



# Long Tom Watershed Council

March 2021

Action  
Through  
Understanding

## Virtual Public Meeting

# “Climate Justice & Supporting Resilient Communities”

Tuesday, March 23, 6 - 7 p.m.

**Topic:** The connection between climate change and racial justice and how the impacts of changing climate disproportionately impact People of Color and marginalized communities.

**Speaker: Haley Case-Scott.** Haley is the Climate Justice Organizer at Beyond Toxics and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Eugene/Springfield.

**Presentation will be streamed virtually on YouTube ([youtube.com/longtomwsc](https://youtube.com/longtomwsc))**



## Land Acknowledgment

The Long Tom Watershed lies within the traditional homelands of the Tribes and Bands of the Kalapuyan peoples. Following treaties in the 1850s, the Kalapuya people were dispossessed of and forcibly removed from their indigenous homeland by the United States government. Today, many descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. We acknowledge that we are on occupied lands, and express our respect for Kalapuya and all Tribal Nations of Oregon, and the important contributions they continue to make to their communities, including to the stewardship of this watershed.

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*The Long Tom Watershed Council serves to improve water quality and watershed condition in the Long Tom River basin and surrounding drainages through education and collaboration among all interests, using the collective wisdom and voluntary action of our community members.*

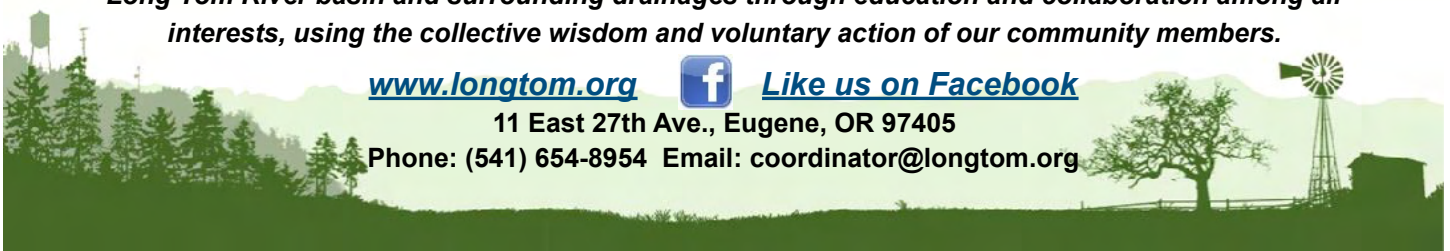
[www.longtom.org](http://www.longtom.org)



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# “Climate Justice & Supporting Resilient Communities”

Virtual Public Meeting, Tuesday, March 23, 6 - 7 p.m.

Open to everyone! No registration required. View live or later at your leisure

Event Link: [youtube.com/LongTomWSC](https://youtube.com/LongTomWSC). Click on the “Live” video at the top of the Channel at 6 p.m. 3/23.

Our March public meeting will highlight the intersection between racial and climate justice. This will be the first in a series of public meetings over the coming months or year highlighting the impacts of a changing climate on different communities and stakeholders, and what actions are being done. Future public meetings will focus on the climatic effects on industries such as agriculture and forestry.

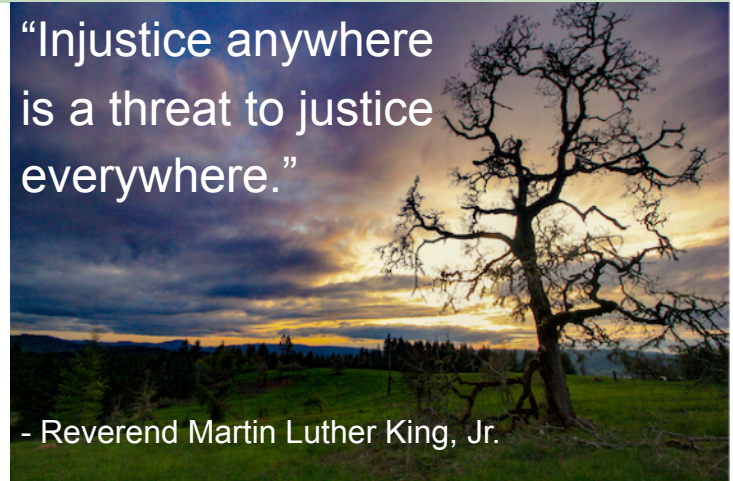
The impacts of a changing climate have unequal impacts. Black, Indigenous People, People of Color, and low income communities are disproportionately impacted by poor and air and water quality, lack of access to nutritious foods, negative health outcomes and chronic illness, and by their higher likelihood of living in close proximity to toxics areas. As the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) cites, “Race is the number one indicator for the placement toxic facilities in this country.”

Racial bias influences how our communities are structured and perpetuates systemic oppression and injustice. In order to support a climate-resilient future, the Long Tom Watershed needs diverse voices from all people leading and participating in conversations about watershed health and how to build resilience and adapt to a changing climate. The health and resilience of our watershed is inextricably linked to the health of the people who make up this community. Haley Case-Scott will discuss the connections between climate and environmental justice, and how historically disadvantaged people have been left behind. She’ll also talk about what resilience means in a climate change context, and how we can support resilient communities.



**Speaker Bio** (from *Beyond Toxics Staff Page*): Haley-Case Scott is the Climate Justice organizer for Beyond Toxics and the Eugene/Springfield NAACP. She has been appointed to serve on an advisory committee for the Oregon DEQ’s Climate Protection Program, which was established to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the effects of climate change. Haley was also recently appointed to the Lane County Climate Advisory committee, and was elected as committee chair.

Haley is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and a descendant of the Klamath Tribes, Yurok Tribe, and the Sakoagan Band of Chippewa Indians. She was born and raised in the Klamath Basin, and moved to Eugene in 2014 to attend the University of Oregon. She has her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science with a minor in Native American Studies. Prior to working as the Climate Justice Grassroots Organizer, Haley served as a Research Assistant with the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project and the United States Forest Service. She is dedicated to ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered and respected in the development of climate policy.



## Recent Water Quality Studies Show Both Progress & More Work to Do

A January 26th [article in the Eugene Register-Guard](#) highlighted a reduction in both the frequency and concentrations of 10 of 13 pesticides being tracked in Amazon Creek between 2015 and 2017. The report was published as part of the Oregon Pesticide Stewardship Partnership's (PSP) biennium report. The PSP is a collaborative partnership between the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and area partners like the City of Eugene, local stakeholders, and LTWC. Amazon Creek, the Long Tom River's largest tributary, is one of 10 PSP impact areas being studied in Oregon.

This downward trend in pesticides is a promising sign of a community willing to make strides to improve watershed health, and it reflects a decade of successful collaborative efforts by LTWC and the City of Eugene. LTWC has been working to improve Amazon Creek water quality through voluntary low impact development with commercial partners, work that complements efforts by the City of Eugene to implement voluntary projects on public lands such as side street rain gardens. Yet while the summary of findings in this report is encouraging, it's important to keep the bigger perspective that pesticides are but one category of pollutants.

Urban areas are complex and dynamic systems with a mix of environmental challenges. One such challenge was recently reported in a study with global implications published some alarming findings. A December [article in The Guardian](#) summarized findings first published in *Science* magazine that links a chemical in our tires called 6PPD-quinone to the rapid death of salmonids on the West Coast. This chemical is associated with nearly every tire on the road, including cars, trucks, buses, bicycles, and construction equipment. It makes its way into our stormwater as we drive.

One of the most complex challenges facing urban water quality is that there is still a lot of uncertainty in the scientific community about how the combinations of different pollutants — pesticides, bacteria, organic solids, heavy metals, tire fragments, and more — interact with each other and potentially compound issues. This is especially a relevant consideration for the Long Tom Watershed's urban area. Amazon Creek and urban stormwater also holds particular importance because it lies upstream of so much agricultural land, and because the downstream residents of Monroe receive their drinking water from Long Tom River and its tributaries.

This makes the urban stormwater work of the council and its partners all the more crucial, and it shows there is still plenty of work to be done! Since 2011, the Long Tom Watershed Council has been monitoring pesticides in Amazon Creek and working with local stakeholders to inform best-management-practices for application and use reduction. Since 2014, the council's Urban Waters and Wildlife Partnership has also been working with commercial and industrial partners in the Eugene/Springfield area to voluntarily install green infrastructure to treat and manage stormwater leaving their business sites, and for the last few years, we've also been steadily expanding our service area into Springfield and the entire Eugene metro area. Through 2020, the footprint of



Volunteers plant trees along Amazon Creek, part of a collaborative shading project between the City of Eugene and LTWC. Trees also help filter out pollutants from runoff.

the stormwater facilities we have installed measures over 5.7 acres, treating over 110 acres of stormwater annually at a variety of commercial & industrial sites. At our average precipitation levels of around 47" of rainfall that is approximately 140,375,840 gallons of stormwater that our project partners are cleaning on their sites!

LTWC has also begun embarking on a process to develop a five-year collaborative vision of the future of the Amazon Creek Pesticide Stewardship Partnership with the active participation of all our partners and stakeholder groups. This process is an essential opportunity to develop our priorities and strategies alongside community collaborators in order to clarify our vision approach for continued work toward a healthier watershed.

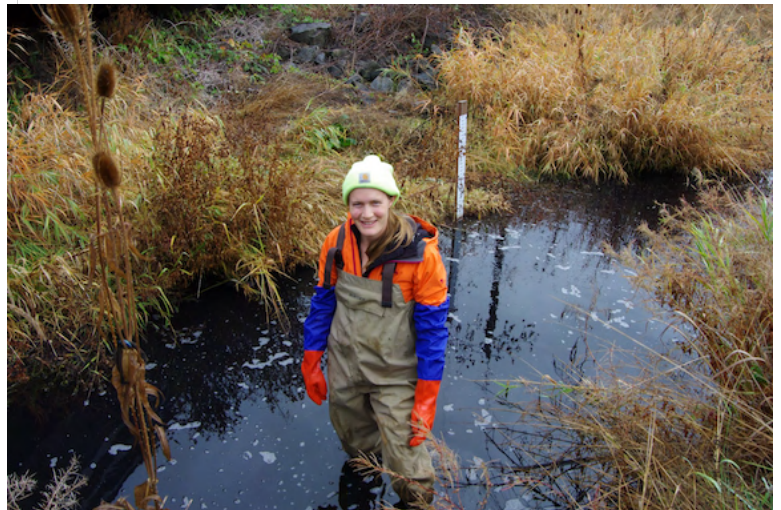
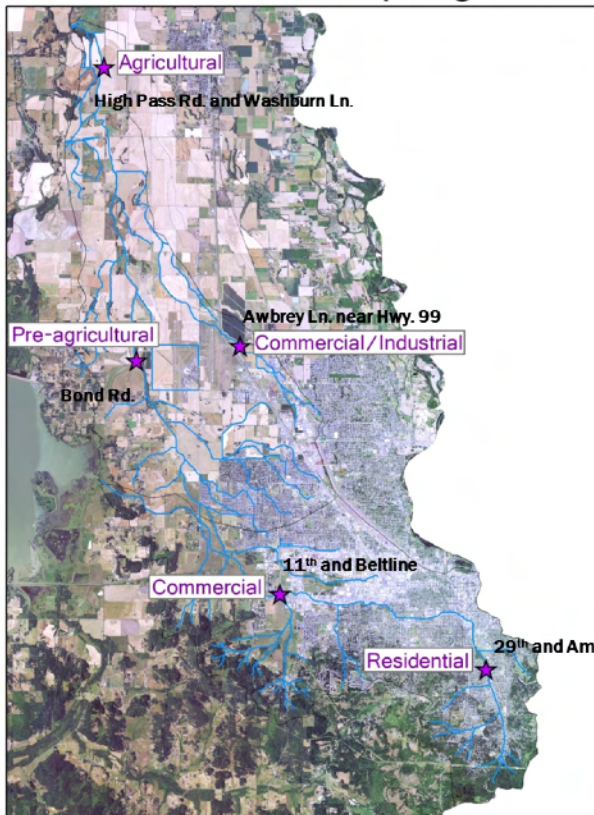
We will need the continued support and participation of the community to keep seeing progress! We are grateful for the actions and support of our project partners who have and continue to make investments in the health of Amazon Creek and the Long Tom Watershed. We also want to thank our friends at the City of Eugene for their many years of partnership on these Amazon-focused efforts. Through voluntary action, informed by robust data, we hope to continue building toward a more trout-friendly, and human-friendly, Amazon Creek! You can learn more about LTWC's Urban Waters & Wildlife Program and see some examples of urban projects and partners in action at [www.longtom.org](http://www.longtom.org).

## Links to Articles Referenced

[Eugene Register-Guard](#)

[The Guardian](#)

## Amazon PSP Sampling Sites



Above: Amanda Reinholtz, LTWC's Habitat & Water Quality Specialist, prepares to collect water samples in Amazon Creek to submit to DEQ for pesticide testing.

# Thank You for Your Gifts and Incredible Support!

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to LTWC's 2020 Annual Celebration Fundraiser and our Year End Appeal Letter. With incredible support from you, the watershed community, we were able to meet our \$10,000 goal for the Annual Celebration, and we raised over \$25,000 total for both campaigns. In addition, we received a donation of stock from a generous anonymous donor. We're so grateful to everyone who contributed since last fall in support of all of this important work. Thank you!

## Annual Celebration Fundraiser Gifts

### Sponsors

- Seneca Family of Companies
- Stroda Brothers Farm
- Winter Green Farm
- A grant from Benton County Soil & Water Conservation District also supported this virtual event

### Community Donors

Paul Atkinson	Al & Donna Hrynshyn	John Moriarty
Nancy Blum	Iris M. Tiedt	Chris Pearl
Peg Boulay & Bruce Newhouse	Derek Johnson	Anami Ridge
Ted & Lindy Brown	Laura Johnson	Steve Sertic
Mike & Gayle Colehour in honor of Abby Colehour	Tory Junkin	Ditte Lokon & Steve Soltesz
Barbara Combs	Sara & Robert Kaul	Jodi Sommers
Paula & Denny Conn	Liz Kingslien in memory of John Vasey	Carrie & Joseph Steinbach
Laura Coulter-Bebe	Sally Smith & Gary Lech	Neal Sundquist in honor of Singing Hearts Community Choir
Alan & Sue Dickman	Fraser MacDonald	Nichole Sundquist in honor of Singing Hearts Community Choir
Natalie Dybens	Ashley Malan	Kathleen Sweet
Taylor Evans	Pepper & Lee March	Dana Hansler & John Texter
Robin FitzClemen	Pat McDowell	Jabrila & Wali Via
Lauri Holts	Matt Michel	Anonymous (3)
Gary & Jo Holzbauer	Dean Walton & Shelly Miller	

## Thank You for Your Support!

We also want to thank all the incredible speakers from across the watershed who participated in our celebration's featured video, **Building a Better Tomorrow Together** (produced by CE Visuals). If you haven't seen the celebration broadcast and this video, or would like to watch it again, it's available at [longtom.org/celebration2020](http://longtom.org/celebration2020)

Peg Boulay	Casey Rosoce
Heron Brae	Joe Scott
Rosario Franco	Jabrila Via
Gary Holzbauer	Sally Villegas-Moore
Bruce Newhouse	

## ***Year End Appeal Gifts***

Rick Ahrens  
Merle & Kathy Allen  
Rolf Anderson  
Tom Bauman & Lindsay Reaves  
Philip Bayles  
Sharon & Jim Blick  
Diana Bus  
Allison Cardwell  
Paula & Denny Conn  
Paula & Curtis Erickson  
Michael Gibson  
Pennie Spraggins-Gillette & Len  
Gillette  
Nancy Hafner  
Susan Hall in memory of Lymon  
& Jere Rowe  
Bonnie Henderson & Charles  
Zennache  
Keyte Hladky  
Brian Keogh  
Val & Ken Kime  
Lane Forest Products  
Evelyn Lee  
Karen & Keith Leigh in honor of  
Bennett Krupka  
Sara Lieman  
Tom Lively & Megas MacDonald  
Charlie Loeb



Todd Mullen  
Natural End, Inc.  
Betsy Parry  
Letha & James Pontious  
Leo & Carole Poole  
Sue & Hugh Prichard Fund  
Sonja Rasmussen  
Redtail Fund of the Oregon  
Community Foundation  
Anami Ridge  
Royal Blue Organics /  
Café Mam

Elizabeth Schmidkunz & Glen  
Gibbons, Jr.,  
Lori Severson  
Kevin Shanley  
Transition Management, Inc.  
David & Suzanne Turner  
David Walp  
Phyllis Weare  
Mary Ellen West  
John & Patricia Winquist  
Anonymous (3)

## ***Other Gifts Since Last Newsletter***

Amazon Smile  
Lee Davis (Rent donation)  
Betsy Halpern (Faith Community Fund)  
Kindle Cascadia (Land Stewardship through Tribal  
Engagement)  
Kroger Reward Program

Randall Trox  
Jabrila Via in honor of Wali Via (Land Stewardship  
through Tribal Engagement)  
Liz Vollmer-Buhl (Faith Community Fund)  
Anonymous  
Anonymous (Faith Community Fund)

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## ***Thank You, Long Tom Stewards!***

**W**e want to extend a huge thank you to a couple volunteer groups who recently participated in physically-distanced activities out on the land to steward their watershed.

Most recently, we teamed with our friends from McKenzie River Trust (MRT) and a crew of volunteers to plant 400 native trees and shrubs along Nighswander Creek, a tributary to Coyote Creek along Territorial Highway near the Briggs Hill Road intersection. Back in 2013, we installed 14,000 plants along 1.25 miles of stream as part of a voluntary restoration project. This year, volunteers helped install new trees and shrubs and an inter-

planting activity help fill in areas for a few plants that didn't survive.

The original restoration project was supported and stewarded by the previous owners, the Watkins family. Now the property is owned and managed by a local honey production company, The Queen's Bounty, and owners Scott and J.J. have taken up the mantle of stewardship. Thanks to owners Scott and J.J. for joining in on the fun with the volunteers!



We also want to thank Elizabeth Goward, volunteer coordinator at MRT for coordinating this stewardship event as part of MRT's ongoing "Watershed Wednesday" series. Each Wednesday, MRT leads a stewardship project, often on behalf of partners like LTWC and other watershed councils within the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network. If you'd like to learn more, visit [mckenzieriver.org/get-involved/volunteer/](https://mckenzieriver.org/get-involved/volunteer/)

At another event in February, Boy Scout Troop 123, returned to Empire Park in northwest Eugene to help with a second year of restoration planting! Way back in November 2019, this intrepid troop helped us plant native trees and aquatic plants. During last month's unexpectedly beautiful weather, Troop 123 worked hard to get 3 white alder, 30 Douglas spirea, 20 red-osier dogwood, and 30 slough sedge plants into the ground this year, on top of the hundreds of native aquatic plants, trees, and shrubs they, and other LTWC volunteers, helped to plant in 2019. These plants will help filter pollutants out of the storm water that feeds the pond, provide better habitat for local wildlife, and provide competition for any persisting ludwigia.



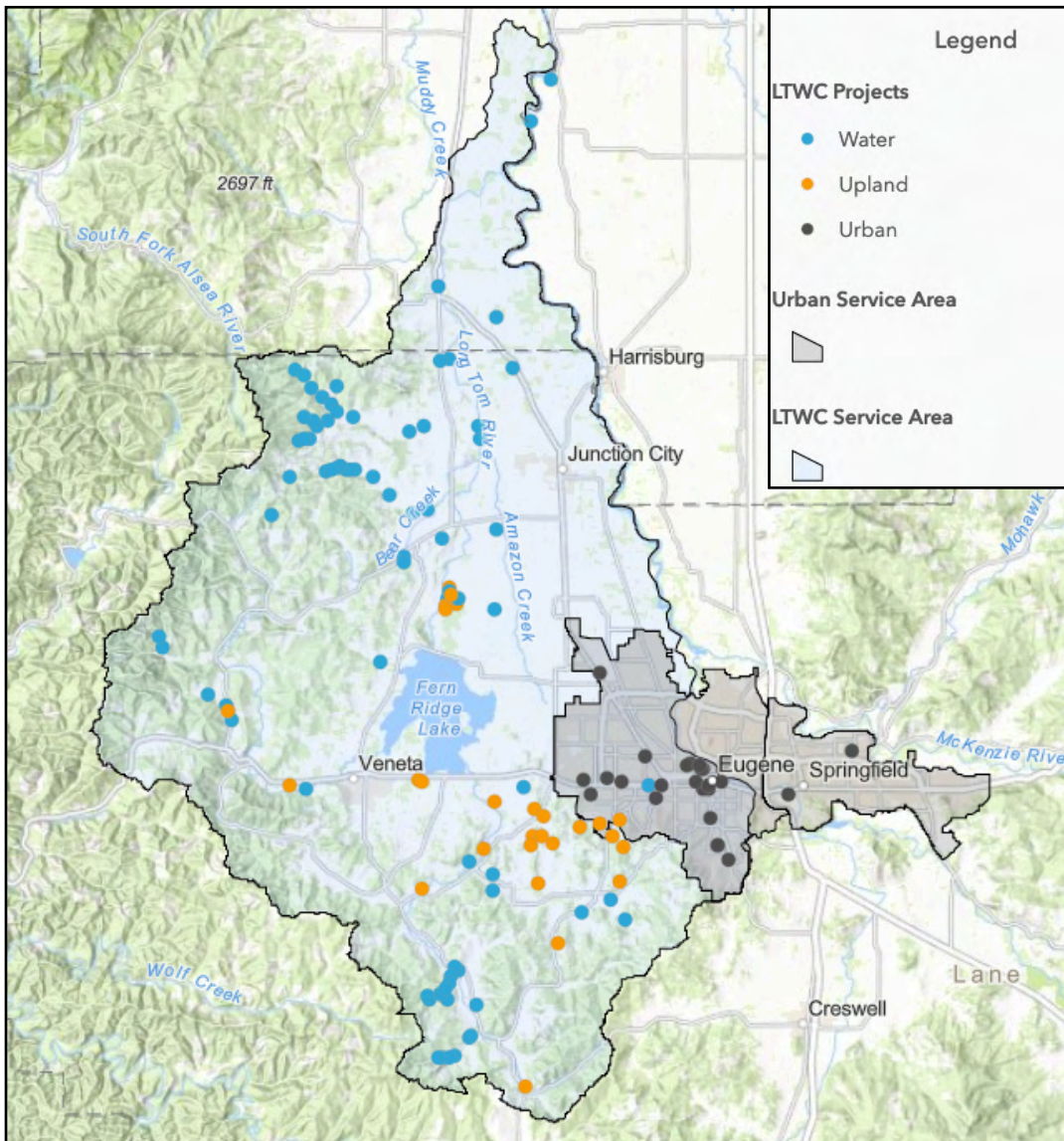
Empire Park was once home to a bad infestation of a noxious aquatic weed, *Ludwigia hexapetala*, that was degrading habitat values, competing with native plants, and providing a source of noxious weed seeds and fragments to surrounding waterways. LTWC has led successful efforts to control ludwigia at Empire Park and throughout the Amazon Creek and Long Tom River system over the past six years.

We also owe much gratitude to the [Parks & Open Space, City of Eugene Government](#) for their role in hosting the event and their partnership throughout our ludwigia control projects, to the Oregon State Weed Board for the grant funding to purchase plant materials and control ludwigia at the site, to the [Portland District, US Army Corps of Engineers](#) for ongoing support of our ludwigia efforts, and to Habitat Contracting for their many years of hard work that have resulted in excellent control of ludwigia in project areas throughout our watershed.



## Coming Soon: Updated Projects Map!

A brand new interactive projects map will be making its way to our [website](#) soon! In 23 year years, LTWC has completed over 130 projects alongside the voluntary participation of private and public landowners. Below is a sneak preview!



## LTWC Board of Directors



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Taylor Evans  
Jamie Newsome

### Vice-Chair

Shelly Miller

### Treasurer

Taylor Evans

### Secretary

Lindsay Reaves

### Members

Al Hrynshyn  
Pat McDowell

## LTWC Staff: [info@longtom.org](mailto:info@longtom.org)

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**Amanda Reinholtz**, Habitat & Water Quality Specialist

**Clinton Begley**, Executive Director

**Dana Dedrick**, Special Projects Lead

**Heidi Heisler**, Fiscal Manager

**Jed Kaul**, Fish Biologist

**Katie MacKendrick**, Restoration Ecologist

**Lorette Waggoner**, Operations Coordinator

**Miranda Hawkes**, Stormwater Drafter & Designer

**Rob Hoshaw**, Operations Director

**Sarah Whitney**, Urban Restoration & Stormwater Specialist

**Sydney Nilan**, Network Coordinator, Upper Willamette Stewardship Network