

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council  
General Council Meeting Minutes

ODF Building  
Springfield, OR  
15 Nov 00

Present: James Johnston, Earl Dill, Ernie Niemi, Susan Lewis, Jim Thraikill, Bob Sward, Gary Wells, Richard Silver, B.B. Berman, Tim Shinabarger, Barbara Hazen, Chuck Davis, Juan Welsh, Bill Mayer, Rick Scott, Fergus McLean, Marion McLean, Deb Merchant, Marc Paulman, Margaret Hartzell, Bill Wynkoop, Harold Funkhouser, Carolyn Funkhouser, Greg Vollstedt, Mark Wade, Pat Kehoe, Rick Movsky, Gina de Grassi, Jim Reed, Ralph Perkins

I. Introduction and Welcome

II. Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved as posted.

III. Minutes Approval

The minutes of the 18 Oct 00 General Council meeting were approved as written.

IV. Announcements

Mr Paulman that there will be a local advisory council meeting on SB 1010, at 7PM at the Thurston Grange tomorrow night.

V. Coordinator's Remarks

OWEB/OACD Conference. The conference last week in Eugene was a success with a good turnout. Gary Wells, Marc Paulman, Val Rogers, David Livingood, Fergus McLean and Juan Welsh attended from the Mid Fork. Gov Kitzhaber gave opening address and pledged to support continued Watershed Council funding. Mr Welsh stated that gaining bipartisan support for watershed councils during the upcoming legislative session will be critical.

Council Support Grant. The grant application was completed and turned in to OWEB by The November 1 deadline. If approved, this would fund council support activities from July 2001 thru Jun 2003.

Supplementary Watershed Assessment Grant Application. This application for funding has made it thru the first hurdle in that it has been recommended for funding by the OWEB Regional Review team. OWEB is suggesting that we scale the project down a bit. Jan 5 is the funding approval date.

Work Plan. Mr Welsh would like to see the Council implement a council work plan in Jan. There are some general themes for this work plan on the back of the newsletter. Everyone is urged to look at the themes and see if there is anything missing. Comments and ideas should be forwarded to Mr Welsh. He did caution people who are making suggestions to be realistic about time frames.

Lane County Board of Commissioners' Formal Recognition. Nov 21 at 945AM is the time for our formal hearing. Mr Welsh would appreciate anyone who is able to attend the meeting to show their support for the watershed council.

Steering Committee Meeting Dec 7. Due to Thanksgiving, the next Steering Committee meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday, Dec 7 in at the Mid Fork office in Lowell at 630PM.

Thanks. Mr Welsh thanked Ms Hazen for taking the minutes at both the General Council and the Steering Committee meetings.

Voting. Mr Welsh reminded people that we are now operating under a functioning Charter and that the council voting requirement -attend at least of the previous three meetings in order to vote- is now in place.

VI. Steering Committee Report - Barb Hazen.

The minutes of the Steering Committee meeting are on the table in the back.

Sub Committees. At this time the Steering Committee would like to activate 2 sub committees. One, the Fish Passage Conference Committee, is a short-term committee whose purpose is to organize the Fish Passage Conference that the Mid Fork is planing to put on in the Spring of 2001. The other committee is

the Education and Outreach Committee, which will be an ongoing committee. A call was taken for volunteers to assist on these committees. The Education Committee will most probably not be formally activated until January. The Fish Passage Committee will meet at the end of this meeting. Ms De Grassi, Ms McLean and Mr Wyncoop expressed an interest in the Education Committee. Mr McLean, Mr Davis, Mr Niemi, Mr Reed, Mr Dill, and Mr Welsh expressed an interest in the Fish Passage Conference Committee.

Topics for Program Meetings. The Steering Committee listed some ideas for future program meetings, which are printed on the back of the minutes. Please check them out and if there are any other suggestions as to topics or speakers, let Mr Welsh know.

December Program Meeting. The December program meeting is scheduled to take place 5 days before Christmas. The Steering Committee recommended that the General Council vote about canceling this meeting. The vote was taken and passed by consensus of those voting; the December General Council meeting is canceled. The next General Council meeting will be in Lowell at 630PM on 17 Jan 2001.

#### VII. Presentation by Deb Merchant from For Sake of Salmon.

For Sake of Salmon was founded in 1995 with a mission to develop a common vision on salmon issues. They are a service organization funded by state and federal monies. They have a Watershed Support Program and a Salmon Friendly Power Program. They are promoting scientifically based approaches, consensus based efforts and promotion of community involvement. Their goal is to be a resource to organizations like watershed councils. At the moment their biggest resources are their electronic newsletter and their website.

Ms Merchant also spoke about her experience with the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council in the late 1990s. They haven't done any on the ground projects but have completed a Phase 1 assessment and a Work Plan. Their website is: [www.columbia-center.org/srbwc](http://www.columbia-center.org/srbwc). Her advise to the Mid Fork: Help the Coordinator as much as you can to avoid burn-out.

Mr Welsh stated that the Mid Fork members should become familiar with OWEB's Watershed Assessment Manual. More copies are on order so people can take them home and study them.

#### VIII. Presentation by Jim Thraikill from Upper Willamette Spring Chinook Working Group about Lane County's Riparian Ordinance.

Mr Thraikill said that Lane County does have a Riparian Ordinance which covers all undeveloped land zoned rural/riparian and is planning to revise these rules because of the 4D Rules. The Upper Willamette Spring Chinook Working Group is a technical group which was asked to give advise about changes in the ordinance. The existing ordinance says that on rural/residential land on fish-bearing waters there should be 50 ft setbacks. The property owner can remove 25% of the vegetation and then ask for a variance to remove more. NMFS will probably rule that this constitutes a taking of Spring Chinook habitat. (Streams which dry up can still be fish bearing.) Another reason for changing the ordinance is that the cumulative effect of habitat removal is a decline in the fish population. Hopefully, small positive actions will result in Spring Chinook recovery. Three watersheds would be involved in the new ordinance-the Long Tom, the Mid Fork and the Mackenzie.

The Working Group, composed this time of fisheries and aquatic biologists from the public and private sector who work in the Upper Willamette Basin, created a paper which stated what the key issues were for the Spring Chinook. Their focus was water and the influences on water quality: agriculture, roads, grazing, timber harvest and urbanization. They further narrowed the focus to urbanization as SB1010 addressed agriculture and grazing and the North West Forest Plan addressed roads and timber harvest.

Issue #1: Setback Distance and Ecological Processes. There is an opportunity for improvement here. They recommended a tiered setback approach with inner and outer buffers depending on the size of the stream. They provided setback distance recommendations, which Lane Co will take to the public.

Issue#2. Alteration/Development Activities within the Riparian Setback. Recommended discouraging development in the inner buffer.

Issue#3. Retention/Addition of Large Wood Material within the Setback. They recommended discouragement of felling of hazard trees within a setback. To get larger wood in the system they suggest having larger setbacks. The dams in place decrease the chances of the stream getting its own wood for the system.

Issue#4. Preserve the Remaining Natural Floodplains and Restore Floodplain Function. They recommended that the County develop clear, more effective policies to decrease conflict about floodplains.

They would encourage siting of structures outside the FEMA boundaries, discourage rip-rap and bank hardening and encourage the preservation of the historic stream meander patterns.  
The first public meeting about this will take place in Vida, Thurs Nov 17 at the Vida Community Center at 7PM. The next meeting in Eugene will be at Harris Hall on 28 Nov.  
Measure 7 wouldn't apply to Federal measures but since Lane County will have to implement the Federal mandates, Measure 7 could affect what they can do.

#### IX. Public Comment

Ms De Grassi said that she saw a huge salmon on Fish Creek today.  
Mr Welsh reminded folks to comment on the work plan as he wants to make it representative of the council  
Mr Movsky expressed an interest in finding out more about what issues affect the individuals in the group.  
The suggestion was made that issues could be part of the individual introductions at the beginning of the meeting and that they may also be published in upcoming newsletters.

Meeting adjourned 8:22PM.

Barbara Hazen  
Recorder