

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
General Council Meeting

20 Oct 2004
Springfield, OR
6:30 PM

Present: Amy Chinitz, Diana Bus, Barbara Hazen, Greg Taylor, Kelly Reis, Chuck Vostal, Jared Rubin, Jim Reed, Mike Beitz, Dave Jensen, Marc Paulman, Peggy Marcus, Rick Scott, Phyllis Haynes, Fred Sperry

I. Introductions

II. Review and Approve Meeting Agenda - Mr Taylor

The agenda was approved as posted.

III. Approve the Minutes of the September 15, 2004 General Council Meeting - Mr Taylor

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. Public Comment and Announcements - Mr Taylor

None.

V. Coordinator's Remarks – Ms Chinitz

- Ms Chinitz organized a fourth-grade field trip for Lowell's Lundy Elementary School at Elijah Bristow State Park on Oct 19. In the morning they pushed through blackberry and teasel to locate and flag the cedar trees planted by last year's fourth-graders. In the afternoon they rotated around three learning stations—ponds, oaks, and wildlife—led by D'Lynn Williams, Paula Larson, and Ms Chinitz. It was a successful field day that set the stage for several more to come this year.
- The MFWWC Self Evaluation has been submitted to OWEB. A copy of the document is available for the public. If you would like to see it, ask Ms Chinitz.
- The presentation of the Lane County Watershed Councils to the County Commissioners in the fall isn't working out for the Commissioners. The face-to-face presentation has been rescheduled for January. However, they will get a written copy of the reports soon.
- John Moriarty has winterized the solar irrigation system at our EBSP project.
- The next OWEB Council Support Grant application process is starting. The completed application is due Dec 13. Ms Chinitz attended a workshop about completing the application.
- The UO Service Learning Program is doing some monitoring and maintenance for watershed council projects. Chris Massingill, the UO watershed stewardship program coordinator, will be meeting with Dave Bontrager and Ms Chinitz to consider our projects for their program.
- Ms Chinitz will be attending the OWEB conference for watershed councils in Ashland in November and will have to miss our next General Council meeting, which will be in Oakridge.

VI. Steering Committee Report - Ms Bus

- The Steering Committee met on 22 Sept.
- Peggy Marcus is the new Army Corps of Engineers representative to the Steering Committee.
- We reviewed the council operating budget. We have spent \$35,736.54 of our 2-year grant, leaving \$36,957.16 for the second year. We have received \$2,500 from BLM for general council support and \$2,470 for a pilot outreach project in Fall Creek. We voted to increase the coordinator's compensation by \$2,000 based on available funds.
- We had planned to try a "cut and brush" herbicide application on the invasive plants in one zone of the EBSP project. Since that time we have learned that this technique will most likely not be effective. We voted to ask John Moriarty if he could do cut and wipe herbicide application on half the area and cone spray on the other half. Our second choice was cone spray technique on all the area to be treated.
- We decided to partner with the Willamette National Forest on the "Fishing the Middle Fork" brochure. Our logo will appear on the brochure.
- The Steering Committee authorized a subcommittee to work on the OWEB technical assistance grant for planning the next phase of the Elijah Bristow project. They will decide objectives, who to contract with, content of the project, and how to divide up the responsibilities.

VII. Fish Passage Prioritization Update-Jim Reed

Fish Passage in the Middle Fork of the Willamette and McKenzie Watersheds is a project funded by Title II Payco and the BLM. The goals of the project are to inventory barriers to fish passage, develop a scheme for prioritization, make recommendations, and produce maps. There are natural barriers to passage: waterfalls and cascades. There are unnatural barriers to passage: dams, culverts, fluctuating reservoir levels and degraded habitat (temperature and turbidity). Juvenile fish can't jump over 6 inches. Fish need to be able to move back and forth as habitat such as temperature changes. A 20% gradient may be the upper limit for fish.

In prioritizing the culvert repairs, Jim Reed will be considering the fish species present and their life history, the stream location, the stream's size and gradient, the stream habitat, what's upstream and downstream and the riparian habitat quality. He has to consider the culvert itself, who owns it, whether or not it is sized for a 50 -100 year flood, its maintenance history, the culvert life remaining and other culvert metrics such as the size of the pool above it. The decision can be to replace the culvert, repair it, create a backwater weir, or add baffles to slow the water flow. Prioritization is based on the ODFW score + fish score + blockage score + construction cost score + culvert life score and the maintenance score. The highest score is the culvert with top priority for replacement.

They organized a press tour of Parsons Creek and Cash Creek. The culvert in Parsons Creek would have a 1-foot drop by late May. The culvert in Cash Creek is an open bottom, arched culvert which is state of the art. Some of these new culverts have concrete edges for invertebrate passage as well as holes in the top for bat habitat. Dropping out of a culvert onto rocks is not good for fish. In some areas where there is scouring at pond outlets, they are using boulder weirs to replace failing culverts. He is working on the ODFW data now which was compiled by volunteers. The next step is to have volunteers ground truth any confusing information.

VIII. Willamette Basin TMDLs: What They Mean for Those Interested in the MF Willamette Watershed - Jared Rubin

On Monday the DEQ will be releasing the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Willamette. TMDLs are required for water bodies that don't meet standards for water quality and have been classified as 303(d) Water Quality Limited water bodies. The goal is to protect sensitive beneficial uses, which include salmonids. A TMDL is the amount of a pollutant a water body can assimilate beyond which the beneficial use is impaired. Each pollutant has its own TMDL. It is calculated to protect the beneficial use which is most sensitive to it. In the Willamette Basin we are grappling with temperature, bacteria and dissolved oxygen. Temperature is the heat/solar load going into the system although an industrial source may also add to it.

The focus of the TMDLs this year is temperature, bacteria and mercury. There are no documented concerns regarding bacteria in the Mid Fork but there are problems in the Main Stem. This is a problem seen primarily in agricultural and urban areas. By controlling bacteria at the tributary level they hope to control it in the Main Stem also. They are coming up with planning targets as to what they would like to see from activities in the form of pollution reduction. Basin wide there are mercury TMDLs. There are advisories now regarding the fish in the Coast Fork and the Main Stem. The fish eat mercury, concentrate it and are then unsafe for human consumption. The goal is a 27% reduction in the mercury levels in the basin. Applicable criteria for temperature are: Bull trout spawning and rearing - 12 degrees C, salmon and steelhead spawning - 13 degrees C, salmon and trout rearing and migration - 18 degrees C and core cold water habitat - 16 degrees C. In March the state adopted new standards which included a human use allowance (HUA) of 0.3 degrees C higher temperature. A portion of this HUA can be set aside and used with future growth. TMDLs are not an overly prescriptive guide. When there is conflict between beneficial uses, the TMDL sets the standard and the local people decide how they will reach it. In dealing with temperature, the principal means of alleviating the condition is to protect and restore riparian vegetation. They have analyzed what vegetation might grow in a given geomorphic zone and have developed shade curves so that, given the width of a stream and the aspect of the stream from the north, they can estimate the required shade.

Implementation plans will not go further than the NW Forest Plan and the Forest Practices Act at this time. Counties and municipalities may have to think more about TMDLs than they used to. Point sources of pollution will need to work on their problems. Once the TMDLs are done, water bodies can come off the list as they meet the standards. It could take 50, 60, 70, 80 years to meet the standard when you consider how fast trees grow or fish generations occur. The goal is to get the profile of the temperature to model the natural profile more closely.

The draft TMDLs are available for public comment between 10/28/04 and 1/14/05. CDs are available of the TMDL for different areas; the information is also on the website and in libraries. An information meeting will be held at LCC on Dec 5, in Bldg 17, Room 310, from 3 - 5 and 6 - 8 PM. There will be a public hearing at LCC on 1/10/05 at 6 PM. Then the TMDLs will be submitted to EPA. Once the TMDL is approved, the DMAs have 18 months to develop a plan.

DEQ has a number of sites it monitors. He doesn't see the number increasing. DEQ will have trouble getting funding even for implementation. Use attainability analysis (UAA) looks at whether or not an entity can meet its guidelines. Wastewater treatment facilities tend not to influence overall quality, although there are some exceptions.

To get in touch with Jared or DEQ: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/willamette/WRBHome/htm>, or Jared Rubin, 1102 Lincoln St, Suite 210, Eugene, OR 97401; 1-800-844-8467 (x261); rubinjared@deq.state.or.us

IX. Next Meeting

17 Nov 2004

Oakridge High School

Oakridge, OR

6:30 PM

Meeting adjourned 8:25PM.

Barbara Hazen

Recorder