

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
General Council Meeting

17 Mar 2010
Springfield, OR
6:30 PM

Present: Eve Montanaro, Barb Hazen, Donna Riddle, Robert Emmons, Greg Taylor, George Walker, Jeff DeVore, Fergus McLean

I. Welcome and Review Agenda – Ms Montanaro

The agenda was approved as written.

II. Approve January 2010 General Council Meeting Minutes – Council Members

The minutes were approved as written.

III. Council Member Announcements – Council Members

- Mr DeVore said that the flyfishers will be having a fly fishing festival on April 17 at the Campbell Senior Center from 9AM to 4PM. Admission is free; fun for all. POC Jeff DeVore at 541 343-3109.
- Mr Walker said that the City of Springfield is working on its plan for Glenwood. They are hoping to establish a riparian setback. The Millrace Restoration project is currently on hold due to the weather. It will start up again in April. The goal is to make the Millrace fish friendly. It is a 25 year old project that finally got funded.
- Mr Taylor said that the reservoirs are running at about 40% below the refill curve; it has been a dry spring. The Army Corps isn't letting much water out and there's not a lot of water coming in. Flow targets for fish start in about 2 weeks. The reservoirs will probably be low for the rest of the year. The Corps will be talking to the public about it. The snow pack is about 44% of normal. Small streams are going to be really low in the summer. Issues between fish rights and other uses is not big on the Middle Fork but the North Santiam, especially around Detroit Lake, has some big problems with water rights.
- Ms Hazen said that on Mar 30 at 7 PM at the Campbell Senior Center Gordon Grant, research hydrologist, will be speaking on maintaining the health of the McKenzie River watershed.
- Mr DeVore said that Stan Gregory will be speaking at EWEB Training Rm on Mar 31 about the Willamette Basin.
- Mr Emmons said that the remaking of Little Fall Creek Rd is underway. They're replacing culverts. The proximity of the road to the creek is a problem as there is very little riparian protection and an opportunity for slurry to get into the creek.
- Mr Taylor said that the hydropower refitting is moving ahead at Dorena and Fall Creek. FERQ makes the decision about licensing; ODFW is involved. It is a chance to produce more electricity and do some good things for the fish at the same time.

IV. Board of Directors Update – Ms Hazen

- Jan Robbins, the new BLM hydrologist joined the Board. She will be alternating with Bill O'Sullivan representing the BLM.
- The BOD elected new officers for the coming year. They are: President-Gregg Vollstedt, Vice President – Stephanie Schroeder, Secretary - Barbara Hazen, Treasurer – Chuck Spies. Ms Schroeder will be on maternity leave for the next few months.
- The BOD has adopted a new attendance policy which reads as follows:
Members of the Board of Directors are encouraged to attend all regularly scheduled and special meetings of the Board of Directors. If a member is unable to attend a meeting he/she should notify either the Executive Director or the President in advance of the meeting.

If a member misses two consecutive meetings without giving notification, the President will contact him/her regarding his/her future involvement with the watershed council. Missing three consecutive meetings without contacting either the Executive Director or the President shall be considered a resignation.

It will be an addendum to the Bylaws.

- The MFWWC will have a new office starting in May or Jun. We are moving to a house that the state owns which is on Wheeler Rd in Dexter.
- The BOD voted to accept the 3 new grants we were awarded. Two of them are from OWEB: one is for field survey of fish passage obstacles/culverts and the other is for education. NFWF has granted the Invasive Species Working Group monies which will help them develop an early detection/early response system for dealing with invasives.

V. Executive Director's Update – Ms Montanaro

- State support of the watershed councils comes from lottery generated funds. An initiative renewing this funding source will be on the Nov 2010 ballot. Ms Montanaro asked for signature gathering support of this initiative. She fielded questions about it.
- The Council offices are moving back to the Dexter area. We will be moving into a house in EBSP on Wheeler Rd. Unfortunately we won't be able to have public meetings there.
- There will be 2 public meetings in about 2 weeks as part of the Model Watershed Program. They will be in the Lost Creek and Little Fall Creek basins and will be to talk about the actions that have been identified for these areas for the next 10 years. This is taking us to the next level as far as how we plan, work and determine the effectiveness of the impact we have upon the landscape. We will incorporate information from these meetings into the Headwaters to Confluence Action Plan. It is a time for public input.

VI. Progress toward ESA Recovery in the Willamette Valley and Middle Fork Willamette Watershed; USACE – Greg Taylor

Mr Taylor introduced the Army Corps of Engineers and its mission in the Willamette Valley. The part of their mission that they won't compromise is flood damage control. There are four listed endangered species in the Willamette basin: Oregon Chub, Bull Trout, Spring Chinook and Winter Steelhead. It took 8 years to complete the consultation under the ESA with NMFS. The BIOP is slated to take place over the next 15 years. The following is an overview of the issues.

- Interim temperature Control. The goal is to restore historic temperatures to the river. The dams stratify the water from warm to cold. The Mid Fork is warmest below the dams in Oct. This is not the historic situation and is very detrimental to fish. They had hoped to work on the temperatures at Lookout Point this year but with the low water levels and the problems with the gates it won't happen this year. The plan is to mix the very cold water with the warm
- Downstream Passage. This is a gigantic issue on the Mid Fork. They are using balloon tags on live fish which will tell you how many fish live/die and their injuries. Sensor fish tell you why the live fish sustained the injuries. The balloons inflate and bring the fish to the surface. They can check for delayed mortality. Hatchery fish are used for these tests; they are testing different routes. At Lookout Point they have screwtraps monitoring the passage of wild and hatchery fish thru the turbines. 23 to 59% of the marked fish make it thru; they will be doing a mortality study.
- They are taking DNA samples from the wild fish to see what stock they are from.
- Chub/Bull Trout. They are looking at the 27 locations in the basin that are affected by the Corps. The Mid Fork is Chub capital. Chub live in off channel habitats. The Corps is monitoring what happens when they change the water flow; they are doing precise habitat monitoring and its relation to flow and temperature. They are looking at fish assemblages to see if the Chub are at risk if they reconnect areas. The Corps is funding about a half million dollars of research on Bull Trout which includes restoring connectivity (fish passage), juvenile monitoring, reintroduction above Hills Creek and genetics work. Overall the population is doing much better than it was 10 years ago.

VII. Next Meeting

There will be another Discover Your Watershed tour in a month or two.

Meeting adjourned at 849 PM.

Barbara Hazen
Secretary