

**Trout Lake Community Council**  
***Amended and Approved Meeting Notes***  
**At the Grange**  
**March 3, 2026**  
**7:00 – 8:30 pm**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Council Lead</b>	<b>Start Time</b>
<p><b>Regular Council Meeting called to order</b>            Council Members in attendance: Daina Bambe, Lucas King, Tom Binder, Jim Lambert, Joanna Turner, Travis Pearson, Pat Arnold</p> <p>Community Members: Ed, Carly Lemon (UCD), Carly (UCD), Ryan Chard, Terry Schmid, Adam Hyde, Commissioner Ron Ihrig, Brandon <i>Buel</i>, Gwen Miller, Bruce Schmid,</p>	<b>Daina</b>	<b>7:00</b>
<p><b>Agenda Review</b>            No Changes</p>	<b>Daina</b>	
<p><b>Minutes review:</b>  <b>February 3, 2026</b>            Motion to approve minutes: Lucas 2nd: Joanna all in favor</p>	<b>Daina</b>	
<p><b>Guest: Underwood Conservation District &amp; Interested citizens re: Little Mountain Low Head Dam Repair + Power Generation Feasibility</b>            The Lower head dam (Little Mtn Dam) just east of River Road on the White Salmon River needs to have a permanent repair. Temporary repair was completed last year.</p> <p>Ryan Chard - Low head dam needs to be rebuilt and thinks we can add a low power dam to it that is fish friendly. Turbulent is a whirlpool design used in Europe (5k-110k unit), rehab ditch takeout and then at the corner where the power line is there is space for a turbine and could get constant, clean water and then go back into the river. Not a large dam, keeps entrapments out of it - 95% survivability for aquatic life. There are Dept of Energy grants for Micro hydro. In the U.S. - Fishtel brand, one in installed in the vicinity of Monroe, Oregon. 10 yr lifespan.</p> <p>Adam Hyde - irrigator, compost business. Here as a contractor for UCD - they are doing an info gathering survey right now. They are curious if we want to look at the collective irrigation system to see what is working and what isn't, what are the priorities, issues, challenges etc.</p> <p>Carly Lemon (UCD) - Little Mtn dam - slow failure, concern about not being able to gravity flow water - minor/temp fix last year. Ongoing failing infrastructure around TL. UCD wants to engage with local irrigators to see how they can be supported.</p> <p>Anderson/Perry review of TL irrigation systems proposed to consolidate the TL irrigation system into a piped, pressurized system. The idea was not pursued due to the high projected cost. UCD is not</p>	<b>Jim</b>	<b>7:05</b>

necessarily supporting a hydro dam, they don't have a vision or goal but are seeking understanding on the entire ditch system.

Travis - what does it take to get permits to restore/rebuild dam?

Dept of fish/wildlife. Fish screens will need to be incorporated and DOE permits. UCD will help with the permitting process.

Jim to Pat - last names of Jeremy Takala, Elaine Harvey, Bronsco Jim

Jim to Pat - Will the Yakama Nation be successful in protecting their treaty rites? The Yakama Nation, Columbia River Keepers and other organizations have filed a federal suit regarding the pumped hydro-energy storage project at Pushpum . It is important to talk to the Yakama nation when we are thinking about projects, ahead of time.

Travis to PUD - what is PUD's thought on power generation in the ditches?

Gwen Miller From PUD - it would depend on how much we were generating, whatever we can do for tier 1 conservation. 100k and below is for net metering.

Tier 1 is preferred, ½ the price of tier 2, try to conserve power because tier 2 is really expensive. Guaranteed so many tier 1 megawatts. Recently the energy market is low.

Ed - when he was in emergency management they put up an intricate radio system and worked with the Yakama nation to plan the radio receivers.

Travis- water is allocated for a certain purpose, not sure how to change water rights - who would benefit from power generation - have to get the ditch company involved.

Some of the ditches have generation rights? But we don't know who

Anderson Perry consulting engineering company did the ditch survey in

2011, identified ditch locations and elevations from google earth - estimated pressure outtakes, UCD wants to update elevation data etc.

Ryan - Lane Schmid has a permitted hydro power generator that he isn't currently using.

Terry Schmid - pressurized gravity system, save money from the expensive electric system that won't generate much power.

Travis - how dire is the system - is it going to function this year? Terry sees no present damage - they are assuming it will work. How is the dam built? - 2 logs, stacked. One log was replaced in the early 70's and they removed planking. 2 years ago ⅓ of the planking section floated away.

What work was done under the emergency fix - 16 sand bags were placed - they are supposed to be removed. No ecology blocks were touched last year.

No one is in charge of the ditch - there are 9 users on that ditch - the bulk of it is Trout Lake farm, they are not allowed to work on it because it is off their leased premises. Burce and Terry have been doing the maintenance.

Bruce transferred 6 shares last week to the church and then resigned his position on the ditch. That ditch does have generation approval. But there hasn't been any generation.

Multiple use filings on Trout Creek Water Company ditch by the Fire Dept and Trout Lake Water Company (by Mark Schmid's)

Daina - next steps? Carly - outreach and tech assistance, gather info via survey. They are going to walk as many ditches as possible. UCD can help support with the permitting on the low head dam.

Terry - operate till failure and then....

Travis - what funding is available to repair the dam? Depends on what folks want to do - funding will probably be tied to whatever upgrade is being done and fish screen.

Pat - the ditch company / users are the only ones who can organize this. Shi is in favor of local power generation - but hydro seems complicated. In-stream work is really complicated.

Adam - collective questions about easements for ditches, they are planning on talking to individual land owners to get permission to walk the ditchlines. The lack of formal organization is a challenge and will be a prerequisite for any project of any kind. Need to be able to demonstrate alignment across ditch organizations.

Can the community council support the Trout Lake irrigators convening? They would like to hold listening sessions to try to get alignment across the ditch groups.

Farmers Irrigation District (FID) out of Hood river, was impacted by their rates being doubled because the price offered by Pacific Power for power generated by FID went way down.

Gwen - the PUD does support the pump storage project, they are not building the project. There were cultural studies performed, the design has changed - the pipes are underground at their request. They do collaborate on many things with the tribe. Pacific Power bought out by PGE and they have mutual interests.

There are several different projects being considered at the pump storage site.

Brandon *Buel* - per DNR codes the F classified stream does not allow piping on ditches because they are man made structures - fish screen would change piping

Ron - water rights, Pacific Corp issued that to the county and the county put it in trust. Will send TLCC the paperwork. Ecology allowed it to be put in trust in 5 yr increments.

Ron worked on water rights at the aluminum plant - they let it go and he had to reestablish a plan of withdrawal with the Army Corps of Engineers.

### **Affordable/low-income housing subgroup follow-up**

**Dave**

**8:08**

#### **Updates on draft survey**

Dave emailed - The envelopes were delivered to the Post Office on Monday for delivery on Tuesday. Envelopes for collecting surveys and extra paper copies go to Trout Lake Grocery and Little Mountain Hardware this weekend. The announcement for Judy's newsletter was sent to her Saturday morning. The website and Facebook announcements go live on Sunday.

Lucas will help tabulate surveys

### **Comprehensive Land Use Planning Update**

**Pat**

**8:10**

Pat is meeting Monday with Scott Edelman (planning director), Evan - long range planner and Keaton (econ dev) - Evan might have time to work on the local parks plan - they want to make sure the goals of the park plan can be moved directly into the com plan.

2 tracks for comp plan - they have to rush through the approval process, there will be a land use component. Scott seems to be in a hurry to change zoning maps.

Evan is working on character areas - a compilation of sub area plans. New planning language - so TL would be a character area - we would then decide what level of econ development we wanted, housing issues etc.

Will be using the councils more for sub tracks / character areas, there will be a page on the county website so the councils can link to meetings. The effort to get councils together is working. Their next council's meeting is next Wednesday.

One of the questions is tabulating incorrectly - so we can't fix the one mistake. 19 responses so far. Pat will put up posters to advertise the park survey.

Lyle Council has fallen apart - there is a lot of infighting happening there.

### **Round Robin**

**All**

**8:25**

Lucas - pressurized pipe system to generate power - those projects are really expensive. There are grants to support this, but the price tag is huge. TL doesn't have gravitational ability, we don't need as high PSI with modern equipment.

People like the water flowing through their yards - people didn't want pipes

Coate ditch/*Hoke* ditch - mostly residential

Low head dam and headgate (the wheel was underwater last dec) - looks really uncared for.

Some of the ditches have easements, some do not

Daina - will the TLCC support the UCD gathering information and hosting listening sessions?

Pat - motion to support the UCD effort to hear directly from the community of irrigators about how the irrigation system is working and to gather perspectives about priorities, needs and challenges. Lucas 2nd, all in favor.

Joanna - grief group postponed until April, Pain mgmt and safe med storage training along with TLC  
TLC - Ken Coates passed away

Daina - May 9th, 2nd annual Guler Park Community hazardous fuels project 9:30-noon. All are invited.

Lucas - the fire rating company review is done, hopefully our score will lower and we can identify areas where we can improve. DNR fire risk mapping meeting - they are facilitating meetings well, concerned about outcome - everyone in our area will be classified as high hazard.

Daina - we are Moderate risk because of topography and ditch irrigation. Legislature passed a bill to specify building materials in high and extreme areas. Insurance companies shouldn't be able to use these maps to determine fire risk, but in OR people started to lose insurance after these maps were created.

Pat - there were a lot of bills about wildfire this year, hard to know which ones matter. How can we sort out things we want to comment on. Taxation bill moving away from property taxes. Bill about proportional voting - it failed this session but will come back, it would impact us. The League of Women Voters training sessions are really good. Has talked to Rep Waters and Stebie are interested in coming out to visit because we just got redistricted to their areas.

Can we have someone from the UCD to clarify for us the fish typing for ditches?

### **Adjourn**

**9:00**

Motion: Lucas 2nd: Travis All in favor