

Minutes
Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council General Council Meeting

20 Feb 2002
Springfield, OR
6:30 PM

Present: Paul Bell, Juan Welsh, Rick Movsky, Al Johnson, Barb Hazen, Val Rogers, John Flinn, Jim Reed, Dianne Davis, Marc Paulman, Chuck Davis, Richard Silver, Jason Clayton, Margaret Hartzell, Nancy Toth, Ed Fredette, Matt Welsh, Tom Murtagh, Don Hampton, David Murdough, Mike Running, Allysa Aaby, Rick Scott, Emily Rice, Ted Turner, Chuck Gottfried, Ave Montanaro, Fergus McLean, Gary Sandgaske

I. Introductions

II. Agenda Approval - Ms Hartzell
The agenda was approved as posted.

III. Approval of Minutes from 1/16 Council Meeting - Ms Hartzell
Minutes were approved as published.

IV. Public Comments and Announcements
None

V. Watershed Assessment Update - Ms Rogers
Ms Rogers reported that the data collection and analysis portions of the assessment are completed; she is writing reports and sending them in to the contractor (John Runyon). There is some more work to be done on riparian stand typing which will take 1 to 1 1/2 mos to complete. John Runyon was selected as the contractor for the NOAA grant (\$20K) to get the finished product done with final copy out by the end of Jun. He will also help develop the restoration action plan.

VI. Watershed Education Program Overview/Update - Ms Davis
Ms Davis is working for the Lost Creek Watershed Working Group under OWEB grant to educate school children about watersheds. She has been focusing on Pleasant Hill and has touched base with schools in Oakridge. Her goal is to work with kids in the classrooms for a couple of weeks and then get them outside. She is currently taking them to Elijah Bristow State Park where they work with a screw fish trap and do fish counting. They have also done some plantings. The Cub Scouts have also done some plantings. Lowell Elementary School is working with her on a curriculum that will expand and be self-sustaining. Mr Murdough helped on the grant that would use Buckhead and Agency personnel to teach kids in Westfir and Oakridge. Ms Davis is currently working on a puppet project for elementary schools, getting kids to teach kids. She hopes to work with Oakridge's Outdoor School.

In the area of adult education and outreach, she has done a community planting. Fifteen people participated, planting 400 trees at Bristow State Park. She can always use help. At the moment she is looking for people with expertise in natural history who can come to Elijah Bristow State Park and help present classes.

VII. City of Springfield and Urban Watershed Health Issues - Mr Gottfried
Stormwater Management and Erosion Control: Mr Gottfried said that cities have to meet regulations regarding their stormwater runoff. They are responsible for the quality of the water running into the river and into the underground injection wells. They are also liable under the Endangered Species Act. Springfield lies between 2 rivers. More of the problems occur in the areas between the city limits and the urban growth boundary. Rapid growth is taking place, there is development in the floodplain, in wetlands and on steep slopes. There are fill and fill removal problems, flooding and erosion issues. The Master Plan and the Erosion Ordinance need to be updated. Stormwater goes into Q Street drainage and into the Willamette at Alton Baker Park.

NPDES Requirements: Cities with populations larger than 50K have to have a plan to meet NPDES requirements in place by 2003. NPDES requires public education and outreach as well as public participation in the process. They require detection of illicit discharges and elimination of the problem. This means collecting baseline information about surface water, e.g. pH, temperature and flow and identifying chronic dumpers esp. of oil and grease. EWEB is already doing some monitoring as Eugene's drinking water comes from the river. Construction site and post construction stormwater management is required. For example, catch basins are required but there is no requirement for maintenance. Good housekeeping and pollution prevention for municipal operations are also required.

In an ideal world the plan is fully integrated dealing with all issues in partnership with Eugene and Lane County.

Jasper Road is in a wetland area. The Army Corps has asked Lane County for a Special Area Management Plan for the area. Lane County isn't funded to do this; Springfield is looking into it and negotiating to get it done.

Wetlands work well to purify stormwater and are being incorporated in new development like the Jasper area. They try to build outside wetlands and mitigate where they can't.

All stormwater runoff in a new construction site is treated. The developer has to design ways to control the runoff.

At the moment the City is monitoring : in the Mill Race due to illicit dumping, in the Q Street floodway, in Cedar Creek (EWEB is doing this) and around the Weyerhaeuser plant.

VIII. Watershed Analysis Application and History at Weyerhaeuser - Mr Turner

Weyerhaeuser uses the Washington State Process (WAP) which it helped develop and brought to Oregon. They look at mass wasting, surface erosion (from roads and slopes), hydrological changes, riparian function (shade, temperature and channels), water supply and public works, water quality and fish habitat. The treatment team uses a Causal Mechanism Report (CMR). They take a finding, take it through the system and then see how it affects the resource. They synthesize the data and then write a prescription for the triggering mechanism of the CMR. An engineer lays out his harvest unit. Then he deals with the prescriptions, then there is a check to see if there is compliance with the prescription. They are primarily addressing upslope issues. Occasionally they do restoration plans. They do monitor compliance with and effectiveness of the prescriptions. WAP has 5 year reviews. Weyerhaeuser has also shared their findings with outside agencies and in forums. The Weyerhaeuser scientists' efforts are limited by time and money.

Little Fall Creek Assessment. The assessments are owned by the management area. They do not share proprietary information like roads and harvest sites. Little Fall Creek has a history of log driving and splash dams. Weyerhaeuser is doing some stream management and improvements including fish ladder and a bridge. Roads are a more chronic issue, mass wasting such as landslides put more sediment in the stream. They are trying to focus their monitoring; now they are doing temperature and turbidity measures. Goal is to support good research.

In Oregon, Weyerhaeuser is doing the WAP for the learning process and the prescriptions. They produce copies of the WAP for the treatment teams and 2 copies for the local library. Loans of copies are decided by the operating region and are usually available to agencies and watershed councils.

Weyerhaeuser is interested in the best management practices. They are open to collaboration on some projects. The Synthesis part of WAP looks for clear cause and effect linkages. It needs to be formulated before doing restorations.

Mr Turner is available for further questions via email: <Ted.Turner@weyerhaeuser.com>

IX. Public Comment

Dan Van Dyke of ODF is looking for donations of big trees that fell down in the windstorm to use for fish habitat. The trees need to have the root wad in place. Give him a call about donations and they will truck them away.

X. Next General Council Meeting - 20 Mar 2002

6:30 PM

Westfir, OR

Middle Fork Ranger Station

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Barbara Hazen

Recorder