

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
General Council Meeting

19 May 2004
Oakridge, OR
6:39 pm

Present: Pat Burns, Kim Garvey, Kathy Lynn, Gordon Zimmerman, Rick Scott, Kelly Reis, Janet Dunning, Bob Dunning, Dan Cottrell, Amy Chinitz, Chuck Davis, Deigh Bates, Kathy Bulchiss

I. Welcome and Introductions - Ms Garvey

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda - Ms Garvey

Agenda approved as written.

III. Approve April 2004 Council Meeting Minutes - Ms Garvey

Minutes approved as written.

IV. Public Comment and Announcements

- Mr Scott: There is very little water in the hills, which will significantly impact the levels of Hill's Creek and Lookout Point Reservoirs, and possibly Fall Creek Reservoir. Boat docks could be on bare ground toward the end of the summer. A discussion among meeting participants ensued. Mr Dunning questioned why this problem exists now when it never used to and expressed concern about the impacts on the Oakridge recreation economy. Mr Cottrell: Water levels have to do with spring precipitation, not just the amount of water that comes in the winter. Contact Greg Taylor with questions about the reservoir levels.
- Ms Chinitz: Rick Scott will be retiring from the Forest Service and, as a result, from his position on the MFWWC Steering Committee. Mr Scott has made invaluable contributions to the MFWWC. Mr Davis presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

V. Coordinator's Remarks - Ms Chinitz

- Upcoming events: Down by the Riverside clean-up, May 21 & 22; Knotweed workshop in Dexter, May 25.
- The solar irrigation system at the Bristow restoration site is up and running and is quite innovative. We encourage folks to visit the site to see the system and the progress of the project.
- The four private landowner small grants designed by Dave Bontrager have been approved by OWEB. Work on the projects will begin this summer.
- As part of the media outreach project with the McKenzie Watershed Council, we will be holding a press tour of culvert sites on June 2.
- A group of LCC students will use our equipment and our monitoring plan to conduct water quality monitoring in the Middle Fork this summer.
- The Jim's Creek tour brought together a diverse group of about 15 stakeholders to discuss joint opportunities for restoration and commodity production. The tour generated interest and useful dialogue.

VI. Steering Committee Report - Mr Cottrell

At the last meeting, on Wednesday, April 28, the Steering Committee:

- Welcomed Fred Sperry to the Steering Committee. Fred is the newest member and fills the designated seat for the timber industry.
- Voted to sign a contract with Cardinal Employment Services. This contract allows the MFWWC to hire temporary employees to work on the Bristow restoration project.
- Discussed the fact that Kim Garvey's last meeting as our facilitator is in June. We will be looking for a new general council meeting facilitator. Until we find one, we will rotate facilitation among steering committee members.
- Asked Ms Chinitz to gather information about the pros and cons of obtaining 501(c)(3) status.

VII. Community Fire Protection and Prevention – Kathy Lynn, Program for Watershed and Community Health

The PWCH uses a couple of different strategies:

- Focus on policy
 - Help authorities understand how well they get their information out to communities. For example, Senate Bill 360 puts a liability on homeowners to assess their wildfire risk. If homeowners haven't created required defensible space, the fine is up to \$100,000. Though SB 360 is being implemented in only two counties, it is the kind of policy that communities need to be aware of and think about how to address.
- Community capacity building
 - PWCH helps communities obtain the tools they need to bring the necessary organizations and agencies around the same table to deal with fire protection issues.
 - Because PWCH deals with poverty, they work with social service agencies, SWCDs, watershed councils, and other existing organizations to raise people's awareness about fire.

Open discussion:

- Mr Scott: The Middle Fork Ranger District applied for a grant with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to create a community fire plan. If they get the grant, the Oakridge community will have some resources to put together an integrated fire plan. The plan would follow much of what has been done in the Coburg Hills (e.g, creating areas that fire engines can get into). ODF would involve local fire districts and the Forest Service in building the plan.
- Ms Lynn: In Josephine County the PWCH used an education and outreach committee to focus on people via social service agencies. A flyer and poster asked, "Are you prepared?" and provided basic information about how to prevent fire. The back side focused on evacuation. Community fire planning recognizes that communities here live with fire and that the risk to fire is extreme. The goal is to figure out how to use local resources to manage and reduce risk to fire. The easiest way for a community member to get involved in community fire planning is if there's already a steering committee or a formed group. Having some element of coordination, such as a local coordinating committee or agency (e.g., ODF), is the best way.

VIII. Waldo Lake Science Plan – Deigh Bates, Willamette National Forest

Mr Bates gave a presentation detailing the progress and future objectives of the Waldo Lake Science Plan, one of four components of the current management strategy at Waldo Lake. Three agencies are involved in the work: Three agencies are involved in the work: the USFS Willamette National Forest, US Geological Survey Snow Survey Group, and the PSU Center for Lakes and Reservoirs. The environmental analysis, which is in draft stage and almost ready for public comment, examines impacts of levels of human use, particularly that of gas-powered motors.

Mr Bates reviewed the geology, origin, and characteristics of Waldo Lake. For example, the lake is 10,000 – 12,000 years old, has a maximum depth of 420 feet, is at 5,414 feet elevation, and has outstanding water quality, often compared to distilled water.

The science plan will address three questions: (1) What will be the response to the lake of increased utilization of facilities in the watershed? (2) How can weather conditions and different lake water level management affect lake productivity? (3) How can changes in boundary conditions to Waldo Lake impact water quality conditions, specifically transparency and productivity?

The science plan has nine methodological components:

- Snow water & bulk precipitation chemistry
 - The USGS digs snow pits and sends snow to lab to find out what's in it. What pollutants are being deposited into the watershed and then going into the lake? They will be able to compare the data to other networks monitoring similar atmospheric deposition.
- Bathymetric (reverse topography) studies and mapping
 - From this info, they can get a volume distribution of the lake.
- QA/QC plan for future monitoring and data collection
- Historic data analysis

- Collection of physical data – weather, water temperatures, flow
- Watershed level water budget – basin hydrology
 - The water budget of the Waldo Lake watershed is driven by the geology. Some back of the envelope calculations indicated that they could account for all of the flow going out of the North Fork with just the precipitation that hits the surface of the lake. With 20-25% for evaporation, where is the rest of the water going on a yearly basis? They don't know. They can't account for 75% of the water that comes into the basin.
- Continuing biological studies
 - Plankton netting gets a combination of phytoplankton and zooplankton. The population hasn't necessarily gone up, but it has changed in species composition. Some of that could be due to the mesh size of the plankton screens and with where they were sampling.
 - SCUFA (self-contained underwater fluorescence apparatus) allows them to tell where the highest levels of fluorescence are, so it helps them understand the productivity of the lake.
 - Stromatolites in Waldo Lake: They look like rock shells coming out of the bank, but they are living things. They occur nowhere else in the world in ultra-oligotrophic lakes! Mapping their extent is a 2004 work item. Public education about their existence and how to protect them will be part on-going this summer
- Continuing monitoring – chemistry work
- Modeling of parameters for management implications

Mr Bates presented a list of 13 summary recommendations. See “Waldo Lake Science Plan” presentation print-out for complete list and further details.

IX. Guiding Principles for Watershed Management in the Forest Service – Mr Bates

Presentation of slideshow with captions.

X. Next Meeting

16 June 2004

Willamette National Forest office

Lowell, OR

6:30 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Amy Chinitz

Recorder