

Minutes
Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council General Council Meeting

Springfield, OR
21 Mar 2001
6:30 PM

Present: Margaret Hartzell, Rick Scott, Greg Vollstedt, Carolyn Adams, Rick Mosky, Bryan Huber, Al Johnson, Barb Hazen, Juan Welsh, Val Rogers, Lil De Soto, Reg De Soto, Kate Ferschweiler, Douglas Powell, Lyle Schickling, Trey Burns, Sarah Smith, Jim Reed, Larry Haftl, Mike Running, Tim Shinabarger, Dick Lamster, Pam Folts, Alice Sperling, Greg Taylor, Rob Castleberry, John Barnes, Chuck Davis, Marion McLean, Emily Rice, Bill Sage, Stuart Perlmeter

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Review and Approve Meeting Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the 21 Feb 2001 General Council meeting were approved as written.

IV. Announcements/Coordinator's Remarks - Juan Welsh

- A.) There is an opening for an at large seat on the Steering Committee. The position serves thru Dec 2002. Anyone who is interested should contact Mr Welsh.
- B.) April 3 is Watershed Council Day in Salem. It is a great day for watershed council members to meet with their legislators. If you're interested in attending contact Mr Welsh.
- C.) Willamette River Watershed Conference in Vancouver, WA April 11-12.
- D.) Willamette Livability Forum in Corvallis on April 26. There are some monies available for the tuition of those interested in attending. The cost is \$25.
- E.) Watershed Stewardship Education Course. Anyone can attend a 2 day segment that interests them. The next one is on April 4.
- F.) The next MFWWC General meeting is in Lowell on April 18 at 6:30PM.
- G.) May 5 and 6 in Oakridge is the Tree Planting Festival. MFWWC will be having a booth there and will need volunteers to staff it.
- H.) May 19 in Oakridge is the River Day celebration. We will be assisting in garbage pick-up and graffiti removal. The Army Corps will be offering a tour of the Fall Creek Dam.

IV. Middle Fork Willamette Supplementary Watershed Assessment Update - Val Rogers

Jim Reed has started the GIS mapping of the Fifth Fields we're assessing with streams, roads, topography and ownership. We'll have more to see as the mapping process continues. We have begun the issue identification, the historical assessment, riparian and wetlands analysis, water quality and fisheries analysis. We need a lot of agency help to get real data, not speculation, on the fisheries. In the end she will get together with the Council and the Tech team to pull it all together.

Issue identification:

- Threatened and Endangered Species
- 303(d) water areas listed for temperature
- Vegetation changes in terms of size and distribution
- Transportation System, e.g. affects of culverts on fish and water
- Dam influence on channel morphology
- Lower Hills Creek was a good salmon stream for native people

- Impact of rapid fluctuation in water level (natural and man made) in the lower main stem on biology. Minimize the harm and maximize the potential for good.
- Water levels and how they affect the ability of fish to enter Lost Creek to spawn. ODF has committed to putting some excess hatchery fish in Lost Creek to see what happens. When the water gets too low the fish may not be able to enter the Creek and the temperature might be bad for them.
- Lost Creek fish trap shows the species composition and the relative abundance of each species. They have found Pacific lamprey, shiners, dace, cutthroat, rainbow trout and 1 juvenile hatchery Chinook in the trap. They are looking to see if spawning cutthroat and rainbow are caught in the next couple of months. The trap is located in Elijah Bristow Park. The trap is small; it cost \$15,000.
- Is there a comprehensive assessment of vertebrate species in the watershed? Mr Taylor responded that there are counts but not in a central location. Ms Rogers said that this is not an approach used by OWEB and would be a little outside the budget and scope of the assessment.

Sediment Sources. Ms Rogers asked the members present to consider the following questions and answer them with regard to the fields being surveyed

- Is there sediment from road instability, do the rural roads wash out? Answer-No
- Do new roads or deconstruction of roads cause sediment? No
- Does slope instability cause sediment? Yes-Little Fall Creek for example.
- Does rural road runoff carry sediment? Yes - Lost Creek and Highway 58 from Pleasant Hill to the river.
- Is there urban runoff? (We may skip this question as there is very little urban area in our assessment area. It will be covered in the Metro ESA.) In Dexter, they are developing a former butte area. There are questions about the ability of the area to tolerate septic or sewer systems.
- Are crop and pasture land sediment sources? NRCS will help with that.
- Is surface erosion from burned land an issue? Most burning is not done in broadcast burning.
- Gravel extraction seems to have ceased in our assessment area altho there is some in the higher areas. The sediment doesn't seem to get down to the assessment area.

V. Lane County Riparian Ordinance Revisions Update and Proposed Critical Habitat Conservation Zone -Bill Sage (Planner, Lane County Land Management Division)

The planners put what they thought would meet the Endangered Species Act standards before the Planning Commission. It also needed to point to conservation and recovery in Lane County, to developing something that would work in the flood plain areas and would meet the requirements of the Goldfarb Rules, Limitation 12, NMFS and Measure 7. The base policy was that there would be no net loss. The Planning Commission worked on the recommendations and then will pass them on to the Lane County Board of Commissioners. They shelved the 75 foot recommendation for the outer setback and chose the 75 ft inner setback. There will be 6 to 10 work sessions to provide more give and take of ideas between the Lane Co Board of Commissioners and the scientists. There will also be public comment sessions.

The planners felt that education and incentive are the only way that we will get conservation and recovery; regulation won't do it. They suggested a property tax incentive program. The process for the public begins April 10 at 6:30PM at Harris Hall in Eugene. He recommended that the watershed council members come and talk at this meeting. People can submit written material to the Commissioners up until April 10. Information packets on the proposed regulations have been sent out. The proposed regulations will affect every property on a type F stream. NMFS regulations say to protect all streams; the state regulations say to protect all fish bearing streams which are the type F streams.

There are other things, not undertaken in these regulations, that need to be done in the flood plain areas and in bank stabilization just to mention a couple of areas of concern.

VI. Developing Partnerships for Monitoring Watersheds: Bringing Schools into the Picture - Stuart Perlmeter (Springfield School District) and Kate Ferschweiler (McKenzie Watershed Council)

Mr Perlmeter said that you have to find receptive teachers and have the curriculum weave into what the teachers are doing so that it doesn't add to their burden. He suggests partnering with teachers in elementary and middle schools as well as the high school teachers. His presentation included a handout and a slide show that explained some of the training, tests and results that the high school students working on the projects go thru and how they keep the reliability of the results high. He is funded by SUB which got him started and he has been able to generate other grant monies to keep the program going. In response to a question from the audience he has not explored asking for some of the Second Salmon tag dollars.

Ms Ferschweiler is the education coordinator for the McKenzie Watershed Council. It is a part time job funded thru the council partners and BPA. She works with K thru 12 and in community education such as booths at fairs, etc. She has a presentation called Salmon Picnic, which teachers can request or she can help teachers on field trips as a resource specialist. She teaches workshops, has a resource library and works to help a teacher become comfortable with the material so they can do the teaching. Environmental education tends to be trendy; water quality is on a high right now. She also discussed the Lane County Watershed Education Network (LCWEN) proposal for 3 year funding to establish a cadre of educators and community members to promote watershed education, health and stewardship in Lane County..

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Barbara Hazen, Recorder