

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
General Council Meeting Minutes

Willamette National Forest Service Center

17Jan 2001

Lowell, OR 6:30 PM

Present: James Johnston, Ernie Niemi, Gary Wells, Barbara Hazen, Chuck Davis, Juan Welsh, Rick Scott, Fergus McLean, Marion McLean, Marc Paulman, Harold Funkhouser, Carolyn Funkhouser, Rick Movsky, Gina de Grassi, Jim Reed, Val Rogers, Dick Lamster, Larry Bellinger, John Flinn, Deigh Bates, John Runyon, Don Hampton, Scott Duckett, David Murdough, Al Johnson, Kat Beal, Ed Fredette, Reg DeSoto, Phil Voss, Emily Rice

I. Introductions and Welcome

II. Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved as posted.

III. Minutes Approval

The minutes of the 15 Nov 2000 General Council meeting were approved as published.

IV. Announcements

Mr Bates announced that the American Institute of Hydrology is cosponsoring a course on the Willamette River Watershed in Vancouver, WA April 11 & 12.

Mr Davis announced that DEQ is starting the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Loads) process and would appreciate information from the public.

Mr McLean said that the ODF&W and NMFS are putting together a plan for managing sports fishing of Spring Chinook. Public comment is being solicited until the end of the month.

Mr Hampton announced that River Day in Oakridge is May 19.

V. Coordinator's Remarks - Juan Welsh

OWEB Supplemental Watershed Assessment Grant. MFWWC was awarded its grant!!

Thanks. Mr Reed has been doing some nice GIS work for us. See the 2 maps in the room.

Technical Team. Mr Welsh wants the team to start meeting in early Feb.

Education Committee. We are still looking for people interested in being on the Education/Outreach Committee, which will also start meeting in Feb.

VI. Steering Committee Report - Fergus McLean.

Mr McLean reported on the progress that the Fish Passage Conference Committee has made. He has secured Jim Lichatowich, author of *Salmon Without Rivers*, as the key speaker for Jun 9 at the UO Law School. Mr McLean is continuing to raise funds and solicit speakers. He will start on the brochure next.

VII. Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Assessment Overview - Val Rogers

Ms Rogers said that it is a supplementary watershed assessment in that we will be supplementing the work already done. We will be focusing on the lowest three of the fifth fields near the river stem. The process is laid out in the OWEB manual. She will bring the team together and keep them coordinated. The assessment will require a lot of different skills and knowledge. They have to assess the condition of the streams. They can include looking for an ESA species like the Western pond turtle. A component of the assessment is to learn what the watershed was like at the time of the European settlement. She needs to identify people who can describe the early times such as the folks at the Jasper Grange. If anyone has names, please let her know. Eventually we will bring all the assessments together and integrate them into one assessment.

When asked how she intended to convene the technical team, she said that the agency and industry representatives will provide some guidance and suggestions about members. We will have to be judicious with the use of team member time. She will lead the team in the beginning and hopes to have our assessment done in 12 to 16 months.

Mr Bates said that the refreshing of the Forest Service assessments should start on the Upper Mid Fork this year. Reassessments for the FS are driven by need; e.g. new issues.

VIII. Presentation by Deigh Bates, Hydrologist, Willamette National Forest. *Watershed Assessments in the Pacific Northwest: Lessons Learned.*

Mr Bates left us a copy of his remarks and slides which is available at the Office.

He advised the MFWWC to examine what we're doing and decide what is important. We will need to prepare ourselves to think in a different scale - the watershed scale. Our job is to tell a coherent story of the watershed; each watershed will have a unique story. He discussed some of the many pitfalls that make for a dead watershed analysis instead of a learning one.

IX. Presentation by John Runyon, McKenzie Assessment Project Coordinator. *Watershed Assessment-The McKenzie Experience*

Mr Runyon said that every watershed is unique and the watershed assessment has to tell a compelling story about the watershed. How did it function historically, what were its flood regimes, its wood fluxes, its sediment fluxes? How does it operate now? How do you think it will operate in the future? What are the constraints and opportunities for restoration, conservation, education, monitoring and assessment over time?

He said that the *OWEB Watershed Assessment Guide* focuses on fifth field watersheds. It will help as a guide and in establishing some fundamental knowledge but we will have to think on a larger scale and talk about big river dynamics. It also has a limitation in that it is intended to pull together existing information and isn't useful when it comes to procurement of new information. The McKenzie sub-basin assessment is a synthesis of existing information. Its focus was on all land uses but with an emphasis on aquatic/ riparian habitat and wildlife; integrated across all salmon life stages. They looked at historic, present and future conditions; how the processes in the upper basin affect the lower basin. They identified the constraints and opportunities for collaborative protection and restoration, identified initial projects and developed a comprehensive action plan. Their priorities post assessment were to open back channel habitats and try to maintain some of the remaining riparian forest.

Questions and Answers: Mr Bates and Mr Runyon

Mr Runyon stated that the McKenzie assessment took a year. They had to figure out first which issues to emphasize, the issues chosen led to the analysis. He suggested keeping the technical teams small; they integrate better if they are small. They also had aerial photos that they could use with the GIS.

Mr Bates said that the OWEB process is more focused and more prescriptive than the Federal process in answer to a question about the difference.

X. The Next Meeting

The next General Council meeting will be in Oakridge at the Oakridge High School, Wed Feb 21 at 630PM. The next Steering Committee meeting will be in Lowell at the MFWWC Office, Wed Jan 24 at 630PM.

Meeting adjourned 8:31PM.

Barbara Hazen

Recorder