

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council  
General Council Meeting Minutes

Oakridge High School  
Oakridge, OR  
18 Oct 00

Present: Dave Embleton, Chuck Davis, Dick Lamster, Tim Bailey, Gary Wells, Bryan Huber, Juan Welsh, Gary Yeager, Rick Scott, Margaret Hartzell, Al Johnson, Rebecca Hale, Scott Peets, Bill Wynkoop, Fergus McLean, Marion McLean, Barbara Hazen, Ernie Niemi, Rick Movsky, Marc Paulman, Don Hampton, Lil DeSoto, Earl Dill

I. Introduction and Welcome

II. Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved as posted.

III. Minutes Approval

The minutes of the Sep 20, 00 General Council meeting were approved as written.

IV. Announcements

Mr Scott invited everyone to the Open House for the new Middle Fork Ranger Station in Oakridge. It will be on Oct 27 at 10 to 12 AM at the new building.

V. Presentation: Gary Yeager from Willamette Fish Hatchery

Mr Yeager discussed the current operations of the hatchery and answered questions from those present. The hatchery is located on land leased from the Forest Service. They have a museum, an upland bird display and a putt-putt golf course that demonstrates salmon migration. They produced 3 million Spring Chinook, winter and summer steelhead and South Santiam Spring Chinook this year. ODFW determines where the hatchery fish are released. This year fish were released at Dexter. They also put some up in the creeks, as they want the fish to go thru the natural cycles of spawning and decaying. When the fish return, they are collected in Dexter at the face of the dam and are trucked up to the hatchery. The hatchery needs 2000 returning fish per year. The rest they give to the tribes or leave them for the fishermen. A 1 to 2% return from a hatchery release is considered excellent.

Fish reared in the hatchery have no wild parents especially as there are no wild runs of some of the hatchery species. It doesn't work well to mix wild stock e.g. bringing in McKenzie River stock. The hatchery started with wild Willamette stock.

The hatchery uses water from Salmon Creek and Spring Creek on a pass thru basis. They do treat the water with formaldehyde and the adult fish and eggs for fungus. To date they have had no disease. With regard to disease, the diseases are found in nature. There may not be enough diversity in the gene pool; which may be why stock declines. If there is a wild fish population they would bring some in to expand the gene pool.

VI. Coordinator's Remarks

Free NMFS Workshop Nov 2 in Eugene about the 4d rules. It will be open to the public in the evening. See Mr Welsh for registration information.

OWEB Annual Conference will be in Eugene Nov 6 - 9. There is an entry fee of \$100. The Mid Fork can afford to send 1 to 2 people in addition to Mr Welsh.

Council Support Grant. Mr Welsh and Ms Ely are preparing the council support grant which is due Nov 1. The Mid Fork needs these funds to secure Council funding for the two year period of July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2003. The present OWEB grant stops 30 Jun 01. The Council needs to secure 25% of the total requested funds as "in-kind" donations, which appears at this time to total between \$25,000 & \$30,000.

Local Watershed Council Alliance. Sen Bill 1608 provides dollars for local county projects. Lane County will get \$4.8 million. The watershed councils of Lane County would like to get some of these funds applied to on-the-ground watershed restoration and enhancement projects and are currently forming an

alliance to do this. The council approved Mr Welsh participating with them. Mr Welsh also reported on a statewide gathering of Watershed Council coordinators in Bend that was held on Sept 23. The group worked towards organizing a unified presence in Salem during the 2001 legislative session to lobby for continued funding for Watershed Councils. The group formed a regional-based coverage program aimed at placing a Watershed Council representative in Salem each day during the legislative session to be available to legislators to answer questions about watershed councils.

Charter. Mr Welsh passed out copies of the final Charter. He is planning to present the Charter and the steering committee names and other necessary paperwork to the County Commissioners tomorrow with hopes of gaining county endorsement around Oct 31.

#### VII. Steering Committee Affirmation

The General Council affirmed the following members of the Steering Committee:

At-Large members: Chuck Davis, Fergus McLean, Gary Wells, Lil DeSoto, Ernie Niemi, Barbara Hazen, Marc Paulman

Designated Seat members:

Forest Service: Rick Scott

Army Corps: Dick Lamster

Private Industry: Bill Wynkoop

Environmental: James Johnston

The terms of the at large members will be determined at the next steering committee meeting which will be Oct 25 at the Council office in Lowell at 630 PM.

#### VIII. Presentation of the Role of the US Forest Service in the OR Plan by Scott Peets

The OR Plan started on the OR coast in 1995 with the eminent listing of the Coho salmon. The State offered an alternative to the Federal solution to return the salmon to OR. The offer was that the State would allow the people who live in the same watershed as the fish to recover the fish thru voluntary efforts. People would need to identify the problems and the solutions. The Courts didn't like this idea, mostly because the Plan was only a vision and not up and working, and the Coho became a listed species. In 1999 there was an executive order which expanded the Plan to cover all native fish in OR. Now all state agencies who do business with water have to consider fish as they do their business. Federal agencies have given OWEB money to distribute but it's for salmon only.

The Forest Service has been doing this since the mid '90s on the Eastside. They had an emphasis on areas that were important for the survival and recovery of fish stock. They conducted assessments in these areas. Now the Forest Service is being encouraged to work with people on aquatic conservation strategies. The Forest Service works with watershed councils, offering their expertise in watershed assessment and landscape function. With the Wyden amendment the Forest Service now has funding for on the groundwork.

The feeling is that the Forest Service will get more involved as time goes on. Watershed issues will have to be resolved together. The Forest Service plans to be a good neighbor, getting more involved especially using their technical expertise. The Portland office has increased funding to participate in watershed councils. For Sake of Salmon is going to poll the watershed councils and advise the Forest Service as to where their help is needed.

Meeting adjourned at 828PM.

The next General Council meeting is Nov 15, 630 PM in Springfield at the ODF building.

Barbara Hazen  
Recorder