

Minutes  
Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council General Council Meeting

20 Mar 2002  
Oakridge, OR  
6:35 PM

Present: Rick Movsky, Al Johnson, Barb Hazen, John Flinn, Marc Paulman, Chuck Davis, Margaret Hartzell, Nancy Toth, Don Hampton, Bill Wynkoop, Juli Nelson, Fred Sperry, Dan Cottrell, Doug Larson, Michael Scheu, Don LaDuke, Greg Taylor, Jeff Ziller, Juan Welsh,

I. Introductions

II. Agenda Approval - Ms Hartzell

The agenda was approved as posted.

III. Approval of Minutes from 2/20 Council Meeting - Ms Hartzell

Approval of the minutes of the 20 Feb meeting were deferred until the April meeting as they had not been published prior to this meeting.

IV. Public Comments and Announcements

Mr Hampton:

- The Oakridge Tree Planting Festival is May 1 - 5. They are looking for a volunteer to supervise the tree planting.
- Oakridge is also looking for a coordinator for River Day which is the third weekend in May.

Mr Welsh said that he would bring these events up at the next Education/Outreach Committee meeting. He said that this is a good outreach opportunity. We have a total Council membership of 330, yet only 12% of which comes from the Oakridge and Westfir area and we'd like that percentage to be higher.

V. Coordinator's Report - Mr Welsh

- The next Steering Committee meeting is April 3 in Lowell.
- We hope to have heard from OWEB by then about our grant applications. Staffing decisions will have to be made at the next few Steering Committee meetings, remember that all council members are welcome at SC meetings.
- Water Quality Monitoring. We plan to begin this summer, regardless of funding. We need volunteers who will take responsibility to be trained and to do the work. We have an excellent program outlined. OWEB has not been looking favorably on water quality monitoring recently so we are also looking for other sources of funding.
- Special thanks goes to Ms Toth and the Technical Team for all the work they put in on developing the Water Quality Monitoring Program.
- We have been very lucky having help from U of O interns. We have worked with Nancy Toth on the Water Quality Monitoring Program, Allysa Aaby on GIS mapping, Ed Fredette on ground proofing channels and Matt Welsh on culvert monitoring.
- The Education Outreach committee is going to kick-off a consumer education campaign. They hope to start with a media event about cleaning house with products that are environmentally friendly.
- The Education/Outreach Committee is beginning to work on library acquisitions. They would like to end up having a collection that can be a clearinghouse of information for the watershed. They welcome ideas for titles and donations of watershed related materials.
- We have our web site on a borrowed site. We need to get the funds to get our own domain name. Mr Welsh is also looking for volunteers to help maintain it.
- Mr Welsh encouraged people to encourage other people to join our watershed council.
- OWEB's small grants program has \$100K allocated for on the ground projects in our area. Each project can get up to \$10K in a grant. Ms De Soto, Mr Paulman and Ms Davis are on the committee that evaluates the projects requesting funding.
- Mr Welsh said, in an overview of the watershed council, that we have developed a rock solid foundation, and even though we are faced with a difficult funding situation, there is much that is positive about the state of the Council right now. Our methodical approach during the past two years is about to pay off for us, as our assessment and restoration action plan will be completed soon and this will open the door for us to appropriately plan and implement habitat restoration projects.

VI. Restoration Action Planning Preview and Watershed Assessment Update - Mr Welsh

We were awarded \$20K by NOAA (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration) to complete the Watershed Assessment and create a Habitat Restoration Action Plan. John Runyon was selected as the contractor to do this. The draft assessment document will be ready the third week in May. Mr Welsh plans to get as much review of this

document as possible. He hopes to get an eight member technical standing committee to help with the Action Plan. The committee would be half agency and half volunteer personnel and would work with Mr Welsh and Mr Runyon. He is anticipating 1 to 2 meetings a month for a three-month period beginning this summer. These meetings would be open to the public. If anyone is interested in being on this technical committee, please call the office and let Mr Welsh know. Thanks also need to go to the City of Oakridge for the helpful way they are administering the grant.

#### VII. Open Forum

- Mr Hampton said that when we are looking for volunteers we shouldn't overlook the school kids. Some of them are willing and very able.
- Mr Wynkoop asked if the Action Plan was going to cover only the assessment area. Mr Welsh said that yes it was, as it would follow the interpreted results of the actual Assessment.
- Ms Hartzell asked if the small restoration grants from OWEB were also limited to the assessment area. Mr Welsh said that no, they were available for areas other than the assessment area. A tree-planting project near Oakridge, for instance, could qualify for a grant under the proper circumstances.
- Mr Sperry asked what the difference was between the Restoration Action Planning Committee and the Steering Committee. Mr Welsh said that the Action Plan is solely about the watershed assessment area and is looking specifically at restoration plans and needs. The Steering Committee would potentially oversee its work.
- Mr Davis asked if the Restoration Action Planning Committee would report to the General Council or the Steering Committee to get formal approval. Mr Welsh said that as stated in the Charter they would have to follow the process of reporting to the Steering Committee for guidance and then presenting to the General Council.
- Mr Welsh asked Mr Ziller what the official management policy on summer steelhead is. Mr Ziller said that they put the smelts in and hope that 100% of the adult fish are caught with hook and line. However, in actuality only 40 to 60 % are caught. There are a couple of opportunities to remove the fish such as the fish trap at Dexter dam. They give them to Food Share or stock them in land-locked lakes; they don't put them above the dams. ODF only stocks the mainstem Willamette and Mid Fork. There is some reproduction from fish that don't get caught.

#### VIII. Bull Trout Reintroduction Project - Middle Fork Willamette above Hills Creek Reservoir - Mr Ziller

The project goal is to attain long-term stability of Bull Trout and their habitat. It is listed as a threatened species. The project started in 1992. The objectives were: Determine the distribution of the Bull Trout in the Upper Willamette, Determine population size, Determine the Life History Characteristics, Implement a Rehabilitation Plan and Determine the Effectiveness of Angling Regulations.

They studied Bull Trout on the McKenzie River. They found that Bull Trout tend to stay around their natal streams for a couple of years. Then they drop out into the main stem and start becoming fish eaters. Fry coming out early do so because there is not enough habitat. In the mainstem there is less opportunity for the fry to survive. There was a surge in the Bull Trout population for a while after the introduction of adipose fin clipping and the institution of new angling regulations reduced the influence of anglers on the population. The spawning population in the McKenzie wasn't huge and it has dropped off a little recently. The Bull Trout leave and return in Sept. They tend to migrate in the early afternoon and evening.

Between 1990 and 1997 they found 1 Bull Trout on the Upper Mid Fork. The historic record indicates that they have been out of the Mid Fork for a long time. The decline is attributed to the Rotenone poisoning in 1960, angling which intensified due to trout stocking (Bull Trout are easy to catch and are easily overharvested), timber harvest as Bull Trout are tied to cold water and the dams which restricted the Bull Trout migration.

ODF took up to 3000 fry for the last several years from Anderson Creek on the McKenzie and introduced them to 7 sites on the Mid Fork. They chose fry because they don't have as much biological investment in the area as older fish do. The fish will hopefully rear for the next couple of years in the Hills Creek Reservoir before they go up the Willamette. ODF has also increased signage in the area to help anglers determine which fish they should release.

So far the project is looking successful. They may be looking for new sites to stock soon. ODF is also monitoring the donor population on the McKenzie as they want to keep it healthy. They have proposed investigating to see if a year in a hatchery increases the survival rate of the fry.

Barbless hooks do not seem to affect the mortality rate if people release carefully. Clipping the adipose fins is an important part in informing anglers which fish to release. They will be looking for volunteers to help clip at the Willamette Fish Hatchery.

Report any Bull Trout seen in the basin to Mr Ziller, Mr Larson or Mr Taylor.

#### X. Next General Council Meeting - 17 Apr 2002 6:30 PM Lowell, OR

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM. Barbara Hazen, Recorder

