

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council  
General Council Meeting

15 September 2004  
Lowell, OR  
6:30 PM

Present: Amy Chinitz, Marcus Kauffman, Kat Beal, Greg Taylor, Debra Quintana-Coyer, Tim Bailey, Dave Jensen, Jim Reed, John Moriarty, Diana Bus, Peggy Marcus, Bryan von Bargen, Marc Paulman, Mike Beitz, Kelly Reis, Diana Ackley, Hilary Dearborn, Michael Balk, Paula Larson

I. Introductions

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda – Mr Taylor  
Agenda approved as written.

III. Approve June 2004 Council Meeting Minutes – Mr Taylor  
Minutes approved as written.

IV. Public Comment and Announcements  
None

V. Coordinator's Remarks - Ms Chinitz

- Ms Chinitz submitted the OWEB annual report in August. As of July 1, 2004, we were halfway through the biennium. The next OWEB council support grant application is due in December.
- Ms Chinitz met with Sid Rosen, the fourth-grade teacher at Lundy Elementary School in Lowell, to plan the activities we will do this year with his class.
- Ms Chinitz submitted an OWEB technical assistance grant in June to plan subsequent phases of the Lost Creek Confluence Restoration Project. We were awarded the grant for \$18,000.
- Copies of the MFWWC amended charter are available here at the meeting and on our web site.
- If you would like to participate in the invertebrate monitoring training on September 25, pre-register with Ms Chinitz.
- The draft hatchery and genetic management plan (HGMP) for the rainbow trout hatchery program in the Upper Willamette is available for comments until September 24. Please let Kelly Reis or Amy Chinitz know if you'd like a copy of the draft plan.
- The media outreach project ended over the summer with two exciting pieces of media coverage: a story on KMTR about illegal trash dumping and a large *Register-Guard* article about the Lost Creek Confluence Restoration Project. The final deliverables for the project include a draft brochure, sample press releases and articles, and a media outreach guide for watershed councils.

VI. Steering Committee Report –Mr Taylor

- The Steering Committee last met on June 23, 2004. We welcomed Jim Williams, the new Forest Service representative to the Steering Committee.
- Dan Cottrell, the Army Corps of Engineers representative on the committee attended his last meeting in June and has moved to Wisconsin. The Corps' seat on the steering committee is now filled by Peggy Marcus. She is an ACOE park ranger stationed at Lowell. Please join us in welcoming Peggy.
- The Steering Committee approved the Policy of Indemnification (of SC members) for inclusion in the MFWWC policy manual.
- We reviewed the Lowell Butte project concept. The East Lane SWCD was submitting a technical assistance grant to OWEB for funding to plan oak-savanna restoration on the Nelson property in Lowell. They asked the council to be a supporter of the project. This led to a discussion of 'what does it mean for the council to support a project' and the SC recognized that we need to develop a definition for support. We will be working on this policy at upcoming meetings.
- We discussed the MFWWC work plan for the coming year and provided Amy feedback about which items need the most attention in the 2nd year of the work plan.
- Since our regular facilitator, Kim Garvey, has moved away, SC members will rotate GC meeting facilitation among committee members until a 'more permanent' facilitator can be found.
- We reviewed the calendar and identified potential topics for upcoming general council meetings.

VII. Western Pond Turtles: Middle Fork Investigations (2002 – 2004) – Kat Beal, US Army Corps of Engineers  
*Pond Turtle 101*

The western pond turtle (WPT) is one of two freshwater turtles native to Oregon (the other is the western painted turtle). The WPT is listed a sensitive species in Oregon but has no legal protection. Reasons for its population decline include loss of habitat (wetlands, side channels, sloughs) and the effects of exotic species. The failure to recruit juveniles into adult populations is a serious problem. Turtles live in water and nest on land. WPTs' aquatic habitats include shallow waters, emergent plants, downed wood or stumps for basking, and well-developed aquatic plant communities. Terrestrial habitats include bare ground, sparse grasses or forbs, and maximum isolation. Some turtles overwinter on land. WPTs occur in the MFWW from the confluence with the Coast Fork to Staley Pond.

### *Western Pond Turtles at Elijah Bristow State Park*

The Park has good turtle habitat. WPTs are found primarily in the slough system that leads to Chub Pond. Kat and her crew began trapping May. They captured 22 turtles in 30 captures: 10 females (9 in middle ponds, 1 in chub pond); 9 males (all in chub pond); and 3 juveniles (3, 4, and 6 years old). For the nest telemetry they tracked turtles every day for two weeks. They located a lot of nice nesting habitat in the park, close to where the turtles are. These turtles don't travel far because they have great habitat (in contrast to Lookout Point, where the turtles travel a minimum of 80 meters). Kat and her crew have not been able to find nests by visual searching because of the sandy soils.

### *Hill's Creek Reservoir*

They started trapping and tagging in the southeast part of the lake. Coves are the hot spots for turtles. From October 15 – November 7, all turtles came out of the water.

### *Upper Crossing: Hill's Creek Reservoir*

Over 60% of turtles captured were juveniles, suggesting the presence of excellent hatchling habitat and nearby nesting sites.

### *Question and Answers*

- Salmon restoration is important to WPTs because WPTs have traditionally fed on salmon carcasses.
- Ms Beal expects turtles at Bristow to overwinter by going to the pond bottom.
- The crew will trap at Bristow once a week through the winter (volunteers are needed).
- WPT incubation is 90 – 110 days.
- Artificial nest sites have been created at Kirk Pond, Fall Creek, and soon at Hill's Creek.
- A critical need on the MF watershed is to identify nesting areas so we can manage them.
- To date, there is no indication that turtles are using the Lost Creek Confluence Project site, but they still have more trapping to do.
- Blackberry and Scot's broom are a problem because they cover nesting habitat (turtles won't nest near a shrub or tree).
- At Bristow, it is important to identify where WPTs are nesting. Since the radio tags last 18 months, they plan to do nesting telemetry next summer.

### VIII. Stewardship Contracting – Marcus Kauffman, Watershed Research and Training Center

Stewardship contracting is a new authority for the Forest Service and BLM that creates a way of doing better land management that benefits the forest and local communities. It started as a pilot program, with 28 pilots, in 1999, and ended with 84 pilots in 2004. The pilot program was designed to test more effective and efficient ecosystem management, to foster greater community collaboration, and to meet the needs of rural communities. There were nine pilots in Oregon.

The new Forest Service stewardship guidelines are: revenue generation will be secondary to restoration; forest supervisors select the projects; programmatic multi-party monitoring is used; local collaborative process will be used to identify projects, goals, and end results; and projects must comply with environmental laws and regulations and land use laws. These guidelines are less flexible than the pilot guidelines. The unique quality of a stewardship contract, versus a timber sale or procurement contract, is that it can combine sale and purchase in a single contract. The authorities stewardship gives are: goods for services (FS can take the value of any forest product and apply it to offset costs of the services they want); retention of receipts (allows income from revenue-generating activities to be retained for future uses and provides greater control over funds); best value contracting (agencies can consider factors other than price when awarding contracts); designation by description (agency doesn't have to paint every tree but can instead describe the desired end result); and multi-year contracts (allows agency to enter into contracts for up to ten years, twice the current limit).

The Siuslaw Basin Project is a local example. It started in 2000. The goal was to work on the entire 12,000-acre watershed, only 30% of which is Forest Service land, and to use timber value to fund watershed enhancement. The FS partnered with the watershed council to reach out to private landowners and form strong community partnerships. They minimized their impact through a single entry approach and experimented with different contract formats. The watershed council and the FS did the prioritization of sub-basins together and then used that prioritization to determine where to re-invest. It created the Siuslaw Stewardship Fund, a funding source for restoration in the project area using retained receipts (created \$400,000 for local re-investment). Nine projects are now going forward on private land using FS funds.

### *Comments*

How do we do a stewardship project in our watershed? The group needs a patch of land, has to decide where to work, and what we want to do. Tim Bailey described the Jim's Creek project, for which the MF Ranger District has requested stewardship authority. The sale would be to remove the younger Doug-firs, and the goal would be to re-establish the oaks. Tim requested input regarding the boundary of the 164,000-acre stewardship area. He would like to work with the MFWWC to identify projects.

### IX. Closing Public Comments

The Army Corps of Engineers is using goats at Dexter Dam as a non-chemical approach to treating weeds.

### X. Next Meeting

20 October 2004

ODF Office

Springfield, OR

6:30 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Amy Chinitz

Recorder