

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council  
General Council Meeting

21 May 2003  
Oakridge, OR  
6:30 PM

Present: Kim Garvey, Jim Reed, Rick Scott, Barbara Hazen, Bryan Huber, Don Hampton, Dan Cottrell, Al Johnson, Greg Taylor, Judy Hampton, Amy Chinitz, Rick Movsky, Karon Tiller

I. Welcome and Introductions - Ms Garvey

The group celebrated Don Hampton's birthday with song and cake.

II. Approval of the Agenda and the Minutes of the April 23, 2003 General Council Meeting - Ms Garvey

The agenda was approved as posted. The minutes were approved as written.

III. Public Comment

- Mr Hampton passed out copies of the new Oakridge map.
- Mr Reed is a member of the Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail association, which is working on its non-profit status. He passed out flyers for a benefit trail run they will be holding in Elijah Bristow State Park (EBSP) in Sept. They are looking for volunteers both for the run and for the trail. They have the \$150,000 necessary to build the bridge across the Middle Fork Willamette at Dexter Dam.
- Ms Garvey raised the idea of the watershed council having a booth at the Country Fair. The Long Tom Watershed Council may be doing something at the Fair. Ms Chinitz said she would look into it.

VI. Steering Committee Report Mr Movsky

- The media outreach grant was funded.
- The steering committee had a meeting with Bruce Newhouse, who is our planner for the Elijah Bristow State Park project. Work is coming along in order to have the grant proposal submitted by Jun 2. He has 3 sub contractors working with him.
- The steering committee set up the new budget for the next biennium.

V. The Elijah Bristow State Park Project - Mr Reed

Mr Reed reported that he has the aerial photographs of the restoration area scanned in. They are currently mapping in the swales, and they had to go out walking in the blackberries to find them. They will be meeting with the soils analyst (Michael James) next. Mr Taylor is still looking for historic photos of the area. They have photos from the 1930s and the 1996 flood.

VI. Coordinator's Update - Ms Chinitz

- She is working on the Elijah Bristow State Park project grant request which is due Monday Jun 2.
- River Day was a fun day. The high school had an event for the elementary age kids on Fri. On Sat there were 18 volunteers including 3 from the Forest Service who cleaned up and pulled ivy. After the work they ate pizza while a local band played. The City of Oakridge has earmarked \$750 in bed tax monies for River Day. We need to pick a date and start planning in hopes of making it a bigger event.
- Jasper Slough-Mr Hooton has received a small grant from OWEB for restoration work. That makes a total of 5 small grants in the Mid Fork watershed, including Lost Creek.
- The Lane County watershed councils made a presentation to the County Commissioners. Council members attended.
- The McKenzie Watershed Council is moving forward on culvert replacement design. The design work will happen this summer. There is one culvert off of Lost Creek in the Mid Fork which is involved in this project.
- Upcoming events:
  - Jun 7 - there will be a field trip with Bruce Newhouse to the restoration area in EBSP.
  - Jun 24 - Dave Bontrager will take us on a tour of the restoration work on his property.

VII. Hills Creek Reservoir-Mr Taylor

Hospital Pond is an embayment off of Lookout Point Reservoir. It is influenced by the level of the reservoir. It has Oregon chub in it. For these fish to spawn successfully the reservoir has to inundate the pond. The Lookout Point Reservoir water has been used to augment other waters in the Willamette. As a result the population of Oregon chub has decreased in the last 2 years as there has been no overflow into the pond. In 2002, they had to take 5 feet of water from Hill's Creek Reservoir in order to fill the pond. The Corps has put in a bench that lets the pond heat up, as the fish require 16 degrees Celsius in order to spawn. The bench appears to be working. It is better to take water from Lookout Point Reservoir as it's the big storage basin and not the recreational resource that Hill's Creek Reservoir is.

They are currently pulling water from Lookout Point Reservoir to maintain downstream flows. Hills Creek Reservoir is currently full, actually it's a half foot over. Hills Creek is kept full for summer draw down. The main stem of the Willamette flow targets decrease in Jun. They will have to draw down in the summer to meet the Albany flow targets.

Mr Taylor said that ORV use in the flats doesn't seem to cause problems for the fish as long as the ORV users aren't putting mud in the stream. Mr Cottrell said that Lookout Point Reservoir is closed to ORV use. The Forest Service and the Army Corps have an agreement but not a management plan. Anything below the high water line belongs to the Army Corps. The Corps allows ORV only in designated areas. ORV use at Lookout Point was unauthorized and was stopped in 2000. At Hills Creek they would have to decide who would do the enforcement. To close it they would need documentation of the issues and problems. At Lookout Point the Corps held public meetings. The public sentiment was to close it to ORV use. In order to have the area open for use it would take a written proposal from a group who would be willing to deal with liability, porta-potties, etc. The Corps can't manage it on a fee basis. Mr Scott said that the noise isn't an issue for the eagles nesting there; it is more of a social issue. Mr Scott said that the Forest Service has an area designated for ORV use in Huckleberry Flats. The ORV users have been active in managing it. The Forest Service does not have enough funds to monitor it altho they do have an armed officer there. The Forest Service is going to be thru a process to decide the status of its trails. They are currently doing some noise level monitoring.

#### VIII. Hills Creek Reservoir and the Blue-Green Algae - Mr Johnson

Last summer there were toxic cyanobacteria or blue-green algae blooms in Hills Creek Reservoir causing closure of Larison Cove, Packard Creek, and the reservoir itself. Blue green algae are bacteria. Their negative impacts are poor odor and taste to the water and they kill fish. They produce a nerve toxin which can result in death by paralysis of the peripheral skeletal muscles, then the respiratory muscles, eventually leading to death by respiratory arrest. Last year the concentration of the algae toxin in Hills Creek Reservoir made it a risk to children, pets, and young adults. Usually humans avoid the area when the algae is dense enough to be a problem but thirsty pets can jump right in. In 2002 a dog swimming in the algae could have died from licking its wet fur.

Conditions needed for a bloom: warm temperatures, long sunny days, high availability of nutrients esp phosphorus, low water flow, calm winds resulting in low turbulence, recruitment of spores that have built up in the sediments, oxygen depletion, and the proper zoo plankton present.

#### Alert Levels:

Level 1: 500 cells/ml - Increase sampling

Level 2: 2000 cells/ml- Post warnings to avoid scum of algae on the surface and shoreline

Level 3: 15,000 cells/ml - Post warnings to avoid contact with lake water. No water contact activities allowed.

Level 4: 100,000 cells/ml - Close lake to all use.

In the past the Forest Service has closed lakes when bloom is present. Bright green is the color of a young bloom. As the bloom ages the color changes to a bright blue. The water in the area is not clear. There will be a half inch of thick scum on the surface. Most of the reservoir may be fine for use but when you see that the algae have clumped together and you see it as scum, it is toxic. These bacteria are bountiful so there isn't a problem of cross contaminating from one water body to the next. Things to look for: the water surface is green, blue-green, yellow-brown, red or white, there is scum on the surface, water left standing in a container for a few hours has a scum form on it, the water has a musty, grassy, earthy smell, the algae slips thru your fingers and doesn't have long filamentous threads. Control strategies are to reduce the nutrient loading, avoid strategies that reduce the nitrogen, treat with copper sulfate, add nitrate and artificial mixing of the water column. Control in Hills Creek Reservoir is tough because of the naturally occurring phosphates. There is high turbidity due to road failures and shore erosion which is contributing to the phosphate loading in Hills Creek. Aerial spraying is probably not a problem. Phosphorus also doesn't tend to leach into the soil from septic systems or pit toilets. Water level might influence the amount of cyanobacteria. Control in Hills Creek may not be possible; the best bet seems to be to try to reduce the turbidity levels.

#### VII. Next Meeting

Lowell Ranger Station

Lowell, OR

18 May 2003

6:30 PM

Meeting adjourned 8:38PM.

Barbara Hazen

Recorder