

Minutes
Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council General Council Meeting

16 Jan 2002
Lowell, OR
6:30 PM

Present: Michael Scheu, Juan Welsh, Rick Movsky, Al Johnson, Barb Hazen, Val Rogers, John Flinn, Jim Reed, Lil DeSoto, Dianne Davis, Marc Paulman, Paul Engelking, Gregg Vollstadt, Greg Taylor, Chuck Davis, Richard Silver, Sean O'Reilly, Margaret Hartzell, Fred Sperry, Rick Scott, Dan Cottrell, Nancy Moreno, Nancy Toth, Tara Corbett, Paul Bell, Ed Fredette, Matt Welsh, James Ogan, Tom Murtagh, Don Hampton, David Murdough, Roy Nelson, Mike Running, Allysa Aaby, Tim McCornack, Tim Wilz, Dave Downing, Stephanie Page, Robert Emmons, Cathy Koehn, Nena Lovinger plus 3-5 who didn't sign in

I. Introductions

II. Agenda Approval - Ms Hartzell

The agenda was approved as posted.

III. Comments and Announcements

- 16 Feb - Planting party at Elijah Bristow State Park. 10-20 volunteers needed. Contact Dianne Davis.
- 23 Jan - Steering Committee Meeting. 630 PM. MFWWC Office, Lowell.
- 25 Jan - Meeting re: fish passage (culvert inventory) in our area. 9AM. ODF Office, Springfield.
- 28 Jan - Education/Outreach Committee meeting. 3:45 PM. MFWWC Office, Lowell.
- The Council is putting together OWEB grant proposals for an Watershed Education project and Water Quality Monitoring for the February 1 OWEB deadline.
- Mr. Murtagh reported that they have been trapping fish below the Lookout Point reservoir. They have found 801 wild spring Chinook. The traps are 2.4% efficient. Extrapolating, they think that 28200 wild Chinook and 31600 hatchery fish passed thru the dam from the reservoir. They also have a net trap in the reservoir looking for Bull Trout.

IV. Affirmation of Steering Committee Seats - Ms Hartzell

All 5 candidates introduced themselves and said a few words regarding why they were interested in serving on the Steering Committee.

Each candidate (Dan Cottrell, Barb Hazen, Mike Running, Lil DeSoto and Greg Taylor) was affirmed by consensus.

V. Summer 2001 Temperature Monitoring Results in Lower Watersheds - Ms Rogers

There is much temperature data available from private and public sources. Essentially the entire Mid Fork from the Dexter Dam to the confluence exceeds the State temperature standards in summer. Fall Creek up to the forested area also exceeds the temperature standards. Only the upper portions of both creeks meet the standards. The tributaries coming into the creeks are cooler and lower the temperature some, but not enough to meet the standard. The main stem of the Middle Fork shows the effects of the Army Corps water regulation; the temperature dropped when they started releasing water from the reservoir in Aug. Still the overall temperature was above State standards. The measurements show an up and down trend during the day especially on Little Fall Creek. This is most probably the response of the water temperature to the air temperature. There was one obvious anomaly, which was traced back to a sensor that was out of the water and measuring air temperature. They plan to use the temperature charts and select areas of focus that appear to have problems.

VI. MFWWC Water Quality Monitoring Program Preview - Ms Toth

Ms Toth reported that she is looking at what water quality monitoring has been done, what is ongoing and what needs to be done for the entire Middle Fork basin. The Council is planning to seek funding for a start-up monitoring program. Some short-term studies have been done in the last 50 years. The Lost Creek Group is doing the only long-term study within the Middle Fork at this time. Springfield High School students and DEQ have done some monitoring recently. BLM and USFS monitor temperature during the summer. Fifteen stream segments in the MFW basin are listed in DEQ's 303(d) report for temperature violations.

Objectives of the program are:

- Establish baseline water quality conditions across the watershed
- Provide credible data to watershed council decision makers, citizens and government agencies

Components of the program are:

- Collection of data on 5 water quality parameters

- Continued temperature monitoring during the summer
- Focused monitoring component which would address issues and areas of concern

Needs:

- Funding for monitoring coordinator
- Trained volunteers to commit 2 - 3 hrs once a month to the monitoring

Status: Things to be done

- Grant application
- Site selection
- Quality assurance plan submitted to DEQ
- Recruit volunteers (Interested? Contact Nancy Toth at <ntoth@darkwing.uoregon.edu> or 346-7183)

Mr Hampton asked how DEQ got the standards. Ms Rogers replied that they are based on fish biologists' research on fish biology such as metabolism, fish species, time of the year, fish life cycle.

Ms Toth said that volunteer training is critical in order to get credible data that other organizations can and will use.

VII. Public Information Session: Southern Willamette Valley Agricultural Water Quality Plan and Rules - Ms Page, Mr Downing

There will be 2 public comment sessions regarding the Southern Willamette Valley Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan (SWVAWQMAP).

- Jan 24 at Springfield Public Utility Building at 7 PM
- Jan 28 at Creswell Community Center at 7 PM.

Senate Bill 1010 directed OR Dept of Agriculture (ODA) to develop water quality plans whenever the water doesn't meet the State or Federal standards. The Plan portion of SWVAWQMAP is an education/outreach portion. The idea is that a landowner could read it and see how it applies to his land and where to go if he needs technical or financial assistance. The Rules are complaint driven enforcement. Civil penalty can be levied in extreme situations. The goal is to allow the landowner all opportunity to rectify a situation. The Plan covers land zoned agriculture and where agricultural activities occur. The focus is on water temperature, bacteria and phosphorus. The local partner is the East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District. There is a local, 17 member, advisory committee which is made up of as diverse a membership as possible from within the agricultural realm.

The goal is that the landowner maintains or enhances the quality of the water passing through his land. They want to minimize agriculture's contribution to the water quality problems. Pesticide laws are being addressed thru ODA's pesticide division. DEQ does monitor pesticides. Ms Page will find out if ODA is also monitoring for pesticides.

Any new issues would have to come back to the committee of 17 to address. They meet on a biennial basis. The Plan would then be adapted to deal with agriculture's contribution to the issue.

Rules:

- No person shall violate 468B (waste).
 - Riparian areas: maintain vegetation consistent with the capacity of the site to provide function for stream bank to withstand a 25 year 24 hour storm event
 - Erosion and nutrients: soil erosion from agricultural activities shall not exceed tolerable soil loss based on the Russell soil loss equation. The soil is permeable around here so there is not a lot of problem with erosion except return flow.
 - Pollution: Landowners or operators shall prevent pollution from irrigation return flow to waters of the State
- ODA is concerned that there is no rule about shade and heating.

If ODA doesn't do the job well enough DEQ will tell them how to do a better job.

The final plan will be approved after public comment has been received and reviewed and any changes deemed necessary due to the comments are made.

VIII. Closing Public Comments

Ms De Soto said that the Dexter sanitation district needs access to a wetlands study below the dam. Rick Barney of NRCS was suggested as someone who might have information about this topic.

IX. Next General Council Meeting - 20 Feb 2002

6:30 PM Springfield, OR ODF Building

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Barbara Hazen, Recorder