

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council  
General Council Meeting

17 Nov 2004  
Oakridge, OR  
6:30 PM

Present: Diana Bus, Barbara Hazen, Jim Reed, Mike Beitz, Peggy Marcus, Doug Larson, Adam Ulrey, Dave Linsdell, Chantelle Hayson, Sue Bond, Pat Burns, Gordon Zimmerman, Don Hampton

I. Introductions

II. Review and Approve Meeting Agenda - Ms Marcus

The agenda was approved as posted.

III. Approve October General Council Meeting Minutes - Ms Marcus

The minutes were approved as written.

IV. Public Comment and Announcements - Ms Marcus

The Education and Outreach Committee will meet at the Council office at 3PM on Nov 29. Any interested persons are invited.

V. Steering Committee Report – Ms Hazen

- The Steering Committee spent a large part of the Oct 27 meeting reviewing proposed items for the 2005-2007 work plan. We'll be submitting that with our grant application to OWEB for council support. The final work plan will be approved at the Dec 8 meeting.
- John Moriarty's contract as manager of the Lost Creek Confluence Restoration Project ends on Dec 15. He will not be renewing his contract as he has accepted the position as coordinator of the new statewide watershed council network. We wish John all the best in his new position and thank him for all the hard work he has done for the MFWWC.
- Steering Committee elections will take place at the January council meeting. There will be at least 2 vacant positions on the Steering Committee. If you are interested in joining, feel free to speak with a current Steering Committee member or call Ms Chinitz at the council office. She needs a list of all interested potential members by Jan 1.
- The next Steering Committee meeting will not take place next Wed due to the holidays. Instead we will be meeting on Dec 8 at 6:30 at the Council office.

VI. City of Oakridge Update - Mr Zimmerman

Mr Zimmerman had just returned from a conference of city managers. Four areas were emphasized at the conference: creating a sense of place, maximizing staff potential, building on the passions and creativity of our citizens and building a responsive and responsible government. This tied in well with the new Oakridge mission statement, which says that Oakridge is the center of Oregon recreation, where families and businesses live and grow, work and play, learn and dream in a safe and sustainable environment.

- Create a sense of place. This is important as it is how you identify the community. You have to build places where people can gather. The plan is to adopt a planning and zoning ordinance that supports a sense of place and to build a library, a water structure and an amphitheater. The citizens have to ask themselves how they see themselves in the future and how can they get there with planning and zoning. In some places the City will be requiring a Cascadia design and in others a Frontier design for new projects. If they build a new library and a water structure, they are creating gathering places and places of repose. The water structure could be built where the old firehouse was. It would display the logo and have an area where kids could play. The plan is to build an amphitheater in Greenwaters Park. The City has a grant from the Forest Service to pursue this. The idea is to bring in plays, festivals, etc. As traffic is generated to and thru an area, so the demand for services increases as does business.
- Maximize Staff Potential. Honor their service and commitment, enable them to do their best; unleash their creativity & passions.
- Build on the creativity and passions of citizens. Citizens have great ideas. The goal is to turn these ideas into actions and help people capture what they learned in school and dream about. Oakridge Upbeat is an industrial park of 77 acres of developable land waiting for tenants. Only 200 businesses relocated last year while there were about 30,000 communities hoping to attract them. Oakridge is planning on building 4 buildings in the industrial park; they will sell surplus buildings to finance this. Oakridge needs to build businesses from the people who are already here. They have an enterprise facilitator whose job is to provide help to the entrepreneur. Oakridge LAMP (Loan Assistance for Microenterprise Program) is a program that has funds set aside for \$1000-3000 loans to businesses in Oakridge or who will locate in Oakridge if they get this loan.
- Responsible Government. The goal is to provide the infrastructure that supports the sense of place and to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement and emergency services. The City needs to deal with potholes. The water system needs to be upgraded. At this point they have 150,000 gallons of potable water in the City water tank. If the power goes out that is enough water to last the City for 12 hours. It will cost \$3.3 million to make the necessary repairs. They also have to replace all the pipes in the sewer system. They need to look at how they are providing law enforcement and emergency services as both are costing more than budgeted. For example Oakridge can't build a hospital due to the close proximity of Triad and Sacred Heart. However, the ambulance service to get folks to Eugene/Springfield costs \$900 per trip and Medicare only reimburses \$400.
- Restructuring Highway 58 so it is pedestrian friendly, bike friendly, truck friendly, safe and beautiful is a goal. They will be holding public meetings, designing the plans and then asking ODOT for funding.

VII. Noxious Weed Update - Glenn Miller

- Japanese Knotweed is actively seeding. The seeds rain into the water and are carried downstream. It may even replace blackberry. On the Upper Mid Fork, he has been working with the Forest Service to remove it as they have been finding patches in the woods. He is also working with private landowners in Westfir. People are generally cooperative. The Soil and Water Conservation district has taken on a Knotweed control program on Lost Creek. They have treated 19 properties. Japanese Knotweed was introduced in 1930 as a bank stabilizer and an easy-to-grow ornamental. There is a new tool, an injection gun that shoots glycoside into the stem of the Knotweed. This is, however, a slow, expensive technique. It does work well where you need to closely contain the application of herbicide. In general after 2-4 years of manual control, you go in with the herbicide to wipe out the weakened plant. Pulling the Knotweed will not get rid of it; you still have to spray but you can use a lot less spray if you have weakened the plant.
- Butterfly bush is being spread by the wind now. It initially started with someone putting lawn clippings down the bank. The goal is to keep it out of all the vacant spaces. They are currently winching it out with a small cat. He hopes to get willows to shade it out.
- The ivy on the Salmon Creek bridge area has been removed. He hopes private landowners will remove theirs as well.
- The Buckhead area has a variety of invasives. Work parties have cut the Scots broom and Japanese Knotweed there this year. They are going to try goats to knock down the blackberries. (The goats eat the leaves.) The hope is to create elk habitat at Buckhead.
- False brome is turning up in the watershed; it goes readily into timber stands. It takes 3 years of herbicide (Round-Up) treatment to get rid of it. It's good to find the plants early. The waipuna machine seems to work well on this species. Other treatments for it are hand digging or covering small patches with old carpeting, etc. It outcompetes for moisture.
- In 2005 Mr Miller plans to work on the Forest Service's Knotweed treatment programs, re-treat the private property Knotweed infestations and expand the Knotweed inventory and treatments in the Lost Creek area. The overall goal is to get rid of Knotweed in the Mid Fork. The coastal streams are also heavily infested and will need treatment. Interestingly in Japan this is an incidental species, not a dominant one.

#### VIII. Fish Habitat Restoration in the Upper Middle Fork Willamette Watershed - Doug Larson

There are 3 federally listed species in the Middle Fork: the Spring Chinook salmon, bull trout and the Oregon chub. All aquatic species benefit from things done to help these listed species. When the dam gates closed the fish had to be reintroduced above the dams. ODFW started in the 1990s to re-introduce adult salmon. In 1997 they added bull trout. Right now they are trucking bull trout from Anderson Creek. There are vestiges of a wild salmon population found in Fall Creek. It is difficult to tell fish from different sources as there is a big mix above the dams.

Restoration projects focus on a listed species. The primary emphasis of restoration is to lead to a change in the species' status. The annual budget for this is \$100,000 to \$500,000. Fish habitat restoration is funded in a number of ways. There are Knudsen-Vandenberg Act funds, which are tied to timber sales and Title II funds, which are timber proceeds that go to the counties. Stream projects include adding logs, boulders, weirs, replanting the riparian reserve, replacing culverts and constructing ponds. They use helicopters to move boulders and logs. A spider excavator is used to refine the helicopter drop. They also add basking trees for turtles. When building roads, the type of culvert used is a consideration. For example, bull trout like to sail downstream but they have to be able to return to their home. Culverts constrict the stream channel, which increases the velocity of the water and encourages hole scouring. Fish can't jump 5 to 6 feet to reach the culvert. When a culvert is replaced there will initially be a sediment load, which will be moved downstream by the water. Bottomless arch culverts are being used when they plan to keep the road. The design allows them to create eddies and decrease the water velocity. Unfortunately the culverts cost about \$400,000.

They are tracking fish. Salmon have radio tags. They have put out screw traps or other traps below a replaced culvert to see what species are moving in the area. They also do snorkeling, especially night snorkeling as most wild species, especially fish are nocturnal. Restoration on the Mid Fork only affects the portion of the life cycle that happens here. What happens downstream further affects the survival of the species. For example first there is the problem of getting the fish back to the spawning habitat and then there is the problem of getting the smolts out to sea. There is 59% mortality of smolts going thru the turbines as well as 32% mortality of smolts going thru the regulating outlets. More may perish later from injuries they received getting thru the dam. Hatchery packing and trucking stresses the fish, they get diseased and die before spawning.

We need to consider if we are enhancing something that we shouldn't. We have to ask what the natural return was. We need to be sure to ask what the end point is; when are we done.

#### IX. Closing Public Comments - Ms Marcus None.

#### X. Next Meeting

15 Dec 2004

MFWWC Holiday Potluck and Open House

Lowell Fire Hall

Lowell, OR

6:00 - 9:00PM

Meeting adjourned 8:25PM.

Barbara Hazen  
Recorder