

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
General Council Meeting

18 Jun 2003
Lowell, OR
6:30 PM

Present: Amy Chinitz, Marc Paulman, Barbara Hazen, Charlie Ogle, Earl Dill, Emily Rice, Bob Sward, Kim Garvey, Greg Vollstedt, Don Schneider, Gordon Grant

I. Introductions

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda - Ms Garvey.

Agenda approved as written.

III. Approve May Council Meeting Minutes - Ms Garvey

Minutes approved as written.

IV. Public Comment and Announcements

None

V. Coordinator's Remarks - Ms Chinitz

□ Our request for OWEB funding for the Elijah Bristow State Park project went in on Jun 2. We asked for about \$75 K to do a 3-phase project restoring 27 acres. Part 1 is on 3 acres and will test the 3 ideas for weed control - mowing, Waipuna, and the cut and brush method. The State Parks staff are reviewing the plan now. Mr Newhouse produced a great plan and led an informative tour of the area.

□ Our final report to OWEB is due at the end of August.

□ Design work has begun for culvert replacement off of Lost Creek. We are working with ODFW to identify a different priority culvert. The one originally selected may not need to be fully replaced. There will be tours and educational opportunities associated with the project. The actual culvert replacement will probably happen in 2005.

□ Ms Chinitz is planning to attend the Mt Hood-Willamette RAC meeting to support our grant requesting funding for the fish passage database and prioritization project.

□ Calendar Jun 24- Restoration tour with Dave Bontrager Jun 25- Steering Committee meeting Watershed week- put on by For Sake of Salmon. We have 2 events which we are publicizing Sept- Native Plant presentation - Mr Newhouse Oct 18- Salmon Creek Ivy removal with the Kiwanis Club in Oakridge Lane County fair- we need volunteers for the booth in Aug Jul 25-27 Blackberry Jam festival □ We have T shirts for sale.

VI. Steering Committee Report - Ms Hazen

□ The major Steering Committee item is developing a new coordinator contract for next year. We won't know how much funding we'll receive from OWEB until the legislature sets the budget; we may have to draft a bridge contract for July. We are working with Amy to create a contract that matches the anticipated coordinator's salary.

□ We said "Many Thanks" to Bill Wynkoop as he stepped down from his seat on the Steering Committee. We worked thru the process of a designated seat transition and will be welcoming Bob Sward officially in a moment.

□ We will be working on adjusting the Work Plan that we submitted with our council support grant request. Since we aren't getting the funding the Plan was based on we will have to modify it accordingly. All members are welcome to attend these meetings.

We are still planning to work on the policy manual.

Business is starting to slow down for the summer. Both the July and August meetings are cancelled. We will be trying to do most of the business by email until the Sept meeting.

VII. Introduction of Mr Sward - Ms Chinitz

Bob Sward has been appointed to the Timber Industry seat on the Steering Committee formerly held by Bill Wynkoop. We thank Bill for all that he contributed to the MFWWC during his term on the Steering Committee. Mr Sward is a familiar face at MFWWC as he has attended both General Council and Steering Committee meetings. We welcome him to his new official position. A little biography: he has been with the Giustina family since 1977. He started out setting chokers and is now a land manager. He is originally from Montana and has 2 children, and 1 5-week-old grandchild.

VIII. Open Forum

Future meeting topics:

1) Look at ground water issues and how the watershed affects ground water

2) Development impacts on the watershed and how they may be managed up the watershed.

3) How the rivers service the smaller communities and how to return the water to the river

The council needs to increase funding for the coordinator and for other council support. Anyone have any ideas for funding sources?

This sometimes feels like a salmon council, not a watershed council.

The council needs to increase outreach.

There will be another Open Forum in the next quarter. Ms Chinitz will solicit ideas by email ahead of time.

IX. Where Does the Water Come From? - Mr Grant

The Cascade Mountains are an active volcanic system. The winds blow to the east, a big source of water is the ocean. The Western Cascades immediately east of the Coburg Hills were formed by a volcanic system. Only eroded remnants of the volcanic system are left. Further east you cross a region with faults in it. Then the central High Cascade platform is bounded by another fault to the east. The High Cascades are a younger, more active volcanic region; it is a pile of young volcanic lava. We have a little bit of this in the High Cascades near Waldo Lake.

Many rivers start in the High Cascades and cross to the Western Cascades. The flows depend on the source of the river; i.e. Western vs High Cascade. The Western Cascades produce a low flow in the summer with a high flow in Jan and Feb. The High Cascades produce a high flow during the snowmelt in May and Jun with a sustained base flow the rest of the time. Most of the snowmelt is gone by Jun. The Western flow has big differences between the summer and winter flows up to 100 times; there is a deep decline in the summer. In the High Cascade based rivers, the rain events have little effect on the peak flows, there is only a gradual decline in flow in the summer. The landscape in the High Cascades is a sea of lava. There are no surface drainage systems, the water goes straight down thru the porous laval system. In the Western based rivers, the slopes are steep and rugged. Rivers and glaciers have carved the volcanic flow. Soils are shallow. There is little storage for water; water quickly finds a stream. The spring systems on the west side are not well understood. They are concentrated in the High Cascades, there are seeps and gushers as well.

Lavas ponded against the faults, which gives waterfalls. Lava flows may have followed the old rivers. So we have buried rivers. High Cascade streams do not flood, sediment and wood doesn't move, vegetation is right down to the stream's edge. In Western Cascade rivers there is young vegetation in the riparian zone, there is cobble in the stream and the streams flood. There are High Cascade streams that are dominated by surface flow. Very cold water comes out of the springs. In the High Cascade the flow increases in August. This represents the lag time between the snowmelt and the increased flow. It takes that long for the pressure to push the snow melt thru. The water coming down the river may be 10-20 years old. The lava acts as a giant filter.

Temperature. The Western Cascade rivers have their highest temperatures in July then it decreases until Oct. 12 degrees Celsius is the summer temp. The High Cascades have a uniform temperature of 4 degrees. This is the same temperature as was measured by Stearns in 1926. Almost immediately spring-fed streams start picking up heat. This is where logging practices can affect the stream (solar heating).

Water in a low flow season comes out of the High Cascades while water in the high flow season comes out of the Western Cascades. The Mid Fork is about 25% High Cascade. In the summer the Willamette is a High Cascade river. Dams have muted the winter response of the Willamette. They have elevated the summer base flows, which has made the river more High Cascade.

We don't know how old the water is, where the water comes from, how much water there is, why the springs are located where they are and how do they respond to climate. We don't know where the water flows; some may flow underground to the east side of the High Cascades.

Most of the sediment comes out of the Western Cascades. They are older, they have weathered in place. There are large deep seated earth flows of clay in the Western Cascades; there hasn't been enough time for the clay to form in the High Cascades. Logging and roads do add to sediment but we don't know how much. Most earthflow complexes are indifferent to logging. Small shallow land slides initiate on head walls, etc. Sediment in reservoirs reflects land use issues. Storms showed up to be the biggest influence but the place where the storm has the greatest effect is where the surface has been disturbed as in logging.

Climate prediction: we will have warmer, wetter winters with less snow. The Cascades should have sustained summer water due to ground water storage. The Sierras should have greatly diminished summer water due to the loss of the snow pack. The Willamette will be seen as the source of water for the whole region.

Resources: Harold Stearns, *Geology and Water Resources*, 1926.

Gordon Grant, *Geology as Destiny: Cold Waters Run Deep in Western Oregon*, Science Findings, Issue 49, Dec 2002

X. Next Meeting-Field Trip
July 16, 2003
Lowell Forest Service Office
6:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 830 PM.

Barbara Hazen
Recorder