

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council  
General Council Meeting

21 April 2004  
Springfield, OR  
6:36 PM

Present: Kim Garvey, Amy Chinitz, Dan Cottrell, Barbara Hazen, Earl Dill, Rick Scott, Jim Reed, Kelly Reis, Don Hampton, David Jensen, Bob Emmons

I. Welcome and Introductions - Ms Garvey

II. Approval of the Agenda and the Minutes of the Mar 2004 General Council Meeting  
The agenda was approved as posted. The minutes were approved as written.

III. Self Evaluation - Ms Chinitz

The self-evaluation was done following the OWEB guidelines. Results will be documented in the official self-evaluation write-up.

IV. Wildlife Damage Conflicts - Mr Castillo

Damage takes many forms. There are nuisance problems like bats in attics, raccoons and urban turkeys. There is yard and garden damage, crop damage such as bears peeling bark off trees to eat the cambium layers, predation, property damage and human safety concerns such as cougars moving into populated areas. There were no complaints of cougar damage in the 1970s, but now we have resident cougars. The cougars are bolder, they live in populated areas, are very adaptable, and their control is political. They can get on houses and walk across people's decks.

Legal considerations. There are a lot of different classifications for animals and a mixture of state and federal regulations. Most birds are federally controlled and lethal control is generally not permitted. Game animals tend to be state controlled with seasons, limits and special permits. There are some game animals that are predators such as bear, cougar, fox, coyote and bobcats. These animals can be taken without permit if the person has suffered damage. Disposition of the carcass varies; some can be kept, others have to be taken in. Some wildlife, declared predators under agricultural regulation, can be controlled without permit on private property. Examples of these are feral swine, house sparrows, starlings, rodents, rabbits and squirrels. Skunks, weasels, porcupines and badgers are not protected. There are also unprotected and prohibited species which cannot be possessed alive or relocated. They are non-native which is why they can't be relocated; possums and red squirrels are examples. The killer of a feral domestic animal, i.e. a domestic animal turned loose, is liable for civil action. There are also legal considerations from city councils, homeowners associations, etc.

Avoid Conflict. Plan to co-exist with the natural landscaping. Live trapping or killing is apt to just open a niche for another member of the species. Plant deer resistant plants such as rhodies instead of roses and fence your gardens. Hazing is a possibility such as playing records of distress calls, balloons, scarecrows, spray away (a motion activated sprinkler comes on), mylar strips or a propane cannon. All of these are apt to be temporary measures as the animal accommodates to them. Repellants usually work for short periods of time on small areas. They work better in rural areas than in urban areas; in urban areas the wildlife tends to get used to them quickly. Fences and barriers such as netting, woven wire fence, electric fencing and wire cages work. Live traps are rentable. You have to select the proper trap and catch them. You don't want

to just train them to use the trap. Transport and release requires a permit. Consider the effectiveness of doing this; e.g. the endless supply of raccoons and remember the prohibited species. Turkey trapping rarely works. Hunting season for big games species is a population and distribution control measure and can cause change in animal behavior. The Landowners Preference Program gives preference in obtaining permits or licenses to a landowner who has had damage from the animals being hunted.

Lethal Control of Animals. Kill permits are required outside of the regular hunting season. With a kill permit the animal can be taken at night. A lethal weapon must be used. The carcass must be salvaged (taken to the Eugene Mission). The permit is for one animal at a time.

Lethal Control of Unprotected Wildlife. These animals can be trapped, shot or killed with toxicants or in the case of gophers, explosives.

#### Specific Species.

- Cougar Control. The population is uncontrolled as not enough are taken during hunting season. There are some damage control provisions. Co-existing is the best way. Lighting and fencing make a difference. Consider landscape changes; e.g. eliminating overhanging branches near the house or animal pens, and guard dogs.
  - Bear Control. Eliminate food attractions, haze away and use guard dogs.
  - Coyote Control. They are unprotected. You may shoot, trap or try co-existence using guard dogs, llamas or electric fencing.
  - Deer and elk. Control is primarily thru hunting seasons.
  - Raccoons. There are trapping seasons, kill permits, rental traps, eliminating food, blocking access under the house or deck, keeping them off the roof and using electric fencing.
  - Beaver and nutria. You may shoot or trap, dead or alive. Use barriers around structures.
  - Turkeys. There is no good solution especially when a neighbor is feeding them. Do NOT feed the turkeys. You may also try hazing them, eliminating the food, kill permits and live trapping. If they aren't being fed turkeys will pass on through and aren't such a nuisance.
- The most common complaints now are about cougars and turkeys; they used to be about deer and elk.

#### Resources.

ODFW

Extension Service

Web sites

Wildlife Service for predator control and waterfowl damage

John Brooks is the local agent. 541 935-2956

Private animal control businesses

V. Next Meeting

Oakridge, OR

19 May 2004

6:30 PM

Meeting adjourned 9:10PM.

Barbara Hazen

Recorder