

Puttiding River Watershed Council Bylaws

Article 1: Statutory Authority, Mission, Functions, and Values

A. Statutory Authority

The Puttiding River Watershed Council (PRWC) is formed pursuant to ORS 541.910. Marion County Commissioners formally recognized PRWC as the official watershed council March 29, 2000.

B. Mission

PRWC collaborates with local partners, community members, and landowners to restore, enhance, and protect the Puttiding River Watershed.

C. Functions

1. To promote awareness and education about watershed issues.
2. To preserve and/or improve the water quality and quantity in the Puttiding River and its stream networks.
3. To maintain healthy, high-functioning natural and human communities and infrastructure within the watershed.
4. To protect natural areas including wildlife habitat and biodiversity.
5. To recognize and support the social and economic benefits important to protecting the health of the watershed.
6. The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

D. Values

1. Membership in the council includes a broad, diverse, and balanced cross section of interests (stakeholders) representative of the watershed.
2. Participation in the council is voluntary and governed by its rules of operation, which directs its efficiency and effectiveness.
3. Council members share and work towards a common vision and purpose consistent with its mission.
4. The council develops and works from a strategic action plan and annual work plan based on scientifically based watershed assessments and evaluations.
5. Council activities and projects address key issues, limiting factors, concerns and/or opportunities, with emphasis on those that move it towards desirable, measurable outcomes.
6. Council activities and accomplishments are communicated openly and broadly with the public and interest groups, monitored for effectiveness, and celebrated as appropriate.

Article 2: Governing Board and Officers

A. Composition of Governing Board

The PRWC is governed by a Governing Board composed of the following. The PRWC will strive to include stakeholder groups representing a broad cross section of geographic area and the demographic composition of the watershed. Interests within the watershed will be best represented by a board that includes stakeholder representatives that reflect the beneficial uses of the watershed across a broad geographic area within the watershed. The PRWC Operating Procedures defines the stakeholder groups and the diverse geographies.

B. Vacancies

In the event of vacancies, representatives will be appointed by the appropriate authority as outlined in the operating procedures. Citizens-at-large member positions may be filled by the Governing Board if a vacancy occurs during a person's term.

C. Compensation

All positions are unremunerated by the PRWC.

D. Meetings

The Governing Board will meet at least six times each calendar year at a time and location chosen at least two weeks prior to each meeting with notice to each member as well as a public notice. Each board meeting will have at least a ten-minute period for public comment on its agenda. The Governing Board will set one public meeting per year that is widely advertised in the watershed to update the public on its activities, accomplishments. The public is welcome to attend all meetings, however executive sessions can be called as needed. Meeting announcements are updated on the Council website.

E. Officers

A Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary will be chosen by a majority vote of the Governing Board. Each officer will be appointed to serve for two years with the opportunity to be re-appointed. The officers will assume the duties as outlined in the Operating Procedures. The group of officers will constitute the Executive Committee and may meet as needed to prepare for meetings or other activities.

G. Quorum

A quorum of the Governing Board is needed to conduct business and consists of at least 50% of the board members who have been appointed and are active. Inactive or open positions do not count towards a quorum.

H. Robert's Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order will be used to conduct meetings.

I. Staff

The Governing Board has the authority to hire executive staff and take any personnel actions including but not limited to setting compensation and benefits as it determines appropriate.

J. Financial

The PRWC is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) domestic nonprofit charitable organization. The Governing Board has the authority to seek and accept grants and any other monies that allow it to fulfill the mission of the Council. The Governing Board will adopt an annual budget and has authority to pay expenses as needed.

Article 3: Amendments

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made by a majority vote of the Governing Board at a duly noticed regular meeting. Bylaws and other guiding documents will be reviewed at least once every three years.

Article 4: Nondiscrimination

The Council will provide equal Stakeholder Representative/employment/service opportunities to all persons and will administer personnel policies and practices in accordance with all applicable laws. The Council does not discriminate on the basis of race, ancestry, creed, religion, color, personal appearance, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, sexual orientation, source of income, marital status, parental status, family responsibilities, the presence of any sensory, physical or mental disability, learning disability, matriculation, membership in any labor organization political affiliation, or political ideology.

Article 5: Respect for Property Rights

The council affirms its respect for private property rights in planning and implementing projects, and monitoring, to improve watershed productivity and health. The Council will only engage in an activity on private property with written permission of the landowner or verbal approval legally recorded during a telephone conversation. Any commitments the landowner makes will be clearly defined and strictly voluntary. The written permission will be obtained from the property owner or manager. The permission form and/or letter of request will be adopted to clearly describe each proposed project or activity.

PRWC BOD reviewed and approved

Week of Mar 6, 2023



Ray Eder, Chair