

Minutes
Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
General Council Meeting

20 Nov 2002
Lowell, OR
6:30 PM

Present: Amy Chinitz, Bryan Huber, Rick Movsky, Barb Hazen, Lil DeSoto, Reggie DeSoto, Dan Cottrell, D'Lynn Williams, Al Johnson, Gary Wells, Jim Reed, Kelly Reis, Greg Taylor, Steve Stewart, Bill Wynkoop, Nancy Toth, Bob Dunning, Don Hampton, Terry Jones, Ernie Niemi, Nikki Swanson, Jim Williams, Keith Perchemlides

I. Introductions

II. Agenda Approval - Ms Jones

The agenda was approved as posted.

III. Public Comment and Announcements

Mr Hampton passed out copies of the new Oakridge visitor's map.

IV. Coordinator's Remarks - Ms Chinitz

- Thanks to Don and Judy Hampton for the use and set-up of the facilities and for the refreshments.
- Ms Chinitz is working on the council support grant application to OWEB, getting letters of support from the various agencies. Has \$40 K in in-kind support.
- The document which resulted from the Council's self-evaluation was passed around.
- The Household Hazardous Waste Roundup will be Mar 15th at the Dexter Fire Hall. Lane County will help us.
- River Day will be on May 15 here in Oakridge. The committee working on it will try meeting times other than 3PM. A sign-up sheet is going around for those interested in working on it. Let Ms Chinitz know if there is a special time that would work for you to meet.
- Looking for a volunteer to be the legislative contact on the watershed council to receive information from the State and OWEB.

V. Action Plan - Ms Chinitz

Copies of the Action Plan were passed around for viewing. It has 6 main goals. It was drawn up by Mr Runyon and the Action Plan committee. The Action Plan was approved by consensus.

VI. Work Plan - Ms Chinitz

Ms Chinitz presented the Council Work Plan, which is different from a coordinator's work plan. There is a timeline associated for every action. Next year we will do a self-evaluation again and revise the work plan.

VII. Steering Committee Report - Mr Movsky

- There are vacancies coming up on the Steering Committee. He and Mr Wynkoop encouraged interested parties to apply for these positions. Christmas is the deadline for applications. The members will be affirmed at the Jan meeting.
- The watershed council is looking for private donations and for nonprofit partners.
- Thanks to Nancy Toth who wrote the first draft of the water quality monitoring grant and has just finished revising it for the February grant application deadline.
- The education grant request has been modified and resubmitted.
- Feasibility study funding for the Army Corps grant is now less clear. They need to find local matching funds, which are usually from a state agency.

- The Work Plan is an essential piece of the council support grant application.

VIII. Waldo Lake - Mr Johnson, Ms Williams, Mr Williams and Ms Swanson

Waldo Lake is a unique and fragile resource. In 1996 a report came out that there were some changes in the physical and biological features of the lake. This project resulted from that report.

Education Program: Theme - leave no trace. They received a grant for education regarding maintaining the lake. Students from 6th grade to high school made a coloring book to help educate children about the lake. There are many opportunities to do educational presentations.

Management and Recreational Opportunities: In 1984 part of the area around Waldo received wilderness designation. The lake itself is part of the scenic waterways. The North Fork is a wild and scenic river. There are developed recreational sites along the lake. In 1910, the first road was built to the lake. In the 1960s the Forest Service started planning for developing more facilities. Waldo supports boating, hiking, canoeing, fishing and mountain biking in the summer and skiing and snowmobiling in the winter. The Klovdahl Dam was originally intended for hydroelectric use, which didn't really work due to the slow recharge rate of the lake. It started leaking in the 80s and had to be re-concreted. The Charlton Fire in 1996 also affected the lake.

Water Quality Monitoring and Scientific Studies: There are extremely low levels of solids and nutrients in the water which is measured by conductivity. Waldo Lake water has a value of 3 - 4 compared to 1 for distilled water. There are more studies planned. They plan to install a water station, create a new bathymetric map, analyze snow water chemistry, continue the monitoring protocols and develop a database. Lake productivity is based on the ability of nutrients to grow. Waldo is a very unproductive. All of the data have been collected in the summer. Recently there has been an exponential growth of phytoplankton at Waldo; there are questions about the validity of the data as it is spotty. They are taking clarity measures; light sometimes reaches 136 ft. Deep water bryophytes are primitive plants living deep in Waldo, due to the clarity they get enough light to grow at great depths. Blue green algae dominate the shallower waters along with other species of photosynthetic algae. The green algae does tend to bloom up there and can break off in the summer and surface. Cyanobacteria fixes nitrogen so that the plants can use it. Ultraviolet radiation penetrates clear water well. Plants growing there have adaptations to protect themselves from the UV radiation. Stromatolites form probably due to extremes in Waldo. Algae binds to sediment, it takes thousands of years to build up.

Fisheries Resources: Waldo is naturally fishless. In the late 1800s Judge Waldo released fish into it. ODFW had been stocking it with trout until the late 1990s. Brook trout are still present. Kokanee are present but are declining in number. There are a few rainbow trout and no cutthroats. The fish that the team caught are in good condition. They eat aquatic insect larvae. The brook trout are opportunistic feeders, kokanee are fussier eaters, they eat mainly zooplankton. Spawning habitat is limited to primarily areas around underwater springs. There are good benthic organisms to feed fish. Fish predators are few but present, namely loons, bald eagles. Amphibians, esp long-toed salamanders and Cascade frogs, are also present, but elusive. Nutrients are probably found in the sediments. Phosphorus may limit the productivity in the lake. Waldo is fed mostly by snowmelt, not by streams flowing into it. There is no evidence of air pollution drifting in from the Valley. Waldo has a low capacity to neutralize acid.

Facilities Upgrade: The current facilities were built in the 1970s. The septic tanks are at the end of their lives. They will be replaced with composting toilets where possible. Composting toilets take a 2-story building so there will still have to be some vaulted toilets where 2-story buildings aren't possible. There was a public planning phase. It was decided to disperse the campsites but keep the number the same, Charlton Road will be kept as is, couldn't reach consensus on snowmobile use, decided to limit the outfitter guide permits to 10 which is the current level, decided to do further work with ODFW to formalize the stocking policy, couldn't reach consensus on the motorized boat use. There was concern about access for handicapped and aged and for safety. However, there will be a 5-year planned phase-out of gas motors in favor of electric motors.

OR DEQ listed 10 outstanding bodies of water in the state, which included Waldo. That is all they have done so far.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Barbara Hazen
Recorder