

## **General Council Meeting Minutes Annual Open House Meeting**

20 Jan 2010  
Lowell, OR  
7:15 PM

**Present:** Eve Montanaro, Nicole Czarnomski, Cristina Watson, Chuck Spies, Donna Perkering, Kathy Hern, Chuck Davis, Susan Davis, Jan Robbins, Pat Burns, Gregg Vollstedt, Jeff DeVore, Chris Stebbins, Cameron Bergen, Amanda Peacher, Bob Emmons, Sheila Klest, Bill George, Ike Osgood, Maggie Osgood, Lucie Swarm, Les Swarm, Mike Galvin, Eric Ornberg, Ellen Ornberg, Jenny Buckley, John Buckley, Wade Sims, Nikki Swanson with Clare and Erin, Julie Stewart, Sean Stewart, Nena Lovinger, Don Hampton, Beth Sheppard with Kite and Mariner, Chris MacLaggan, Lynda Kamerrer, John Dixon, Cheron Ferland, Lisa Kurian, Molly Juillerat, Bonny Erickson, Kelly Reis with Rory, Dave Downing, John Bauguess, Rick Valley, John Botti, Debbi Dalrymple, Amy Chinitz, Stephanie Schroeder, Wendy Hudson

The business meeting followed a delicious potluck dinner

### **I. Election of Members of the Board of Directors – Ms Montanaro**

Ms Montanaro explained the procedure for voting in Board of Directors and for eligible voters- based on Council Bylaws. MOTION: The motion was made and seconded to elect Chuck Spies, Don Hampton and Gregg Vollstedt to the Board of Directors. Passed unanimously.

### **II. Annual Address – Ms Montanaro**

Thank you for being here tonight to celebrate 10 years of conservation work in the Middle Fork Willamette watershed. Our watershed is a special place- a scenic place we call home, a place that has some of the cleanest drinking water in the country, a place that affords some of the best recreational opportunities in Oregon, whether you bike, hike, fish, hunt, boat or just enjoy the quiet of nature, a place that provides the families of our community with a living, a place all of us want to protect and enhance so we can enjoy these qualities today and tomorrow.

A little over ten years ago, a group of local citizens recognized the need to protect this special place and to take action to address the threats that have the potential to negatively impact our watershed. Although there were diverse interests among group members, they shared a common goal of having this unique and special watershed protected. They had an understanding that we are all in this together- all of us make decisions that affect the watershed- therefore only by all of us working together could we achieve this goal. A clear mission, good leadership, good science, good partnerships and good results have brought us to where we are today.

Since the formation of the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council, we have accomplished much in support of watershed function, education and good stewardship. In the early years, we secured funding to conduct scientific studies to learn about the current ecological conditions for the lower 120,000 acres of the watershed, we have also conducted focused studies on fish passage barriers, the location and density of invasive plant populations and identifying non-point source pollution in our rivers and streams. With this research we were able to develop action plans that would guide our activities over the next several years. Focusing on the priority objectives within our action plan, we worked with many of you to accomplish the following activities over the past ten years;

- The removal of a total of 60 acres of invasive plants on private land;
- The planting of 10,000 native trees;
- The enhancement of 12 acres to create critical habitat for T & E fish and wildlife species;
- In partnership with the USFS, opening up access or enhancing 9 miles of quality habitat for bull trout, spring Chinook and Oregon chub;

- Protecting our drinking water source by safely disposing of thousands of lbs of household hazardous waste, and
- The development of a place-based Watershed Education & Community Service-learning Program that within 3 years has worked with over 1200 students and teachers.

Now that we are off to a good start, what do we want to accomplish in these next ten years? What is your vision for the Middle Fork watershed? Our grantors recognize the commitment of this community to plan and implement priority activities and they are supporting us in an effort to develop a ten-year action plan for the entire 865,000 acres of this watershed. Your knowledge of the watershed is key and I encourage you to get involved in the Headwaters to Confluence action plan by attending meetings we will conduct in your area- share with us what you would like to accomplish in the next ten years. I am excited about the efforts for the coming year. In addition to the action planning effort, a few key activities we have planned for 2010 include

- In partnership with the USACE, the finalization of the floodplain feasibility study, which identifies potential restoration activities for increasing the natural storage capacity and recharging the groundwater system? The study is from Dexter Dam to the confluence of the Coast and Middle Fork rivers,
- We will conduct field surveys on approximately 300 culverts to determine whether they are a passage barrier for migratory fish and a priority for restoration,
- In an effort to keep false brome from spreading, we will work with 32 landowners to remove this invasive plant from their properties;
- We will work with partners and experts to develop a monitoring framework and launch a program to measure the impact of our restoration actions so we can adapt our management strategies, if needed, and share with you how effective our actions have been;
- Our Watershed Education Program will expand to involve the middle and high school students in the Watershed Rangers project, providing opportunities for older students to mentor the younger stewards;
- We will increase our outreach efforts to get your friends and neighbors involved in helping us to achieve vision 2020 for the Middle Fork Willamette watershed.

I thank you for continuing to take responsibility for the health of the rivers and natural areas in the Middle Fork and for supporting the Council. I also want to acknowledge and thank a group of professionals who have dedicated themselves to making the vision a reality over the last ten years;

- Juan Welsh: The first Coordinator- worked with the Board to develop our first Assessment
- Amy Chinitz: Coordinated 1<sup>st</sup> restoration projects, established a strong presence in the community and a good foundation for future Council efforts;
- John Moriarity and Aryana Ferguson: dedicated years of expertise and commitment to implementing the successful 30-acre project at Elijah Bristow State Park;
- Jenny Getty: worked with 192 landowners to survey 4,000 acres of property to identify false brome and technical team to develop five-year strategic implementation plan;
- Holly LeMasurier: took the vision developed by the Education Outreach Committee and launched the WEP in 2007- her enthusiasm and talent was appreciated by the students and teachers

Currently, I am fortunate to be working with a talented group of professionals who many of you have come to know. Our team is prepared to work with you to make great progress toward vision 2020.

- Cristina Watson: has expanded the WEP to work with 15 classes, trains the teachers to teach the program, works with partners and staff to provide the students with activities in the outdoors- building their job marketability skills and knowledge of what it means to be a good land steward;

For the past five years I have split my time between being the Council director and Restoration Program Manager. This year, we were able to raise enough money to hire our first full time Project Manager and I am happy to turn the Program over to Nicole Czarnomski

- Nicole Czarnomski: recently joins our team with a background in forestry and stream bioengineering. She has already hit the ground running and I am excited to see where she will take this program. I believe there is no better person suited for this job.
- Marty Wilder: has served as Operations Manager for the Council for 2 years now. He keeps things flowing smoothly around the office and with our financial reporting. A special thanks to Marty for the coordination of the event tonight.

Join me in thanking these professionals who have and will work with us to make the Middle Fork a better place to live, recreate and work. All of us can make a difference for the Middle Fork. Together with the Board of Directors and Staff, I look forward to working with you toward vision 2020. Thank you for your support this evening.

Meeting adjourned 7:38 PM

III. Next Meeting

17 March 2010

Springfield, OR

6:30-8:30 PM

The meeting was followed by a cake walk featuring watershed themed cakes baked by Council members Amanda Peacher, Amy Chinitz, Beth Sheppard, Stephanie Schroeder, Lynda Kamerrer, Nena Lovinger, and Lowell Grange community members. Nikki Swanson, Sean Stewart and Marty Wilder administered the cake walk to the music of Gregg Vollstedt and his band. Gregg Vollstedt and Band continued to entertain with watershed-inspired tunes for the rest of the evening.

Recorder: Marty Wilder