

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
General Council Meeting

21 Jan 2004
Springfield, OR
6:30 PM

Present: Chuck Davis, Kim Garvey, Amy Chinitz, Dan Cottrell, Diana Bus, Barbara Hazen, Dave Bontrager, John Moriarty, Rick Scott, Marc Paulman, Sandra Corbin, Gordon Zimmerman, Mark Slaten, Todd Stebbeds, Tami Stebbeds, Marc Stebbeds, Barb Biechele, Howard Kopp, Jeff Bandow, Eve Montaro, Kees Ruurs, Dave Jenson, Jim Reed, Don Hampton, Judy Hampton, Patrick Smith, Glen Miller

I. Introductions

II. Approval of the Agenda and the Minutes of the Oct 15 2003 General Council Meeting

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

III. Public Comment and Announcements.

There were no announcements or public comment.

IV. Coordinators Remarks – Ms Chinitz

- Ms Chinitz said that she has been doing the administrative paperwork for our projects plus meeting with landowners regarding funding for restoration projects.
- She raised the question of whether or not part of the February meeting should be a presentation about current activities of the MFWWC. She solicited suggestions from members for presentation content.

V. Steering Committee Report – Mr Cottrell

- The General Council will be affirming SC positions tonight. There are 4 positions and 3 applicants. Mike Running and Rick Movsky are stepping down. We thank them for their years of valuable service to the watershed council. Ms Bus suggested that the watershed council do some kind of formal recognition for their service.
- The Steering Committee met with John Moriarty about the start-up of the Elijah Bristow State Park project.
- We formed a scoping committee re: a conference on fire in the watershed.
- He invited interested people to attend the Steering Committee meetings, which take place at 6:30 PM in Lowell on the 4th Wed of the month. The Steering Committee works on the budget and planning for the watershed council.

VI. Affirmation of Steering Committee Members - Ms Garvey

Ms Garvey reviewed the policies about who is eligible to vote and consensus minus one. Each of the candidates spoke briefly. Chuck Davis, Greg Taylor and Barbara Hazen were affirmed by consensus of the voting members present.

VII. Elijah Bristow Lost Creek Confluence Project Update - John Moriarty

This project is to re-establish a riparian forest that was at the confluence until it was cut in the 1960s. We started out with Scot's broom and blackberries. We are going to trial three different ways of dealing with these invasives. The whole area was mowed in Oct. Nine monitoring plots were established to see how the invasives respond to the various methods of eradication. Manual blackberry removal has been done. There have been some concerns about soil disturbance and more Scot's broom coming up where manual control occurred.

We are also hoping to establish 1000 trees. Planting grids were laid out. We don't want the mower to get too close to the tree roots. An inmate crew did scalping. We had one planting party last weekend, two more are planned. The trees are bare root and are heeled in while they are waiting to be planted. They are moved from the beds to the site in buckets of starch slurry to keep the roots damp. They are planted with blue plastic tubes to help protect them from voles. Once the trees are in we will mulch them with cardboard and straw to decrease

the competition. In the summer we will have to do some irrigation for a couple of years as the soil is really sandy and drains quickly. The weather has been an issue. We lost one week of work crew time due to the ice and snow. This week we will try digging the holes with an auger. There are wire cages still to be made which will protect the trees from predation by the deer, elk and beaver.

Some surveys for Western Pond turtles and red-legged frogs may be done later in the year.

There are lots of opportunities to get involved: Making cages--next week; Mowing--spring and fall; Surveying turtles—spring and fall; Mulching—February. Call the office to volunteer.

VIII. Exotic Weed Removal in the Upper MFWW – Glen Miller and Patrick Smith

Mr Smith introduced himself and the Northwest Oregon Invasive Weed Management Partnership, which he represents. He passed out a brochure on invasive weeds in Oregon and mentioned that there is a new one coming out soon. He also has some monies available for grants to help private landowners deal with invasives. He is particularly interested in meeting with people who are interested in the inventory and control of Japanese knotweed. The Lost Creek area is a possible site. The knotweed takes over riparian areas, propagating from pieces of roots and seeds.

Mr Miller works in the OR Dept of Agriculture in the noxious weed program. The Middle Fork of the Willamette is one of the big project areas. It has the biggest butterfly bush infestation in the state. The Japanese knotweed is taking off and may soon dominate every sand bar in the area. He got surveys done on both of these plants in 2003. The knotweed supposedly propagates from its roots but at least 25% of what he saw are propagating from seed. He would like to turn around the area around Deception Creek, which is dominated by blackberry and poison oak. He would like to find some kind of sustainable method such as Bobcat mowing or goats to get the blackberries down so that he would only have to treat an area around every 3 years. He will try to create an elk grazing habitat dominated by native grasses. There are funds available for weed control on private lands that adjoin Forest Service lands. These are meant to be used to protect the Forest Service lands from invasives. BPA has also allocated funds for weed control.

Butterfly bush is highly resistant to herbicides. It grows into the cracks and crevices in castle walls in Europe. It also shows up in abandoned industrial areas and along railroad rights of way. It has invaded prime timberland in Coos County. It doesn't grow readily in the shade. It propagates by airborne seeds. It competes with the native willow tree, which is a host for butterflies. He is trying to winch the Butterfly bush out locally. Winching, cutting and treating the stumps appear to be the means of control. Nurseries do sell varieties of the Butterfly bush. Some are developing sterile varieties of it, which are not as aggressive.

There is an English Ivy site in Oakridge for which he will be submitting a grant to be able to hire someone to remove it.

Knotweed is a national problem. Here the goal around the Japanese knotweed is to keep the river corridors free of it. They are going to try biological control by insects. There is a beetle which skeletonizes the leaves, a stem miner and a rust which attack the knotweed. There has to be a lot of study done before turning insects loose in the environment. A new injection tool was used successfully in the Sandy River area, which allows you to inject Roundup into the stem of the plant. It is safe to use around water and endangered species. Further away from water he would use a backpack sprayer to apply Roundup. Hand digging doesn't work well in gravel bars. Cuttings come up from under covers. Cutting has to be done every two weeks in the summer months. Roundup is a mild herbicide which he thinks is effective and he said that you do have to use some kind of herbicide to get rid of knotweed. An integrated approach is the only way to deal with invasives.

IX. Next Meeting
Oakridge, OR
18 February 2004
6:30 PM

Meeting adjourned 8:40PM.

Barbara Hazen
Recorder