2009 data to complete a change analysis – we will quantify and identify the types of habitat that have been converted to other landcover (e.g., urban or industrial use) or protected/restored since 2009.

Science Work Group – We hosted a Science Work Group on November 5 to discuss the results of our Ecosystem Monitoring Program in relation to a series of questions identified in a 1.5 day workshop over the summer. The meeting was well attended and the video recording and presentations will be available on the website soon.

### Restoration Efforts:

East Fork Lewis River Reconnection Project: The East Fork Lewis River (EFLR) Reconnection Project continues to move towards construction. The team hosted a pre-bid site tour on October 15 for the five contractors we pre-qualified to bid the project. Bids were due on November 13, and the team will interview bidders, score proposals, and select a contractor the week of November 18. Construction is slated to begin in April 2025.

Horsetail Creek Phase 2– LCEP staff visited the site in October to monitor the recently installed Beaver Dam Analogs, take photos points, and monitor plantings for the final report to OWEB. We have just one more plant establishment maintenance treatment and infill planting before this Phase 2 of the Horsetail Creek floodplain project is complete.

Mason Creek – Completed final engineering designs and continuing to work with landowners and neighbors 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 applied (and received) a grant from 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 Metro’s 278-acre Multnomah Channel Marsh Natural Area (MCMNA) floodplain site and the replacement of the Crabapple Creek culvert under Highway 30. In September-October, we secured local, state and federal permits to install Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) into the lower Crabapple Creek floodplain wetland channels. The BDA installation will occur in November or in summer, 2025. At the Wildwood Golf Course, upstream of Hwy 30, we worked with West Multnomah SWCD and began riparian revegetation work. We are in the process of scoping engineering contracts to develop 30% designs for the Crabapple Creek Culvert under Hwy 30 project component and getting bids for cultural survey work to support Section 106 permitting efforts. The Stewardship team also hosted two volunteer events at the site and hosted one more on 11/9/24.

Campen Creek Floodplain Reconnection– The team continues to work through Section 106 compliance. Construction is fully funded, and we anticipate completing all permits in spring 2024 and constructing the project during summer/fall 2025.

East Fork Thermal Project*-* The project team contracted with Natural Systems Design (NSD) and have begun work on the project including site visits and data exchange. Our project team has also been collecting temperature and water surface elevation data over the summer at the proposed project sites. Installed data loggers were retrieved recently, and we are now 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 working on contracting for Section 106 review and 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.

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 completed their annual summer field season where they collect vegetation community data; water elevation and temperature; and sediment accretion rates for Ecosystem and Action Effectiveness Monitoring Programs.
* The Team continues to upload partner and our data onto Tableau where they create short summaries of the results through “dashboards”. They completed our annual reports to BPA via hybrid reports with abbreviated PDF summaries of results and methods, and Tableau dashboards for more detailed information.
* The Team used the new drone to fly Ecosystem and Action Effectiveness Monitoring Programs’ sites along with partner restoration sites this summer. They kept track of their efforts; below are the stats from their summer field collection:
* 990 plots of detailed plant community data recorded
* 4,800 soil measurements recorded
* 1,100 sediment accretion and erosion measurements taken
* 400 bags of above-ground biomass collected
* 48 data loggers (~480,000 water depth and temperature measurements) swapped
* 330 Ground Control Points laid
* 12 TB of drone data collected over 26 sites
* 140 drone hours in air
* 2000+ ground elevations surveyed
* 50+ miles hiked while collecting these data this summer

#### Columbia County Water Quality Monitoring:

Sneha and Derek presented results from the eDNA study in Columbia County to the Columbia County Board of Commissioners. The Department of Public Health is using the results for identifying and implementing programs to mitigate water quality issues observed in the watershed. The program is a collaborative effort with the Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District, with donations from the County Board of Commissioners. Data from this program is regularly shared with the ODEQ and is publicly available.  For more information, visit [eDNA study Tableau Dashboard](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/monitoring.and.research.team/viz/ColumbiaCountyWatershedse-DNAMonitoringDashboard/WelcometotheColumbiaCountyeDNAMonitoringDashboard2) and [Columbia County Water Quality Monitoring Dashboard.](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/monitoring.and.research.team/viz/ColumbiaCountyWaterQualityMonitoringProgramDashboard_17195915506650/CCSWCDWaterQualityReportSummary)

#### Methane Carbon Flux Study (CH4C)

In collaboration with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, our research partners and ourselves continue to collect carbon methane flux, soil, and vegetation community data at two sites in the lower river – the 200-acre brackish wetland restoration site at Wallooskee-Youngs and the South Tongue Point. 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. We are in the process of moving the equipment from the latter site to another restoration site over the winter. This research is funded by EPA under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to NEPs.

### Communications & Development:

Thanks to all of you who attended the Annual Celebration and made such generous donations before and at the event. We had around 138 people attend on October 17, with virtually zero no-shows. Our gross from the evening including sponsorships is $63,374, with $14,756 in non-staff expenses. The night-of revenue was up nearly $5K from last year but down $2K from 2 years ago, but our sponsorships were up from both those years.

Next year’s event will be our 30th anniversary, held at the Hotel Indigo on the Vancouver waterfront on Sunday, September 21 (during National Estuaries Week and with a view of the Columbia!). We hope to further expand our sponsorship list to defray the extra expenses of going with a more “all inclusive” event space.

We are preparing our end of year campaign material, with a goal of raising $12,000 in individual and business donations by December 31.

Our Annual Report was mailed early this month. That and our Annual Reports going back to 2017 can be seen online here: <https://www.estuarypartnership.org/who-we-are/mission-accomplishments>

### Federal delegation updates:

Estuaries Week resolution update: 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 a letter. Washington Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murrey, and Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley co-sponsored the senate’s National Estuaries Week resolution. It passed the senate with thirty-one co-sponsors (three more than last year). Oregon Representatives Bonamici, Blumenauer, and Chavez-DeRemer co-sponsored the resolution in the House.

Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (OR-1) toured the Multnomah Channel Marsh Natural Area on October 29, 2024. The Estuary Partnership and Metro are collaborating on the restoration of this 278-acre tidal floodplain wetland site located just downstream from Portland. The restoration work at the site is focused on reconnecting hydrology, improving fish access, and enhancing habitat conditions for a variety of native fish, wildlife, and plant communities. Floodplain wetlands provide safe, nutrient-rich homes for juvenile salmon traveling out to the ocean. Staff from the Congresswoman’s office reached out to request a tour of one of our restoration sites to promote the [Congresswoman’s Coastal Restoration Act](https://bonamici.house.gov/media/press-releases/bonamici-introduces-bill-preserve-restore-coastal-habitats) which promotes coastal ecosystem restoration and blue carbon research. Elaine welcomed the Congresswoman, Jenny Dezso provided an overview of the restoration project, Sneha Rao Manohar talked about the Estuary Partnership’s current research related to greenhouse gas emissions and sequestration on the lower Columbia, and Jasmine provided logistical support. Our partners at Metro were also present for the tour.

### Social media stats:

Total Reach September 1 – October 30:

* Facebook - 6,555
	+ Interaction – 493
	+ Posts - 32
* Instagram – 2474
	+ Interactions – 790
	+ Posts – 29
* LinkedIn – 2582
	+ Interactions - 128
	+ Posts - 3

Top Facebook post by reach: [Annual Celebration ad](https://www.facebook.com/estuarypartnership/posts/558439813519289) featuring the Ilwaco Fisherman print with 1,031 impressions and 19 engagements

Top Instagram post: Advertising for our open Research Scientist III position with a reach of 639 and 72 interactions. <https://www.instagram.com/p/DAhTiEtiZCm/>

Top LinkedIn post: Advertising for our open Research Scientist III position with 881 impressions and 32 engagements [https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7245152004623196160](https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn%3Ali%3Aactivity%3A7245152004623196160)

### Media Coverage:

[Drone Activity](https://estuarypartnership.app.neoncrm.com/track//servlet/DisplayLink?orgId=estuarypartnership&%7b%7bemailTrackingId%7d%7d&%7b%7bsecureId%7d%7d&linkId=286616&targetUrl=https://secure.smore.com/n/cb2dwe). Clatsop Community College Career and Technical Education newsletter. Fall 2024

[Ilwaco starts $2M port project: Aims to keep pollution out of bay](https://estuarypartnership.app.neoncrm.com/track/servlet/DisplayLink?orgId=estuarypartnership&%7b%7bemailTrackingId%7d%7d&%7b%7bsecureId%7d%7d&linkId=275179&targetUrl=https://www.chinookobserver.com/news/local/ilwaco-starts-2m-port-project-aims-to-keep-pollution-out-of-bay/article_a26c4356-696b-11ef-b2c1-9325cfcba703.html#:~:text=ILWACO%20%E2%80%94%20City%20councilors%20last%20month,unanimous%20decision%20at%20an%20Aug.). Chinook Observer, September 2, 2024

[CRGE students explore Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge](https://www.clarkcountytoday.com/youth/crge-students-explore-steigerwald-lake-national-wildlife-refuge/). Clark County Today, October 3, 2024

[CGRE students explore Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge.](https://lacamasmagazine.com/2024/10/cgre-students-explore-steigerwald-lake-national-wildlife-refuge.html) Lacamas Magazine, October 2024

[Washougal students explore Steigerwald Refuge.](https://www.camaspostrecord.com/news/2024/oct/10/washougal-students-explore-steigerwald-refuge/) Camas-Washougal Post-Record, October 10, 2024

[Students explore Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge](https://www.columbian.com/news/2024/oct/12/students-explore-steigerwald-lake-national-wildlife-refuge/). The Columbian, October 12, 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 DEI Buddy process during onboarding for new staff.
* Updating the Quarterly Calendar
* Considering all-staff training opportunities

### Safety Committee:

The Safety Committee will meet on November 19 and hold a work session for our Safety Manual on December 10. A quarterly office self-inspection will also be scheduled this quarter. Current projects include the following:

* Reviewing our fire extinguisher procedures and weighing the possibility of providing fire extinguisher training to staff.
* Researching Psychological First Aid training to provide for staff working in field settings or with the public.
* 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 11/17/2024



Total based on current status of proposal:



## Contracts Report FY25:

