

**Long Tom Watershed Council
Board & Staff Biographies
2011-2012**

Board of Directors

Mike Brinkley, At Large – Co-Treasurer

Mike grew up in rural Missouri. He lived in Eugene from 1988 to 1999 and moved back in 2010 after retiring from his position as Director of Research at a technical firm in California. He has been involved at the executive level in several conservation-related NGOs over the past 10 years and is an avid fly fisher. Other interests include international travel, hiking, music, and spending time with Portland grandchildren. He brings a passion for working out successful collaborative solutions to the LTWC Board.

Steve Cole, At-Large

Steve Cole is a native Oregonian and consulting forester for woodland and forestland owners in the watershed and region. Steve is interested in promoting practical and sustainable land stewardship; maintaining, improving and protecting water quality; and controlling invasive plant and animal species through education and eradication efforts. Steve graduated from OSU with a degree in forest management, and worked as an industrial forester for the Woolley family in Drain and later for the Giustina family in Eugene. He has been a consulting forester since 1992. Steve lives in Eugene; he has three grown daughters and a 15 year-old son.

Jason Hunton, Lower Long Tom

Jason Hunton was raised in Junction City. After over a decade away, Jason married his wife, Kimmie, and returned home to manage his family's farm. Jason is interested in wetlands restoration, native species, fishing, wildlife photography, riparian areas and land banks. He is knowledgeable about agricultural needs and perspectives and looks forward to contributing to the Council's work.

Sue Kacskos, Upper Long Tom – Co-Treasurer

Sue was born in Aurora, IL, and earned a bachelor's in environmental studies. Two years ago Sue moved from Seattle, WA to Eugene after buying a 24-acre farm just east of Crow High School. "No Name" creek runs through her territory and Coyote Creek is just a field away. Farming is a dream Sue has had for several years and her plan is to develop her acreage into a model of sustainable farming.

Beth Krisko, At Large

Beth just moved to Eugene this summer from Ohio, where she was the director of an outdoor education center, engaging over 3,000 children in environmental education and stewardship each year. She has a master's degree in environmental science from Miami University of Ohio, and a science teacher credential from Antioch University. In 2010, Beth was awarded a

fellowship with the National Audubon Society's Together Green program, which recognizes and trains leaders in conservation. She is currently the Principal of the Outdoor High School Program for the Northwest Youth Corps. Beth enjoys plant identification, rambling in the woods, yoga, gardening, and backpacking.

Max Nielsen-Pincus, Amazon - Chair

Max is a member of the research faculty in the University of Oregon's Institute for a Sustainable Environment, where he conducts socioeconomic research focused on rural communities and natural resource management. Max is a fourth generation Oregonian whose family has roots that stretch across the state in farming, ranching, timber, and high tech. Max and his wife Nicole live in Eugene with their three children and enjoy fishing, hiking, and exploring remote parts of the state on family camping trips.

Jim Pendergrass, Lower Long Tom – Past Chair

Jim was born in Portland, and has lived in Oregon almost his entire life. Educated at Stanford, he has recently retired from a 33-year career in the banking industry, most recently as President of Wells Fargo's Small Business Banking Group in Oregon. He and his wife Chris, a ceramic sculptor, have been married for 33 years, and spent 20 years in eastern Oregon before moving to the valley ten years ago. They live on a small farm in the Bear Creek sub-watershed outside of Cheshire, where they raise sheep and trees. Both are long-time private pilots, and are also active scuba divers, skiers and hikers. And Jim plays ice hockey in the adult league in Eugene!

David Ponder—Amazon

David and his wife Shelly moved to Eugene in 2008 and could not be happier to be putting down roots in the Willamette Valley. David is an associate at Good Company, a sustainability research and consulting firm, where he supports businesses and governments measure, manage and market their social and environmental performance. David has a Master of Public Administration and Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies. When not working, David enjoys gardening, cooking, and taking his dog Ursa swimming.

Lindsay Reaves – Upper Long Tom

Lindsay is a fourth-generation Oregonian and has lived in Eugene since 1981. She received her B.S. in health education from the University of Oregon and a master's in social work from Portland State University. Lindsay moved to a 672-acre tree farm four years ago with her husband and works with him to manage the land as a sustainable forest tree farm. She volunteers with Forests Today and Forever, and for the past five years, over 4,000 middle school students have visited the tree farm to learn about forestry management, riparian needs, wildlife considerations, and recreation opportunities. Native plants and local butterflies are a special interest.

Charles Ruff—Upper Long Tom

Charles Ruff serves as the General Manager for the Oregon Country Fair (OCF), which draws over 40,000 visitors every year. OCF has worked to improve water quality in Indian Creek, which

runs through their property. Charles says that maintaining a healthy, vibrant watershed is key to the ethos of the OCF, they are greatly affected by the Long Tom River and are active in issues concerning the river and its long term well-being. Charles enjoys helping to organize the annual Oregon Truffle Festival and participating every year in Cycle Oregon.

Deborah Saunders Evans, At Large – *Vice Chair*

Deborah Saunders Evans is a limnologist and long-time resident of the area with experience as a program director, policy analyst, and consultant. Deborah served on the Long Tom Watershed Council's first Interim Steering Committee and provided technical assistance in writing the council's first water quality monitoring grant. Deborah is interested in improving and protecting water resources and habitats, fostering communication between all stakeholders, outreach and education, and long-term organizational stability.

Chad Stroda, Lower Long Tom – *Vice Chair*

Chad Stroda is the 5th generation on the Stroda Brothers Farm in Monroe. After education in agriculture and machinery, Chad worked in California and Hawaii before returning home to work on the family farm. Chad brings an agricultural perspective to the Council's Board.

David Turner, At Large – *Secretary*

David grew up in Texas before attending graduate school at the University of Oregon in the 1970s. He moved back to the Southwest before returning to Eugene in 2003 where he now lives outside of Junction City on Owens Creek. His personal interests include fly fishing, tending to his land, reaping the rewards of fresh fruits and vegetables, and enjoying the roots music of early America. Professionally he teaches history of photography and arts administration at UO and consults with other museums on leadership and stewardship.

Therese Walch, Amazon

Therese has over 20 years of experience in civil, environmental, and structural engineering and is currently the Water Resources Manager for the City of Eugene. She oversees various stormwater planning and engineering endeavors including managing the City's municipal stormwater permit activities, developing long-term stormwater management strategies for Eugene's stormwater basins including the Amazon Basin. Therese lives in Lane County with her husband, Doug, and their son, and enjoys everything about the outdoors in Oregon including the fabulous rain!

Staff

Dana Dedrick, Watershed Coordinator/Executive Director

Dana has worked with the Long Tom Watershed Council since 1998, and in 2007 began employment as their executive director. She was a founding officer of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils 2004-07. Dana has been working on watershed issues in Oregon and northern California since 1994. Her degrees are in Natural Resource Planning from Humboldt State University (BS, 1994) and Resource Geography from OSU (MS, 1999). While completing her education she worked as an assistant city planner, timber-harvest consultant for private firms, soil scientist, and teaching and research fellow. She also has completed continuing training in Non Profit Management at LCC and attended various watershed science and management professional courses at PSU and national conferences. Dana's passion for common sense ecological stewardship led her to contribute her time and money to the opening of a "green" building store in Corvallis called Your Green Home in 2004, which she and her partner sold 3 years later. Dana lives in Eugene with her family.

Rob Hoshaw, Operations Manager

Rob joined LTWC in February, 2010 to help the Council improve their organizational systems, support programs from an operations standpoint, and increase program-related communication. Rob has always enjoyed the outdoors and wildlife, and many of his fondest memories are of fishing Minnesota's lakes and exploring the beautiful Northwoods. This childhood fascination with nature became a passion for conservation, resource management, and understanding environmental issues. He has a B.S. in zoology – fisheries and wildlife and a B.A. in English from North Dakota State University. In 2007, he moved to Eugene and completed his master's degree in environmental studies from the University of Oregon. Rob lives with his wife, Katey, and Scout, their golden retriever. He also enjoys hiking, taking long walks, cooking, painting, and writing stories.

Jed Kaul, Aquatic Projects Manager

Jed has a Bachelor's Degree in Fisheries & Wildlife Science from Oregon State University. Classes he attended there covered a range of topics from stream ecology to natural resource philosophy. His professional experience includes 5 years of seasonal work for the Central Coast Ranger District of the US Forest Service based in Florence. His duties there included a variety of fisheries and ecological restoration activities focusing on LWD placement and riparian planting projects. Since graduating in 2005 he has worked for a small contractor in Florence performing stream surveys and assorted restoration projects. Jed has been interested in any and all outdoor activities since childhood and spends his free time exploring the diverse ecosystems of western Oregon. Fishing (preferably for Steelhead) has been his main hobby for 15 years but hiking, camping, and mushroom picking are also of great interest to him. Helping maintain his parents' farm in the Smith River watershed near Reedsport occupies many summer weekends additionally.

Jason Schmidt, Urban Watershed Restoration Specialist

Jason joined the LTWC in June, 2011 as the Urban Watershed Restoration Specialist, and Amazon Initiative Coordinator. The program, newly created by the Council, seeks to improve water quality and habitat in Amazon Creek basin, the most densely developed sub-watershed of the Long Tom Watershed. He has a BA in Cultural Anthropology (Pennsylvania State Univ.) and a MS in Watershed Education and Management (Portland State Univ., the other PSU). Jason brings unique skills to the Council in urban watershed management including low impact development (LID) strategies, rainwater harvesting, and green infrastructure. After working around Oregon, Jason's stint in Los Angeles working on urban water policy and stormwater management has him looking forward to exploring the rivers, mountains, and valleys of the Willamette region. Jason is also a fan of basketball (college and NBA) and fully supports the Trailblazers, win or lose. In his free time, Jason enjoys playing and recording music, hiking and camping, cycling, and botanizing.

Cindy Thieman, Restoration and Monitoring Program Director

Cindy Thieman has been working for the Council since 1998. She has a Master of Science in Biology and in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon. While at the University, she was a research and teaching fellow in limnology, microbiology, and plant physiology. Her first Council project was the Watershed Assessment, which was completed in January of 2000. She has also designed and implemented the Council's water quality monitoring program. Starting in 2000, she began working with landowners to develop and secure funding for watershed restoration and enhancement projects. Cindy has lived in Eugene for 14 years and owns a home near upper Amazon Creek that she shares with Nova dog, Porter kitty, and her partner Jim. They spend more time than they'd like "improving" the house and yard, but still manage to find time for backpacking, backcountry skiing, and mountain biking.

Amanda Wilson, Fiscal Manager

Amanda joined the Council staff in 2008 to keep the fiscal and administrative aspects of the Council's work humming. Amanda also works with the McKenzie and Coast Fork Watershed Councils in fiscal and education duties and loves coordinating events. She is attending Lane Community College and transferring to OSU to pursue a degree in natural resources while she continues to work with the local watershed councils that inspire her. A native of Oregon, Amanda lives in the Amazon Creek basin with her family.