

## School board to fill budget committee positions

The Jefferson County school district board of directors is accepting applications from community members interested in serving on the district budget committee.

There are two positions, each for a term of three years.

The board will review applications, and make the appointments at the January 23 board meeting.

The appointments would become effective immediately upon appointment and end June 30, 2019. To be eligible for appointment, the candidate must live in the county, be eligible to vote in the district, and cannot be an officer or employee of the

district.

Applications are available at the district office, 445 SE Buff Street, Madras. Or go online:

[www.jcsd.k12.or.us](http://www.jcsd.k12.or.us)

In other 509-J district business:

### Board positions

Superintendent Rick Molitor will be resigning at the end of this school year, and the district board is in the process of finding a new superintendent.

School officials met twice in Warm Springs in January, taking input from as to what community members would like to see in terms of qualifications of the new superintendent.

Twenty-five to 30 people attended the meetings, hosted in part by the Oregon School Board Association. An online survey was also available for giving input.

Meanwhile, the school board is considering a zone approach to the district board positions. Superintendent Molitor will report on the matter, and the board will decide a course of action.

One idea is to have some of the five board positions, three for example, elected by zone, and then two elected at large.

Three board positions—those held currently by Laurie Danzuka, Tom

Norton and Lyle Rehwinkel—are up for election in May.

A zone approach to at least some of the positions would be a way to ensure fair representation to all communities.

Under the current arrangement, it is possible that all five board positions could go to residents of Madras, for instance, with no board member from Warm Springs. This has not happened in recent decades, as Jeff Sanders, and then Laurie Danzuka have served successive terms on the board.

Nevertheless, have district zones would avoid this possibility in the future.

## To students, parents

*In regard to the missed school days in January:*

The school district creates a school calendar that exceeds the required minutes in case we have to cancel or delay school.

However, with eight canceled school days, we need to look at ways to make up some instructional time. In order to plan accordingly and provide as much notice as possible, the following recommendation will go to the School Board on January 23 for potential adoption:

· **Friday, January 27** will become a full student day.

· **Friday, February 3** will be the end of second quarter work day for

staff, and a non-student day.

· **Monday, February 13** would be a full student day.

· **Monday, March 13** would be a full student day.

These recommendations will allow us to balance our semesters, make up some instructional time, and provide a small buffer in case we have more delays or cancellations.

The purpose of this message is to provide students, staff, parents and stakeholders early warning on potential changes to our current school calendar.

**Rick Molitor**, school district superintendent.

## Restoration: planning, on-site work took more than a decade

(Continued from page 1)

The Warm Springs Tribes were driven to restore the river out of a dedication to their culture and their responsibility to the generations to come.

“Our children are our most valuable resource, and we want them to have what our elders passed on to us,” says tribal member Kirby Heath.

In 2001, using funding from Bonneville Power Administration, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs acquired the restoration site.

Tribal Natural Resources and Fisheries began developing an approach to determine how to go about reversing the damage and rebuilding a healthy river.

In 2005, the tribes partnered with the Bureau of Reclamation to develop solutions for the site.

“The Warm Springs Tribes’ goals for this land are to make it ecologically healthy and to have all the native animals and plants come back and be healthy,” said Pat McDowell.

Over the next five years, a plan was developed to restore this most degraded portion of the upper Middle Fork John Day River.

It would require extensive tree planting, seeding, installation of browse fencing, bio-engineering, and placement of large wood structures throughout the entire project area.

The amount of work couldn’t be performed in a single year, and was initially



Courtesy CRITFC

Warm Springs Fisheries takes a reading at an engineered wood jam feature on the river.

divided into three phases, with two more added as the project got underway.

With a plan ready, on-the-ground work began in 2011.

### On the ground

After five years of work, the area is nearly unrecognizable. Nearly one and a half miles of new meandering channels were created.

Construction crews moved 200,000 cubic yards of earth to cover the bare rock of the mine tailings, forming new waterways.

Crews planted 24,000 trees and dispersed 2,100 pounds of seed over the project area. Fisheries and Wildlife crews moved tens of thousands of fish, amphibians, and other wildlife to safer locations prior to each project phase.

All told, the project was made possible through the hard work and dedication of hundreds of individuals.

“A large project like this

really takes a village to accomplish,” says Natural Resources Branch manager Bobby Brunoe.

Prior to 2011, about 13 percent of the chinook spawning that occurred in the Middle Fork John Day happened in the Oxbow area.

Since 2011 when phase one began, that total has increased to 23.4 percent. A project of this scope, however, doesn’t just benefit fish.

“If we do what we’re doing in the name of fish—and we can use that, we can say it’s for the fish—but what else is it for?” asks Anna Stargel, the Oxbow Conservation Area Caretaker.

“It’s all the riparian vegetation, it’s the wildlife—it’s the osprey and the deer and



Courtesy W.S. Branch of Natural Resources

This crew in 2016 was collecting fish to move them to safety, before the construction phase.

the mule deer that come down here, the elk that come to water down here—it’s all of the beautiful things that come along with that restoration. It’s all connected.”

### Project Details

· Property Mined for Gold 1939-1942 on over 200 acres.

· Tailings leveled in the mid-1970s.

· Confluences of Beaver, Ruby, Granite Boulder, and Butte Creeks affected by mining.

· Restoration project split into five phases: 2011-2016.

· 5,800 feet of new river

channel, 1,100 feet of new creek channels constructed.

· 5,700 feet of existing river channel enhanced by flow restoration and habitat improvements.

· Over 2,600 whole trees, plus additional slash utilized for habitat improvements, comprising at least 260 instream structures.

· Over 30,000 containerized plants and 13,000 cuttings planted.

· Project benefits spring chinook salmon, summer steelhead, and lamprey through greatly increased instream habitat structures, alcoves, spring channels,

sided channels, reconnected floodplains, and deep pools.

· Multiple partners joined the Confederated Tribes in completing this project, including:

The Bonneville Power Administration, the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Forest Service, NOAA Fisheries, and others.

(This article is by Jeremy FiveCrows, courtesy of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.)

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