

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
General Council Meeting

18 May 2005
Oakridge, OR
6:30 PM

Present: Chuck Davis, Don Hampton, Dan Hurley, Eve Montanaro, Karen Tiller, David Murdough, Kate Skelton, Chris Massingill, Jerica Miller, Jess Parker, Rudy Dietz.

- I. Introductions
- II. Review and Approve Meeting Agenda - Ms Montanaro
The agenda was approved as posted.
- III. Approve the Minutes of the April 2005 General Council Meeting - Ms Montanaro
The minutes were approved as published.
- IV. Call for Public Comment & Announcements - Ms Montanaro
 - Chuck Davis announced that the Willamette Regional Priorities meeting was taking place in Eugene, and that several Steering Committee members were attending the meeting. He recommended that the Upper Willamette Basin priorities need to consider water quality issues. Improving water quality for drinking purposes is an issue of concern for the communities in and around the watershed.
- V. Steering Committee (SC) Report - Mr Davis
 - Willamette Restoration Priorities Project-
Mr Hoobyar presented on a current project he is working on with OWEB to figure out restoration priorities so people applying for funding understand what OWEB's priorities are. OWEB has developed a framework to judge grant proposals that is being used on the Rogue, the John Day and now the Willamette. This framework is on OWEB's website. John Runyon and Paul Hoobyar are trying to get the 27 watershed councils to partner in the planning. They will summarize the information at watershed, regional and basin levels and align this with other basin-wide priorities.
The next steps in the project are:
 1. Regional meetings starting in May, Oct and Dec.
 2. They will create a summary of the key issues and limiting factors in the watersheds.
 3. They will summarize the restoration priorities.
 4. If possible they will identify high priority projects and locations.
 - Steering Committee Vacancy -
With the resignation of James Johnston the designated Environmental seat is vacant. We will find a new member by advertising in the May newsletter and emailing the local environmental groups. The groups that nominate a candidate will pick the seat holder.

- Dirk-Edmunds/OWEB Fund-
Steering Committee has decided to use a \$1000.00 gift donated by OWEB to provide scholarships to children from Lundy, Oakridge and Pleasant Hill Elementary. The scholarships will cover the cost of attending a week-long summer camp at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. Ms. Montanaro will work to promote the scholarships at each of the elementary schools.

VI. Coordinator Report - Ms Montanaro

- Ms Montanaro thanked everyone for coming. This year's annual riverside clean up, "Down by the Riverside", will happen this Saturday, May 21. Meet at Greenwaters Park at 9 am. There will be 3 groups that will cover 3-4 areas around Oakridge and Westfir. The groups will be led by David Murdough and Ernie Ledbetter of the US Forest Service. Bring your family and friends and join us for this event. Big Mountain Pizza has generously donated pizza for the event, and we will meet back at the Park at approximately 12:30 to enjoy pizza and soda.
- Ms Montanaro made a presentation to the Oakridge Kiwanis Club yesterday, and enjoyed meeting their group. She welcomed an invitation to present to other groups or organizations in Oakridge, if they would like to learn more about the watershed council and how we can work together to improve conditions in the watershed.

VII. University of Oregon Stewardship Monitoring Program: UO students;

Rudy Dietz, Jerica Miller, Kate Skelton, Jess Parker, Chris Massingill. Mrs. Massingill has worked with watershed councils for quite some time. She was the Chair of the South Coast WC, and is currently Vice Chair of the Long Tom WC. She has also done a lot of contract work for the WCs as a riparian restoration specialist. A request for proposals for the UO Stewardship Monitoring project was circulated, and Mrs. Massingill got the contract. She is working very closely with several departments at the UO to develop this program. This project came out of a need to track the success or effectiveness of the many restoration projects that have been implemented in the Upper Willamette Valley. Projects selected for monitoring are spread out across this area, but the majority of the projects monitored by the project team are in the Middle Fork basin. Bufford Park and Elijah Bristow State Park are among two of the study sites. The project team is composed of Environmental Studies/Science students who are interested in watershed councils and in community service programs.

Rudy Dietz presented an overview of the various stages involved in riparian restoration projects. The first stage is planning. A visit to the project site is made to determine the goals of the project, native plant species are selected for planting, sites are selected for planting (soil and topography are important factors), and finally invasive weed control and installation of plants. After the planting has occurred, we monitor to see if the plants were the appropriate ones to plant, or whether one method for planting worked better than another. Maintenance for invasive species control is also an important component that factors in the survival of plants.

The team looks at many parameters when measuring the effectiveness of a particular project. When they visit the site, they do a reconnaissance of the site. They collect data on plant species, height, topography,

and competition (other species that shade). Tree protection is considered; how were the trees planted and how are they being protected? The team also considers environmental impacts; did the plantings get enough water, or were they grazed by animals?

Next, there is data entry. A system has been created to indicate the vitality of the surveyed trees, and if there is damage, what the source of that damage is thought to be. All this data are entered into an Excel worksheet and then an analysis is completed. It is important to remember that this is baseline data because it is the first year of the project. In time, there will be more data and a comparison can be performed. Project summaries are made and presented to the landowner and watershed councils. Summaries include; site description, results from survey, pictures, and recommendations for maintenance.

The Stewardship Restoration Monitoring project is a program of the UO Service Learning program, and so they hope to have continued funding to continue the projects for many years. The Williams Foundation has provided funding for two years. Next year, there will be a new restoration team because most of the team this year is graduating. It will be the second year of data collection, so some comparisons can be done, and additional project sites will be added to the project.

VIII. Willamette Hatchery Releases for 2005 - Gary Yeager, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Gary Yeager has worked at hatcheries for thirty years. He now works at the Willamette Hatchery in Oakridge, and it produces the second highest amount of releases in the State. The hatchery produces four different stocks of salmon eggs. The hatchery supplies other basins with stocks because their water is not cold enough. This year 150,000 summer steelhead were released in the lower Willamette, and 200,000 in the upper Willamette (Hills Creek). Survival rate is not optimistic for these releases and the hatchery figures that 1/200 salmon will survive and return.

The hatchery has a number of completed and ongoing projects this year. They just built enough cabins to host 100 people. The Outdoor School happens on the grounds every year, and this year the students were able to stay in the cabins. This year there were 70 children from Oakridge and Lundy Elementary schools.

Hatchery is working with the US Forest Service to build an interpretive trail along Salmon Creek in Oakridge. Native plant species will be featured on the signs, which will be placed along the length of the trail.

X. Closing Public Comments

IX. Next Meeting
15 June 2005
Lowell Forest Service Center
6:30 - 8:30 PM

Meeting adjourned 8:35 PM.

Eve Montanaro, Recorder