

Mid-Fork Willamette Watershed Council

General Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 16, 2005 Oakridge High School, 6:30 – 8:35 p.m.

Attendees: Eve Montanaro, Chuck Davis, Marcus Kauffman, Gordon Zimmerman, Tim Bailey, Chip Weber, Pat Burns, Micheal Bietz, Gerald Willams, Eric Haws, Gail Haws, Dave Bontrager, Don Hampton, Teresa Conley, Kelly Reis, Adam Ulrey, Fergus McClean,

6:35 Welcome and Introductions

6:38 Review and Approve Meeting Agenda – Eve reviewed the agenda. There were no additions or deletions.

6:39 Approve October General Council Meeting Minutes – Eve asked if there were any changes to the minutes. There were no changes required and the minutes were approved as mailed.

6:40 Public Comments and Announcements – Mike Bietz spoke about attending the Statewide Watershed Council meeting over in Bend. The Legal seminars were the most interesting to Mike. Eve spoke about the range of topics discussed at the conference including the statewide information available to the watershed councils. She mentioned the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, which provides makes information about watershed councils available statewide. The Network also represents participating watershed councils around the state by advertising the purpose and activities of watershed councils. Don Hampton talked about the tree planting festival in Oakridge on April 29th, 2006. Our watershed will probably bypass having a booth this year, but participate in the planting and other areas of the tree festival. Kelly Reis talked about Jim Reed's culvert project in glowing terms.

6:46 Steering Committee update- Chuck Davis. The Committee reviewed the work submitted by Jim Reed and approved partial payment at the October meeting. Chip Weber of the USFS volunteered to get John Poet from Special Forest Products to speak at our Dec 14 meeting.

6:49 Coordinator Update- Ms. Montanaro. Ms. Montanaro spend a good part of October working on a grant proposal to OWEB to request funding for Phase II of the Lost Creek Confluence Project at Elijah Bristow State Park. The proposal was submitted on October 24 with match funding of \$96,000.00. The decision to award funding for the proposal will be made by OWEB at the end of March.

6:52 City of Oakridge- Latest News and Happenings By Gordon Zimmerman.

The State is not willing to help retail Businesses get started especially in small rural areas like Oakridge. Gordon talked about his plan as City of Oakridge Administrator to help plan to fund small businesses, and to give them the resources they need to establish a viable business. The City will work to make itself a successful business community. Gordon told stories of entrepreneurs that had made mistakes and why- and many were pretty funny. They found money to the tune of \$86,000 to pay for a facilitator to help make this all happen and turn Oakridge into a viable little town. The goal is to lower the unemployment rate in Oakridge.

7:30 Jims Creek Stewardship Project- US Forest Service and the MFWWC by Tim Bailey. Tim Bailey had been working at the Middle Fork Ranger District for approximately 21 years when he discovered the remnants of an Oregon white oak savanna above Hills Creek reservoir. The discovery was the beginning to a restoration project involving the USFS, public and MFWWC. The restoration project will restore the oak savanna habitat, and many other fish and wildlife species in the Buck Creek subwatershed.

Tim talked about the project and what has happen over the last five years to get us to this point. Tim showed us what the area looked like 100 years ago and what it looks like now and why it's important to get back to the way it looked 100 years ago. Getting the area to look as it did 100 years ago can happen through a number of plans, which Tim showed the group. There are five alternatives being proposed for this restoration project. The project will include the removal of some Doug fir. The receipts gained from the sale of these trees will be used for on-the-ground restoration projects within Buck Creek. The total of receipts is estimated at about 2 million dollars- all of which will be used for the projects selected by a public collaboration group.

The MFWWC will convene and facilitate the public collaboration group that will decide where the receipts will be best spent .

8:35 Adjourned

Notes taken by Adam Ulrey