

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
General Council Meeting

17 March 2004
Lowell, OR
6:30 PM

Present: Kim Garvey, Dan Cottrell, Barbara Hazen, Kelly Reis, Diana Bus, Michael Mattick, Jim Reed, Kees Ruurs, Dave Bontrager, Rick Scott, Amy Chinitz, Chuck Davis, Dave Jensen, Matt Ewait, Steve Mital, Dan Hurley, Mark Neff, Chant Eicke

I. Introductions

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda - Ms Garvey
Agenda approved as written.

III. Approve February 2004 Council Meeting Minutes - Ms Garvey
Minutes approved as written.

IV. Public Comment and Announcements

- Ms. Bus: All Dept of Interior offices are off-line. If you want to contact her, do so by telephone.
- Mr Scott: The Forest Service has sold the hazard trees along the roadside in the Fall Creek Fire area. They hope to have them removed in May and June. Now the Forest Service is looking at what should be done with the 25 acres of trees killed by the fire, the hazard trees around the campground, the recreational areas, and the burned toilets. There is a big area of roadless, late successional reserve involved. They are starting the pre-assessment there.
- Mr Cottrell: The Army Corps has moved into the Forest Service compound in Lowell. They are currently located in the old silviculture building.
- Mr Reed: He is working with a volcanology lab that is going to "flood the Willamette" in the lab. They are looking for high water mark data from the flood of 1996 between Eugene and Harrisburg. Please call him if you know of any.

V. Coordinator's Remarks - Ms Chinitz

- Thank you to the Lowell Fire Dept, which opened this hall for our meeting. We may be meeting here in the future when they aren't using this room for classes.
- Seneca Jones Timber had been doing our hard copy mailing. Ms Bus has worked it out so that BLM is now doing the mailing.
- This Saturday there will be a volunteer opportunity at our Elijah Bristow State Park site. We will be mulching trees and moving some of the river rock around so that the mower can get through.
- April 10 there will be an English ivy removal party at the Springfield well fields from 9 AM to 2 PM.
- The General Council meeting in April will be our self-evaluation. The meeting will go from 6:30 PM to 9 PM. It is a very important meeting for people to attend. It will be April 21 in Springfield.
- April 24 there will be the Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Oakridge at the Industrial Park from 9AM to 2PM.
- Also on April 24 we will be sponsoring the Fire Forum in Eugene on the UO campus from 9AM to 4 PM.
- Dave Bontrager has been working with 4 landowners in our watershed, preparing and submitting 4 OWEB small grants.
- Ms Chinitz attended the statewide watershed council meeting. It was a great opportunity for networking and mentoring. One goal that came out of the meeting is to create a formal watershed council network. As support for watershed councils is waning in the legislature, they need to start looking at new models. The position of network organizer would be funded by a grant. There is no website about this conference and the minutes haven't come out yet. However, it was well documented and if you have any questions, contact Ms Chinitz.

VI. Steering Committee Report -Ms Hazen

- With sadness we note the death of Steering Committee member Bob Sward. He held the Timber Industry seat for a relatively short period of time, but we had come to appreciate his enthusiasm, energy, and determination. We will miss him.
- The annual Lane County Watershed Council report to the Lane County Commissioners will be in the fall this year instead of the spring.
- Ms Chinitz has received a scholarship to attend a fish habitat prioritization workshop put on by OSU Extension service.
- There is going to be a Jim's Creek stakeholders' tour sponsored by the Forest Service and Cascadia Wildlands Project. The watershed council is co-sponsoring as the neutral party facilitating the event. At this point the tour is in the planning stages. It will be by invitation sometime in May.
- We are still working on the policy manual. The current topic is proxy voting. We hope to have that policy ready for approval at the next steering committee meeting.
- Our self-evaluation is coming up at the next general council meeting. Please be sure to attend.
- We will be joining with East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District and Northwest Oregon Invasive Weed Management Partnership to work on the Japanese knotweed problem in the Lost Creek area. Our involvement will be primarily outreach at this time.

VII. ODFW Update - Kelly Reis

ODFW out plants a number of Chinook above the dams to provide food for bull trout. They do have a number of spawned fish coming down thru the dams. In the fall they count the number of redds above the dams. In the North Fork of the Middle Fork they put in 1693 fish and found 4 redds in a 6.85-mile search area. This turned out to be 85.5 fish to get 1 redd, while on the McKenzie the ratio is 6 fish per redd. They put 1418 fish in the Middle Fork above Hills Creek and found 19 redds in a 31-mile search area. This is a ratio of 34.2 fish per redd. In 2002 they found 41 redds and had a fish-to-redd ratio of 23 in a comparable stretch of the river. So something bad is happening. It may be that lower,

warmer water has caused more issues with disease. The hatchery was having a problem keeping returning hatchery fish alive long enough to spawn too this year. The plan is to radiotag fish above the dams and see where they go. They may want to inoculate them against certain diseases. That would be a problem if someone harvested them although it is illegal to harvest them. ODFW will be recruiting for help with the redd survey again in the fall. Other problems for the fish are that trucking is stressful to them especially at the end of their lives. If the fish don't move much after they are dumped they are readily available for poaching so ODFW may need to look for different dumping sites. They expect a good year for returning fish this year. The forecast is for 109,000 fish over Willamette Falls and 10,000 to return to Dexter Dam. ODFW doesn't see a lot of juveniles coming out of the redds below Dexter dam. Greg Taylor did an experiment that showed that the temperature below the dam prevents the eggs from hatching successfully.

Mr Mattick pointed out that the Calapooia Watershed Council had noted a decreased fish return this year also so perhaps it's an overall system failure. The point was made that on the Calapooia there is a lot of poaching.

VIII. UO Environmental Services Learning Program - Mr Mital

This is a 3-year-old program. Its goal is to create a practical learning experience for students and help local organizations, businesses, and non-profits with projects. The students go out collect data, analyze it, make recommendations and a presentation. They have worked with Hendricks Park re: invasive species, with Short Mountain re: computer disposal and with EMU re: trash. The students develop their skills in research, interview skills, data collection and management, Web design, presentation, report writing, and poster productions. Graduate students are paid as project managers, do project design and manage client relationships. The number of projects done is limited by the budget. They are doing 3 projects a year now, would like to do 6 to 8 per year and be able to accommodate more students.

Springfield Millrace Restoration - Dan Hurley

The Millrace comes off the Middle Fork of Willamette, goes thru the City of Springfield and the Mill Pond until it rejoins with the main stem of the Willamette. It was dug in 1852 by Elijah Briggs and powered sawmills and gristmills. In 1993 the citizens living around it became concerned and formed a group. Problems found on the Millrace are a lack of riparian habitat, mostly blackberries along the banks, erosion at the inlet, low flows with fish stranding, increased water temperatures and decreased water quality. The city needed to take action due to the status of the spring Chinook. They chose to restore the Millrace. SUB was interested in the project as the Millrace recharges the ground water near the wellheads, which provide Springfield's drinking water. Project recommendations/goals: 1) Move the inlet to a more stable location. The new inlet will actually follow an old channel. 2) Remove the Mill Pond dam so the water won't get so warm and kill salmon. 3) Create a wetland habitat with some small ponds. 4) Restore riparian habitat which will provide shading, lower water temperature, improve water quality and decrease erosion. 5) Include trails, interpretive sites, and a picnic area. The students got acquainted with the Millrace, including taking a canoe trip on it. They have created a brochure to mail to the public about water quality. They have made 4 posters about the history, the water issues and the long-term vision. They are going to do public information meetings, make 8 interpretive site posters, form a Friends of the Millrace organization and sponsor a clean-up day in May (21-22) at Agnes Stewart Middle School. They hope to get some public interest and ownership of the project to keep the Millrace clean and to have some say on the recreation that goes on there. Hopefully the involvement will start with sponsoring the clean-up annually and increase gradually. <millracefriends@msn.com>

The Perils of Illegal Dumping in Rural Oregon - Mark Neff

The project goals were to inventory the illegal dumping, find solutions and educate the public. Illegal dumping is defined as the improper disposal of personal waste. There is no common profile for dumpers. There appear to be economic and social reasons for dumping. It is costly to both humans and the environment. The partners with the University in this project are Lane County Waste Management, OR State Parks, the Forest Service and the Army Corps. The students did a physical inventory of dumpsites which included the location, the size, origin, composition and clean-up. They found 92 dump sites (52 on Forest Service land, 30 on Army Corps land and 10 on the state park land. The locations were on infrequently traveled roads, close to main roads and easily accessible by motor vehicle. The inventory showed yard debris, household trash, animal carcasses, tires, construction waste, appliances, scrap metal, glass and shotgun shells. They interviewed agency staff of partners to understand the long-term trends and enforcement policies at dumpsites. People dump more in the spring, more carcasses in the fall, hazardous dumps are rare but do occur. The BLM removes 50-60 abandoned cars the Eugene area annually. Clean up is usually done by the agency except they contract out to remove hazardous waste and heavy items. Enforcement varied. Not all rangers can issue citations. State park rangers issue a letter of warning and then a citation if the dumping continues. Local police have greater enforcement powers, however there is no phone number to report illegal dumping. Methods of prevention that have been tried: gates and barricades, signs, park hosts, trashcans, dumpsters and keeping the land clean. Kids appear to learn dumping from their parents. The project recommends amnesty days with free dumping at the local dumps, a restructuring of the tipping fees, education days and community clean-up days. The group hopes to continue clean-up days.

IX. Next Meeting

21 April 2004
ODF Office
Springfield, OR
6:30 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Barbara Hazen
Recorder