



Board Briefing Book

February 2024

Prepared by:

E. Elaine Placido, DPA, Executive Director

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Meeting Agenda:

Board of Directors
February 15, 2024, 9:30 to Noon
Teams meeting link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

- 9:30 Call meeting to order
Review of Agenda
Review and Approval of November Board Meeting Record
Introductions
- 9:45 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
- 10:00 Board Profile Grid Presentation and Discussion - Elaine Placido and Irma Lagomarsino
- 10:20 Review 24/25 Board Recruitment Strategy – Elaine Placido and Irma Lagomarsino
- Review Strategy
 - Next Steps
- 10:35 Review Board Policies Amendment to Roles and Responsibilities Approved at the February 1 Executive Committee Meeting – Elaine Placido
- Review Amended Language -Terms for Officers
 - Open Nominations – Due by April 1, 2024
- 10:50 Break
- 11:00 Board Member Small Group Activity
- 11:30 CCMP Update – Board Member Activity
- 11:55 Board Member General Announcements
- 12:00 Meeting Adjourns

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Board Development Committee: April 15, 2024

Executive Committee: May 2, 2024

Board of Directors: May 16, 2024



Prior Meeting Record:

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Board Meeting Record

Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon Estuary Partnership Offices

Members Present: Matt Jones, Rosemary Furfey, Amy Boyd, Barbara Bergquist, Joseph Hatrick, Margaret Magruder, Mary Lou Soscia, Susan Holveck, Season Long, Tabitha Reeder, Rian Sallee

Ex Officio Members Present: Irma Lagomarsino, John Netto, Yvonne Vallette

Presiding Officer: Matt Jones

Staff Present: Madeline Marucha, Elaine Placido, Valerie Pufahl, Adam Goodwin, Erinne Goodell, Erica Keeley, Aaron Guffey, Chris Hathaway, Catherine Corbett, Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky, Marci Krass, Jenny Dezso, Chris Collins, Paul Kolp

Introduction and Review of Agenda

The agenda for the November 30 Board meeting was approved without changes.

Action: None Required.

Review and Approval of September 21, 2023 Meeting Record

Action: Approved.

Executive Director Update

Contracts and Grants Updates. An overview of current contracts and grants can be found in [this quarter's Board Book](#).

Equity Plan. Elaine Placido reported that she is still awaiting EPA feedback on the Partnership's revised Equity Plan.

Personnel Update. Adam Goodwin was recently hired as a Program Assistant for the Community Programs team. He will be helping with project tracking and other administrative functions for stormwater and education projects.

Legislative Update. Elaine noted that the legislative landscape is still uncertain, with the possibility of a government shutdown in the coming months. Elaine and the Communications Team plan to make their annual trip to Washington, DC in spring of 2024 to meet with legislators.

Stormwater Program Presentation, *Chris Hathaway and Aaron Guffey*

The Stormwater team gave an overview of their programs. Their work has included stormwater retrofit projects and green infrastructure at parks, marinas, schoolyards, religious centers, and other public sites. They have focused on projects that benefit underserved communities and habitat restoration projects.

Action: None Required

Communications Plan, Erinne Goodell and Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky

The Communications Team presented their [2023-2025 Communications Plan](#) for approval. The goal of this plan is to “position the staff of the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership as thought leaders”.

Action: Approved.

Project Development Panel, Paul Kolp, Chris Collins, Chris Hathaway, Jenny Dezso, Valerie Pufahl, Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky, Erinne Goodell, Elaine Placido

Estuary Partnership staff members presented on a panel about the project development process. Project development includes functions such as community outreach, concept development, partnership development, and grant writing. It is a critical locus of DEI and Environmental Justice work, as staff develop project strategies tailored to communities and move “at the speed of trust” with community members and partner organizations. The Partnership relies on unrestricted funding for this process, which makes fundraising vital to our mission.

Action: None Required

CCMP Update

Elaine Placido briefly spoke about the CCMP update process. The Estuary Partnership will be shifting its outreach strategy away from surveys and toward direct comments and conversations with community members.

Action: None Required.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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

Signature: _____

Date Approved: _____

Next Board Development Committee Meeting: January 22, 2024, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: February 1, 2024, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Next Board Meeting: February 15, 2024, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Executive Director's Report:

Winter is always full of its own unique challenges. This year we've had some unique weather to deal with, including almost a week of office closure and cancellations due to ice and snow.

Below are some of the highlights of what I've been working on:

- CCMP Update – We had to make a course correction and shift away from surveys, but we've landed in a spot that feels better aligned to our values as an organization. Over the next 5 months or so we'll be conducting two CCMP focused walk-and-talks, and then we'll be meeting with partners for one-on-one conversations. The focus remains on updating the CCMP in four key areas: climate change, environmental justice, access and recreation, and community education.
- BIL Workplan and Implementation – BIL Workplan implementation continues. This has been an important funding source for us, and we've been able to leverage a substantial amount of funding from other sources. We are awaiting our Year 3 award and guidance on reporting requirements. The Equity Plan was approved in December and our match waiver is in place for the remainder of the BIL award.
- Implementation of QuickBooks Online and Finance Office Process Changes– The Fiscal Team has located a QuickBooks pro who is local to consult with them on enhancements to their QuickBooks experience and processes. And we have been working with our banking partners to implement ACH, begin to set up a trial run with P-Cards for the Monitoring Team, and improve our banking process.
- ANEP Spring Meeting – ANEP's spring meeting with EPA will begin on April 29th in DC. Elaine will be out there for that week; we're looking more strategically at the timing for Jasmine's and Erinne's visits. The timing of the ANEP/EPA meeting, traditionally when we do our appropriation requests and Hill visits, is falling very late in the appropriation cycle, so we want to make sure our energy and funds are used to their best advantage.
- NEP PE Ex Officio Member for the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary– The trip to Delaware to serve on this PE team will be in June or July.

Since our last meeting I've participated in:

- Completed 28 Annual Coaching Meetings with staff
- Two meetings with Board members
- Attended one ANEP External Affairs Committee Meetings
- Attended 4 meetings with First Interstate Bank on various aspects of our commercial banking processes
- Participated in 5 Bay to Bay planning meetings and one Community Workshop in Rosburg, Washington that was attended by 67 community members.
- Participated in 4 DEI meetings or DEI-focused discussion groups
- Participated in 1 All-Staff meeting

- Led one Budget/Project Management learning group
- Attended and participated in 2 Lower Columbia Watershed Council meetings
- Participated in 1 site tour to Campen Creek, Washougal High School, and a Washougal city-led stormwater project.
- Participated in a site tour to Rigler Elementary School to see a future stormwater project, meet with project partners, and hear from R10 EPA Administrator, Casey Sixkiller.

Team Updates:

Community Programs/Ed Team:

Totals for Education Programs from November 18, 2023 – January 31, 2024

- 23 classes within 3 additional schools (6 schools total during this period, 3 are carryover from Sept-mid Nov)
- 249 students
- 23 class lessons
- 4 student field trips

Totals for Education Programs the 23-24 school year from September 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024

- 74 classes within 18 schools
- 1,487 students
- 125 class lessons
- 24 student field trips at 6 sites: Salmon Creek, Steigerwald Refuge, Vancouver Lake, Meldrum Bar/Willamette River, Fox Creek, Scappoose Bay/Veteran's Park

Totals for Volunteer + Community Programs from September 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024

- 12 volunteer events
- 181 volunteers engaged (41 youth & 140 adults)
- 3,869 plants installed
- 5 sites for events: Burnt Bridge Creek, Sandy River Delta, Veteran’s Park – Scappoose, Steigerwald Refuge, Salmon Creek

New Awards and Projects of Note:

- For our RCO/OSPI Outdoor Learning Grant project we have completed subcontracts with Pacific Education Institute and Confluence Project and both partnerships are in motion for project collaboration. One unique opportunity was for our Education Team to spend a full day with Confluence Project staff and Native Educators for learning, relationship-building, and project collaboration. Our RCO grant manager, Beth Auerbach, also attended that day of collaboration.
- WA Ecology Salmon Creek Clean Water Enhancement and Education (\$249,369). Project agreement has been fully executed in January 2024 and implementation is well underway for education, site prep, and planting.
- Our Experience Vancouver Lake project has received continued funding to provide an additional \$175,000 through June 30, 2026. The Clark County Commissioners reviewed and approved the contract on 2/6 on behalf of the funding partners (Clark County, City of Vancouver, Port of Vancouver). We anticipate receiving the executed contract within the week. Over 2.5 school years, this funding will provide:
 - 26 public school classes (approx. 585 students) with 2-3 environmental education class lessons + a day-long field trip to Vancouver Lake
 - 3 community nature hike events at Vancouver Lake (approx. 60 participants)
 - 20 Big Canoe paddle programs (approx. 360 participants)
- Additional proposals have been submitted for Summer 2024 Big Canoe programming through Metro Central Community Grant program (\$25,938 request), East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Partners in Conservation grant program (\$25,571 request). In process is an additional Big Canoe program proposal for City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services Portland Harbor Community Grant program (due February 15th).
- Contracts with OWEB and Ecology for our 2023-2025 “base” projects continue to move through the contracting process. These biennial awards offer non-competitive critical funding for our community restoration projects, volunteer engagement, and student field experiences. These funds enable us to leverage these awards as a match to secure additional funding for our programs on an annual basis. Late Update – the agreement with Ecology for 23-25 Base Funds has been signed, awaiting a fully executed agreement.
- A proposal was submitted to Metro for Nature in Neighborhood pre-proposal by our partner, Confluence, for a collaborative project called **Indigenous Traditional Ecological and Cultural Stewardship at the Sandy River Delta** (full proposal was \$100,000 with about 20% of funds for EP’s portion of the project). This work will be primarily led by the Indigenous community with support from Confluence and EP.

- ITECK Project at the Sandy River Delta: The on-the-ground elements of this EPA funded project will focus on working with Christine and Clifton Bruno (Wasco) to enhance and support an existing cattail community for the well-being of the cattail habitat and Indigenous community that supports it. This is reciprocity in action. We will also plan some community planting events with cultural consultants (Brunos and Greg Archuleta) to expand opportunities for future harvest of first foods at the Delta.
- Land Care Collective: (formally referred to as “Next Steps” group)- Marci continues to work with partners from BES and West Multnomah SWCD to lead this effort as a member of the Land Care Collective steering committee. EP has contracted Serina Fasthorse with Kimimela Consulting LLC to be the facilitator of this group (\$5,000). Serina’s work under the EP’s contract will include Land Care Collective group coordination as well as the coordination of an Indigenous Leaders Retreat which is planned for early June 2024.

Stormwater

Stormwater Project Manager: Aaron Guffey has resigned and is leaving the Estuary Partnership on March 21, 2024, to recharge and explore other opportunities to be determined. We have initiated a hiring process to recruit and hire a new Stormwater Project Manager.

Baker Bay: Ecology has approved the Baker Bay 90% Construction Documents. Staff and contractors are working on the 100% Construction Documents for submission as well as finalizing bid documents. Staff are also looking into hiring a consultant to provide construction management services during project bidding and project construction. Staff is coordinating with the City of Ilwaco on the bidding processes and particulars.

Grattix Box Project: We have delivered all 27 Grattix boxes, including 6 additional boxes donated by the Port of Vancouver further strengthening our partnership with the Port. Eleven boxes that were partially constructed were accepted by a company willing and able to finish building them out to use at their facilities. We will continue to work on the logistics for making remaining downspout connections and finalize the project.

Mittleman Jewish Community Center (MJCC): Due to staff changes at Verde Builds we are soliciting bids from multiple different construction contractors to build the project. We expect ground-breaking to start in April 2024 at this point.

Stormwater Design and Engineering On-Call List: The Estuary Partnership recently completed a solicitation to develop an On-Call list of stormwater focused Landscape Architects and Engineers to provide design and engineering services for the Estuary Partnership’s current and future stormwater projects.

Washougal High School and Surrounding Streets: The City of Washougal is still waiting on the final contract from Ecology, but we expect that contract to be signed soon. The Estuary Partnership will be selecting an engineering and landscape architect from our On-Call list to take concept designs through 100% construction drawings in the next 18-24 months. 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.

Tualatin SWCD TREE: Staff finalized this project by submitting all final reporting and invoicing. Staff met with folks from Christ the King Lutheran Church, Tualatin SWCD, and Clean Water Services to talk about a future Tualatin TREE grant to build a stormwater retrofit project at the church based on the concept design that emerged from our first TREE grant. Tualatin SWCD staff were very encouraging about the fundability of stormwater retrofit projects.

EPA Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Fund the Funder: Staff fully started work on this project. Key first steps were completing the On-Call list for landscape architects and engineers; developing the EPA mandated signage template that must be installed while construction is on-going, meeting with Portland Public Schools staff, coordinating with individual schools, partners (Depave) and other possible funding sources (City of Portland and East Multnomah SWCD). Schools currently slated to be on this project list include: Rigler, Chief Joseph, Laurelhurst, Creston Head Start, and Glencoe in Portland and Evergreen High School in Vancouver. A number of existing school sites will also be folded into this – MJCC, Sunnyside Elementary School (Clackamas), and Washougal High School.

Evergreen High School: In October 2023, staff wrote an Ecology grant application for the City of Vancouver to submit for a stormwater retrofit design project at Evergreen High School in Vancouver. (This approach mirrors our Ilwaco and Washougal projects – the Estuary Partnership needs a City, County, or Port partner to apply for SFAP funding.) In late January 2024, Ecology released their draft “Offer List” which included \$379,306 in funding for the Evergreen project. The Estuary Partnership’s share, \$66,936 will come from EPA School Stormwater Project funding. Ecology will release their final “Offer List” in July 2024. The project will likely start in Fall 2024. The project would create designs for stormwater retrofit projects within multiple parking areas on the Evergreen campus.

Clackamas County Water Environment Services (WES) RiverHealth Grant at Sunnyside Elementary School (North Clackamas School District NCS). We received a \$26,996 RiverHealth grant to build a stormwater retrofit project at Sunnyside School. This funding will provide a match for the EPA grant, and the EPA grant will provide any additional project funding necessary. We are hiring a landscape architect to develop initial designs with the idea of building the project in Spring 2024.

Science Team:

- The Tracking Toxics in the Lower Columbia (TLC) is well underway. This project is in partnership with USGS and CRITFC. USGS completed all three rounds of sampling and sent samples to various USGS labs for analyses. The lab analysis is anticipated to take several months. We will be kicking off the next phase of the project by hosting stakeholder meetings to discuss updating the sampling plan in the Spring.
- We've held three community workshops each in Baker and Grays bays for the Bay to Bay: Community Resiliency project with Washington Sea Grant and Pacific Conservation District. The workshops have each garnered over 30 participants, with the last one on January 20 with over 60 participants. We are initiating a Resiliency Plan for hosting on our and Washington Sea Grants websites and a Storymap. These will provide workshop results and conceptual approaches for solutions. We likely will host a final celebratory “workshop” for the two regions to present results of the project and garner support for next steps.
- Science to Policy Summit – we are developing an exciting list of speakers that we hope to share soon!

Restoration Efforts:

Steigerwald: The project team has closed out three of five funding sources and completed all regulatory reporting, except FEMA remapping of the floodplain, which should be completed within the next six months. The team continues to give tours to select parties, replant select areas, and control invasive species to promote our native plantings.

East Fork Lewis River Floodplain Reconnection Project (Ridgefield Pits): The East Fork Lewis River Floodplain Reconnection Project continues to move towards construction. The Estuary Partnership and design and construction management team are working on the 90% design package and regulatory approvals. Construction is fully funded with awards from Washington Recreation and Conservation Office Salmon Recovery Funding Grant (\$7.06m), Ecology's Floodplain by Design program (\$5.5m), and NOAA's Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resiliency Program (\$7.5m). Funding will correct legacy effects of instream gravel mining, restore three river miles of the East Fork Lewis River – protect homes, county property, businesses, and create habitat for salmon, steelhead, lamprey and create additional wetland off-channel habitat. In the short term, these funds equate to local jobs for construction crews and hands-on opportunities for students and community members to help restore an important local river. Next steps for this important project include finalizing project designs and costs (spring 2024), construction procurement (fall 2024), final regulatory approvals (winter 2024/25), and construction (spring 2025).

Other Active Restoration Projects:

In addition to the Steigerwald Reconnection Project and the East Fork Lewis River Floodplain Reconnection Project, active restoration work continues on eleven additional projects:

- Horsetail Creek Phase 2 –Plant establishment maintenance and interplanting continues at the Horsetail Creek floodplain in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (USFS) where

85,000 native plants were planted during 2020-2022. This adds to restoration and fish passage work completed at the site in 2013.

- Horsetail Creek Thermal Refuge Enhancement – We recently completed phase 3 of a multi-year 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 – Mason Creek is located about 1 mile downstream of the Ridgefield Pits project. Mason Creek is an important tributary of the East Fork Lewis River 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 are currently developing the final design package with the engineer (Inter-fluve), which includes engineering drawings, cost estimate, design report and material specifications. We will also be developing permits and conducting a cultural resource survey. We are completing final designs and permitting, including cultural resources, by April. The project is funded by the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office Salmon Recovery Funding Grant.
- Dyer Creek- Dyer Creek is located immediately downstream of the Ridgefield Pits project. Dyer Creek is an important tributary of the East Fork Lewis River, particularly for coho salmon, and is currently disconnected from the East Fork Lewis River. Restoration efforts will focus on a ¾-mile section of Dyer Creek above the confluence and on a ½-mile section of the East Fork Lewis River. The project will remove riprap from the streambanks to allow for natural channel processes, reconnect a 10-acre off-channel wetland, improve riparian conditions, increase instream habitat quantity and quality, and enhance existing cold-water refuge areas. We are currently developing the final design package with the engineer (Inter-fluve), which includes engineering drawings, cost estimate, design report and material specifications. We will complete final designs and permitting, including cultural resources, by April and anticipate construction beginning in 2025 or 2026. The project is funded by the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office Salmon Recovery Funding Grant.
- Woodard Creek- 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 are revising the final design package. We are applying for construction funding from RCO this Spring, with an eye toward construction in 2025 or 2026.
- Multnomah Channel Marsh Natural Area (MCMNA) - This project includes two restoration projects –a floodplain reconnection to the sloughs and marsh habitats of the site and the replacement of the Crabapple Creek culvert under Highway 30. The culvert poses a barrier to fish and amphibian passage under Highway 30. The final 60% design for the floodplain reconnection part of the project was completed in November. We are still assessing the feasibility of replacing the culvert under Highway 30. Working with ODOT, the railroad, and

ODFW, we are developing a list of replacement options and cost estimates of each. We anticipate identifying the preferred alternative by this summer.

- Campan Creek Floodplain Reconnection – We worked with the City of Washougal and our engineering and cultural resources consultants to develop the 60% plan set. We also learned that our application to the WA Dept of Ecology for construction funding ranked well and is likely to be funded. We also gave several tours, including to two Clark County councilors, the mayor of the City of Washougal, Port of Camas Washougal commissioners, congressional staffers, and the board of the Gorge Refuge Stewards. We anticipate completing the 90% design and permitting in summer 2024 and plan to construct the project during summer 2025.
- East Fork Thermal Assessment- in 2022, we completed the lower East Fork River Thermal Assessment. The study assessed summer stream temperatures, identified potential thermal refuge enhancement sites, and ranked the sites based on ecological attributes and social constraints. In 2023 we secured grant funds from RCO to develop preliminary designs for 3-4 priority sites upstream of Daybreak Park, WA. We just kicked off this project and will be collecting data this summer.
- Franz Lake National Wildlife Refuge – With BPA funding, we are working with the USFWS to refine the preferred restoration alternative to reach the 30% design stage. 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) - We held meetings with ODOT, OPRD, BPA, and ODFW. All parties support the project, and we currently are working the ERTG to develop a mitigation score and assess the project's suitability for BPA's mitigation program. We also plan to pursue other funding opportunities.
- Lower Columbia River Barrier Assessment - We are still working on the fish passage barrier inventory and decision support tool for selecting barriers for passage improvement, for the lower Columbia sub-basin in Washington. The project was funded by RCO. This assessment includes a GIS-based comprehensive inventory of barriers for the region and a prioritization model that will determine where maximum salmon recovery benefits may be realized. We are currently compiling fish barrier inventories, conducting field visits to assess passage quality, and developing the decision support model. The project is scheduled to be completed this Fall.

Monitoring Team:

Staff Updates

- Derek Marquis, Research Scientist I, passed his exams and is now a certified FAA Commercial UAV Pilot (Part 107)!
- Andrea Hurzeler, Research Scientist I, had her last day of work on January 12. Her ongoing tasks have been absorbed by the Monitoring Team and other staff who will be assisting with fieldwork as needed.

Presentations:

- Ian Edgar, Sneha Rao, and Sarah Kidd, presented Ecosystem Monitoring Program and Action Effectiveness Monitoring Program updates at the Expert Regional Technical Group (ERTG) annual meeting in December.
- Sarah Kidd is scheduled to provide a talk on Restoration and Reed Canarygrass at the LCFRB TAC meeting on February 14, 2024.

BPA Programs: Ecosystem Monitoring Program (EMP), Action Effectiveness Monitoring and Research Program (AEMR), Habitat

- Ongoing data analysis and coordination with BPA and project sponsors to continue to rollout monitoring data in accessible online dashboards. We are continuing to work with all researchers to publish our reports as hybrid Tableau reports and analyses. We expect both the EMP and the AEMR reports to be published in June 2023.
- The new drone has come back from renovations and is now fully complete with all the promised sensors. See the flier outlining the new drone [here](#).
- Winter monitoring will be limited primarily to drone flights and is scheduled to take place during the weeks of February 12-16, and 19-22.
- Summer monitoring is also tentatively scheduled July 10 through September 15.

Columbia County Water Quality Monitoring Program

- Secured additional funding from Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District to help maintain a basic amount of Water Quality Monitoring and sustain the program through June 2024. This is also supported by internal EPA funds.
- Using the current level of funding, we will continue monitoring and collecting e-DNA samples, across Columbia County.
- The next water quality program report is expected in early spring 2024. Data from this program is regularly shared with the ODEQ and is publicly available.

BIL – Methane Carbon Flux Study (CH₄C)

- Both Eddy Flux Towers deployed in Astoria, Oregon, and maintained by Dr. Joe Needoba of OHSU are fully functioning and collecting critical data. A public tour of these sites is currently being planned for Spring 2024.
- Currently planning the soil gas chamber work with PSU and will begin on this ground data collection to support the Eddy Flux tower data this winter.
- We meet with all the researchers regularly to continue to develop our research design plans and coordinate our efforts accordingly.

Communications & Outreach:

- The end of year campaign exceeded our \$10,000 goal and raised \$10,777 from 42 donors.
- We are partnering with Fort George Brewing for the Earth Day Oregon campaign. They will donate 1% of all their *12 ounce can sales throughout the month of April* to the Estuary Partnership.
 - We will also be hosting an event at the Ft. George brewery in Astoria on Friday, April 19.
 - We are waiting to hear about a brew date when board members can join us to help brew a special Earth Month ale the week of March 18, when we also hope to include field trip stops elsewhere in the area
- The Science to Policy Summit is scheduled for May 15 at Lacamas Lake Lodge. The topic for the summit is *Conservation as climate mitigation: using carbon programs to protect and restore ecosystems*. Stay tuned for more details soon.
- Federal delegation updates:
 - Staffers for Senators Merkley and Wyden attended a tour of a green stormwater project site (Rigler Elementary School) with EPA Region 10 Administrator Casey Sixkiller. Tour participants included the school principal, the City of Portland, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Juncus Studio, Portland Public Schools, and Depave. The purpose of the tour was to highlight on-the-ground benefits of the EPA Columbia River Basin Restoration Program and the \$4.3 million grant we received through that program to develop and implement school stormwater projects.

Social media stats:

- Top Facebook post: sharing photos from a Burnt Bridge Creek volunteer event (post on January 30) with a reach of 831 and 150 engagements: <https://www.facebook.com/estuarypartnership/posts/352358864127386>
- Top Instagram post: Promoting our open Stormwater Project Manager position with a reach of 766 and 91 engagements. <https://www.instagram.com/p/C2yT1scvs2f/>
- Top Tweet: November 10, Recognized the new Rainier stormwater project with 296 impressions and 11 engagements <https://twitter.com/ColumbiaEstuary/status/1723116053226803374>
- Top LinkedIn post: Welcoming Chad Brown to the Board, with 1434 impressions and 72 engagements <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7150184390541623296>



Media Coverage:

[Merkley, Wyden Announce nearly \\$32 Million for Columbia River Basin Projects and Programs in Oregon. Senator Wyden, November 16, 2023.](#)

[\\$32 Million Announced for Columbia River Basin Projects in Oregon. The Corvallis Advocate, November 22, 2023.](#)

[Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge's reconnection project allows excess water to naturally drain into Columbia River. The Columbian, December 5, 2023.](#)

[Camas-Washougal Community Chest launches 2024 fundraising campaign. Camas Post Record, December 14, 2023.](#)

DEI Steering Team:

The DEI Steering Team has been meeting monthly and focusing on a team restructure to bring more role clarity and efficiency to the group, as well as check ins on the Workplace Experience Report. Primary focus in recent discussions include:

- Revising the team structure to include potentially co-chairs and scribe.
- Including more intentional ways for DEI and EJ to be included in project planning, the Project Kick Off meeting process, and budget development.
- Reviews and prioritization of items in the Workplace Experience report.

Safety Committee:

The Safety Committee met on February 6, and members of the Safety Committee will perform the quarterly office self-inspection on February 22. Current projects include the following:

- Reviewing staff ideas for our Site Evaluation tool and incorporating them into a draft.
- Creating a more standardized PPE procedure to ensure that all staff members have the necessary personal protective equipment for their jobs.
- Preparing to distribute “Go Bags” for staff members containing survival items to keep with them in case of a large-scale emergency.
- Improving safety policy documentation by compiling our policies into a Safety Manual and creating a readable graphic to support our Event Cancellation Policy.

Wellness Team:

The Wellness Team met on January 29. Members of the Wellness Team: Chris Collins, Sam Dumont, Catherine Corbett, Madeline Marucha, Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky, Elaine Placido.

- The team discussed the potential implementation of the Lifestyle Spending Accounts – how to focus employee spending for maximum wellness uplift.
- The team continues to discuss how to utilize the \$5,000 team budget in a way that is consistent with our EPA budget and considers staff time.
- The team decided to look at the employee handbook in a future mtg for policies that could be improved to benefit employee wellness. One example is the gear stipend.

Funding Report:
Grant Report 7/1/2023 through 2/7/2024

Proposals and Proposal Status:	Funds Requested	Proposals Funded :
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	\$ 309,261.00	\$ 299,761.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Active: No Match	\$ 299,761.00	\$ 299,761.00
Outdoor Learning Grant 23-25	\$ 299,761.00	\$ 299,761.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Pending	\$ 9,500.00	
CWCC 2024	\$ 9,500.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Paddling & On-water	\$ 51,509.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pending	\$ 51,509.00	
Metro Central Community Enhancement Grant 2024	\$ 25,938.00	
Partners In Conservation 2024	\$ 25,571.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Restoration	\$ 598,444.71	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pending	\$ 598,444.71	
East Fork Lewis Designs	\$ 50,000.00	
Centennial Clean Water Program	\$ 498,444.71	
Promise the Pod Tree Credit	\$ 50,000.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted	\$ 50,000.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pending	\$ 50,000.00	
Healy Foundation	\$ 50,000.00	
Grand Total	\$ 1,009,214.71	\$ 299,761.00

Contracts Report:

Contracts Report (11/23/2023 through 2/8/2024)				
Contracts Awarded to Estuary Partnership:				
Partnership:	Contract #	Dollar Value	Purpose	Date Signed
Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District (Amended)		\$40,533.00	Water Quality Monitoring in Columbia County	2/8/2023
WA ECY - Salmon Creek WQ and Education	WQC-2024-LCEP-00181	\$249,369.00	Salmon Creek Clean Water Enhancement & Education	1/10/2024
WA ECY - Lower Columbia River Enhancement Project	OTFP-2023-LCEP-00030	\$264,000.00	Riparian Planting, Water Quality Education	2/10/2024
Vancouver Lake Partnership		\$ 175,000.00	Environmental Education at Vancouver Lake	2/6/2024
Contracts Let By Estuary Partnership:				
Partnership:	Contract #	Dollar Value	Purpose	Date Signed
Wolf Water Resources	15- 2024	\$ 5,391.00	LOMR at Steigerwald	11/3/2023
Kimimela Consulting	16- 2024	\$ 5,000.00	Facilitating Land Care Collective	12/21/2023
Archaeological Investigations NW, Inc	19- 2024	\$ 18,602.96	Campen Creek Cultural Resource Survey	12/21/2023
Clackamas River Basin Council	20- 2024	\$ 21,732.00	Watershed Health Education Support Services - High School Student Focus	1/3/2024
Confluence	21- 2024	\$ 21,655.00	Explore Local: Encounters & Connections (RCO)	1/24/2024
Pacific Education Institute	22- 2024	\$ 42,947.00	Explore Local: Encounters & Connections (RCO)	1/26/2024
Travis Wayne Dupell	23- 2024	\$ 11,000.00	Boat Transportation for Field Data Collection (Monitoring)	2/8/2024
Out of the Box Technology		\$250 per hour	On Call QuickBooks Training	12/8/2023