



Marion Soil and Water Conservation District  
Education Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, August 16, 2022

9:00 am via [Zoom](#)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89754679447?pwd=WVJtcnY1eWphRDZAwYWMvRGdUQWRVQT09>

Meeting ID: 897 5467 9447 | Passcode: 258889 | Dial in at: +1 253 215 8782

## AGENDA

**Call to Order** – Scott Walker, Chair – 9:11 am

### **Request for Marion SWCD to adopt [Claudia Chinook](#)**

Claudia is a 29 ft long fiberglass salmon that 4-6 adults can be inside of at a time! She is great for parades and events and for generating conversations about watershed health. She is owned by Polk SWCD and they no longer have the capacity to manage and maintain her. They asked if we would like to adopt her. We would need to invest some money in maintenance and determine a location for her to be housed.

From City of Keizer staff person Jenny Ammon: “I have been thinking of Claudia and how she relates to all we do in E&T and Stormwater for Keizer and couldn’t help but think that I am missing a big possible partner! Claggett Creek Watershed Council! I have included Matt Lawyer in the conversation about housing/caring/adopting Claudia. Of course, he too, has a board and would need to discuss the particulars, but I did mention I would like to see the salmon in person as an interested party who loves having Claudia in our region for outreach and education! <https://www.polksxcd.com/claudia-chinook.html>”

Darin - Renting her out – a lot involved in renting her out – could we use her for free for our own events- then we would use her for our events for free. How about that? - \$8,000 (maybe \$10,000) cap on what we would pay towards her repairs. Have Keizer store it and we can use it. They would be in charge of hauling her and storing her, using for their events.

Would we use it for 6-10 events per year? We would pay to fix her up, then we could use her for free for our events, then Keizer would be in charge of her rental and storage.

Becky – is it \$8,000-\$10,000 total or we contribute up to that much and Keizer also contributes to its makeover. Heath will do research on costs and explore this path.

From Polk SWCD staff person Morgan Neil: “I do appreciate your interest in Claudia and all of the thoughtful questions. In the 10 months that I've been in this position, she hasn't been rented out, mostly because we have been understaffed and we haven't had the capacity to manage it. I did talk with our Board Chair yesterday about the matter. There is another OR WC interested in adopting Claudia, but they are at the coast and the Chair would rather see Claudia stay local (with you all).

“I'll do my best to answer your questions:

- **Is there a cost to adopting her?** - That's not something I've discussed with the Board, my inkling, is that there would be no cost.
- **Would you offer your processes/agreements/forms for rental to the adopter?** Yes, no problem.

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- **What kind of repairs does she need?** That would be better accessed in person. Maybe we could set up a time next week for you to see her?
- **Dimensions of the old gal?** 14' tall, 29' long, weighs 2800 lbs
- **Hitch size?** 2 inch ball hitch
- **What are her storage requirements? Does she need to be stored indoors, just undercover? And how much space does she take up?** We've been keeping her indoors at the Polk County Fairgrounds. I've attached a picture to show you the trailer bed she's on. That'll give you an idea of added length. I'm sure that the trailer bed would come with it. Notes I see about her transportation say that she comes with a cover. I haven't seen anything like that, but I can go to storage and look again. I think she could be kept outdoors if she was covered properly.
- **Morgan said that they don't allow kids inside – is that just because she needs repairs? Or does that have something to do with insurance? Kids going inside of it was the best part, so without that, I feel like her value is slightly diminished.** That's a valid point. If we keep her and if we rent her out, we've decided to stop allowing people inside because that is what has caused a good portion of the damage. Also, it is not ADA compliant.
- **What does the insurance coverage look like for her? To allow people to rent her out and then to have kids inside and touching her, I'm curious if they do anything special.** Here's what it says on our rental agreement for insurance: Insurance: a. RENTER must provide evidence of property insurance (Certificate of Insurance) with signed Agreement. Certificate of Insurance must be a minimum of \$50,000.00 to cover any and all damages that may be inflicted on the Educational Display during the time it is in the care of the RENTER. Most insurance providers offer a certificate of insurance at no cost. b. Certificate of insurance shall list POLK SWCD as Certificate Holder, or additional insured. c. RENTER will be held liable for all damage that occurs to the Educational Display and provided equipment that is not covered by insurance.
- **Who have they used to do the maintenance and repairs? Could we get a quote on what it would cost before exploring further?** That's been part of the issue, too. She does need maintenance. I reached out to the last person that worked on her and he declined to work on her again. I reached out to the Salem Art Council and they had no connections. I think the best bet would be an auto body shop. It's been on my list of "to do's" to get a quote. I can prioritize that if it helps with your decision-making.
- **Could she become a stationary fixture? It is cool that she can travel around, but what if the City said we wanted to have her and install her at a park? Not saying they would, but I'm just curious.** I'm not sure if she could come off the trailer bed. It looks like her fins hang lower than her body. I don't know if they'd stabilize it well enough...?"

Questions:

Is there a cost to adopting her?

Would you offer your processes/agreements/forms for rental to the adopter?

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What kind of repairs does she need?

Dimensions of the old gal?

Hitch size?

Per Morgan's email about the adoption of Claudia:

*A couple of things on Claudia:*

- *She's not in the greatest shape. I'd recommend taking a look in person before you reserve*
- *We no longer allow kids to enter the inside*
- *I'm going to approach the Board about releasing Claudia at our August Board meeting. For one - she needs maintenance. She also surprisingly popular and we don't have the capacity to manage renting her out.*
- *We do have a WC at the coast interested in adopting her. Is that something Marion SWCD would consider? I'd prefer her go to a local partner.*

### **Update on Salmon Watch Funding Assistance**

The Salmon Watch grant process is up and running in Foundant. Heath emailed an invitation to apply to all teachers who have signed up for fall Salmon Watch trips and posted the opportunity on our website [here](#) and [here](#). Two schools (Stayton HS and West Salem HS) have already applied for Salmon Watch funding through the new process as of 8/5/22. A third school

### **Update on Environmental Education Organization Funding Framework**

The staff are beginning to work on developing a process that could be used for watershed council support, environmental education organization support, and other special requests outside our existing grant programs. What kind of information would the committee like us to request from applicants? Scott wants to stay focused on the educational side – Who is the audience, how many people are involved in the activity? Not have all real broad program we are focused on education stuff whether it is focused on. The administrative processes are there to support the programs not the other way around. The point of the activity gets lost because implementing the admin process.

- What is your mission? How will these funds help you achieve your mission?
- How does the effort to be funded support Marion County residents in developing their conservation awareness and/or benefit Marion County's natural resource base?

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**Darin** – he sees the point of having one intake form. Can't comment on it until he sees it. Funding EE groups like Straub – in some ways it doesn't matter where the money goes as long as it is being used to fund the work/mission of that group – we don't go and audit them. They can tell us anything and move the money around.

Give them an option of up to 3 years of funding limit how often they can come back for funding, let's say we have an extra \$10,000 that no one is claiming then they can come back for that funding.

Where is the money going to come from?

**Mark** – is each application going to be brought before the board for approval/discussion? Darin envisions that these go the ed committee and then they get brought to the board. Are we sending the info through sharepoint or email – email.

**Scott** - What could we bring to the board for info/decisions.

**Becky** – LOI is not necessarily the application this is the first step they have this already for LAPS it just gives the basic info for the landowner then if they aren't working with a planner, they would get assigned to one and this LOI is first step, but the education org support next step would look a lot different.

**Scott** – would like to have a better explanation of what we are proposing – doesn't like the format – flesh it out more in terms of what the letter would look like and explaining why we need to have this level of procedure.

**Darin** – in the past, this has happened where we make the application too complex and people quit doing them. Keep it simple. Switch to an intake form. Like a google form. Don't want to scare people away.

Get more info about process and what we are asking for.

**Adjournment** – Scott Walker, Chair – 10:00 am

**Help Spread the Word...**

**Upcoming Education Events**

1. Community Events – [Englewood Forest Festival](#) (8/13), [Community Salmon Watch Day](#) (9/11)

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2. Youth Education – [Salmon Watch Volunteer Training](#) (8/25); [Salmon Watch Field Trips](#) (Sept. 14-Oct. 13); Salem Outdoor School (Oct 4-7)
3. First Fridays – [Sept 1 – Stephanie Hazen on Monarch Butterflies](#) – First Friday of each month from 12-12:45 pm (none in July, August speaker not identified yet)
4. KMUZ Conservation Spotlight podcast – [September 15 at 8 am and 6 pm – Shawn Rivera, US Forest Service, “Forest After Fire: Moving Forward”](#) – (MSWCD hosts in March, June, September, and December)

### **Committee Members**

Board: Scott Walker, Mark Fields, Darin Olson

Staff: Heath Keirstead, Janice Calkins, Becky Pineda

*All committee meetings are open to the public, contact the office for more information at 503-391-9927 Ext 335.*

*If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise the District Manager at 503-871-7311 or email [office@marionswcd.net](mailto:office@marionswcd.net) as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.*

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