

**Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council**  
**November General Council Meeting**

15 November 2006  
Springfield, OR  
6:30 PM

Present: Chuck Davis, Dan Hurley, Dave Bontrager, Don Hampton, Susan Davis, John Eichhorn, Nena Lovinger, Robert Emmons, Bill Montgomery, Sam Fox, and Jim Reed.

- I. Welcome/Introduction
- II. Approval of the Agenda
  - Agenda approved as written.
- III. Approval of Minutes of October 18 General Council Meeting.
  - Agenda approved as written.
- IV. Steering Committee Report
  - Chuck Davis summarized the Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee meeting: The Steering committee discussed the agricultural chemical clean-up and ways to get more participants. They also discussed the watershed educator position. The BLM's national botany representative is interested in the curriculum for the position. There appears to be funding for the position to continue beyond the initial grant. Eve gave an update on projects: a \$15,000 grant was submitted for the Haws project, a \$30,000 grant was awarded by the BPA for Lost Creek Phase II, a \$40,000 grant request was submitted for the floodplain outreach project, and a \$107,000 grant for Lost Creek Phase III was submitted. The Committee discussed the Wildish Measure 37 claim. Eve gave the Committee feedback, noting a diminishing lack of energy at meetings. She gave a pep talk to the group and the group discussed ideas for improving participation. The Committee discussed that there are a couple committee positions open – one is to be from Oakridge and one from the Corps of Engineers. Finally, the Committee went over project work plans – approximately 40 projects in 10 focus areas.
- V. Public Announcements
  - Chuck Davis announced that he has been working with Amy Chinitz on the agricultural chemicals clean-up. He said they have also conducted interviews for the watershed educator position. They are keeping the position open for now and are still accepting applications.
  - John Eichhorn offered to provide Beekeeper education if there is interest in the watershed.
- VI. Agricultural Chemical Removal Clean-up Project in the McKenzie & Middle Fork Willamette Watersheds.

Karl Morgenstern from EWEB gave a presentation about the project. The goals were to provide assistance to growers to get rid of old chemicals on hand and safely remove them from the watersheds and to protect regional drinking water resources. He discussed that the growers have problems when chemicals are banned and no federal assistance is given for removal of the chemicals on hand. The problem is exacerbated because the chemicals are expensive to dispose, there is uncertainty of how to dispose, and growers were not allowed to participate in HHW collection events. This project gave growers a free no-risk opportunity to dispose of chemicals on hand. There were no limits on amounts. The project was geographically limited to the McKenzie & Middle Fork watersheds. Partners were EWEB, SUB, Lane County Waste Mgmt, OSU Extension Service, DEQ, McKenzie Fire & Rescue, Eugene Fire & Hazmat Team. Funding came from a governor's grant, a DEQ 319 fund grant, and partner contributions. Total funding was \$117K. It was a four month project including outreach and collection. Growers were asked to fill out surveys on what they had and what they would need help disposing. They encountered lots of unlabeled unknowns. There were lots of containers that had been inherited, and had been lying around for years. They conducted 13 farm visits to pack and remove materials for transport. Also loaded out empty drums – over 100. Five collection events were held in late October at the Glenwood HHW facility. They received larger quantities than told about in surveys. 60-70% were very old containers. Results: over 50 farmers participated. 14,000lbs pesticides were collected as well as 5,500 lbs fertilizers, 800 gal waste oil, 200 gal caustics and acids, and 1,000 gal other chemicals. Some were particularly nasty chemicals including: DDT, Paraquat, Lindane, Chlordane, and Dieldrin. What's next... Funds remaining in grant to do a second collection event which is planned for Jan 07. It will increase the scope to Coburg and the Junction City area. They hope to bring in additional growers in the watersheds that didn't originally trust the event. Karl discussed issues of getting participation... Only about 10% of growers participated. Why? Perhaps too busy, message didn't reach, distrust, etc.

## VII. Wildish Measure 37 claim and Acquisition of Property

Bill Montgomery, from Friends of Buford Park, gave a presentation about the Measure 37 claim made by Wildish and the potential for acquisition of the property. Bill gave some history about the property: back in early 90's there was an attempt by Wildish to build a golf course/resort in 1994, but this attempt failed because they weren't able to get a change in the UGB. The Wildish property was originally envisioned to be part of the recreation area when it was first established during the Tom McCall days. It has been an ongoing issue for 3 decades. Friends of Buford park offered \$5M once before and was declined. There are significant other public lands surrounding the Wildish property (state lands, City of Springfield property). The property would fill the area between the Middle Fork & Coast Fork Rivers as a public area. There is a lot of environmental potential for the property: restoring gravel ponds, side channel restoration, riparian forest preservation and enhancement. There is also great recreation potential by

connecting to other public lands and creating a connection to Springfield. Much of the property lies in the floodway/floodplain. Measure 37 has given Wildish a “bargaining chip” to get a fair price for the property. Part has been logged, but done selectively in uplands. The property is 1400 acres lying along the Middle Fork. Wildish may want to retain 200 acres nearest to Jasper. Friends of Buford Park will give a presentation tomorrow at 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church 7:30-8:30 with a silent auction beforehand at 6:30. The council was encouraged to attend. Bill gave a sneak preview of the presentation including a computer 3D aerial flyover. FOBP seeks to work with Lane County to obtain the property. The key is lining up funding and meeting requirements attached to funding. Bonneville power and ODFW are very interested – also OWEB. Very specific federal and state appraisal processes must be met to obtain funding. USACE is also interested from a floodplain restoration standpoint as well as Oregon State Parks. These agencies could be major sources of funding. Wildish has placed a \$26M pricetag on the property. The most recent appraisal was \$31M. Bill feels there is public support to come up with the remainder. Chris Orsinger is working with Lane County to try to ensure that the process happens correctly to obtain funding. Bill urged council members to contact County Commissioners to let them know they think it is important and to write letters to the editor of RG. Public support will be key. FBOF is not trying to raise money to purchase – only funding to support Chris in making connections with other sources of funding. The Measure 37 ruling will be a couple weeks from now – not likely for LC to pay out on claim. LC would most likely waive development restrictions. However, this still probably wouldn’t allow Wildish to build 400 homes because there are other potential roadblocks to development on the property. FOBP feels that the time is opportune to negotiate for the property. Council members in attendance commented that support from the public is essential, that this is an essential, amazing opportunity that will help fight the “nature deficit” of urban children. It could also be a gift to future generations.

#### VIII. Closing Public Comments.

Announcements – no GC meeting through holidays

Next SC meeting Nov 29<sup>th</sup>

Dec 7<sup>th</sup> – Jim’s Creek Stewardship Collaborative Group Meeting

Dec 18<sup>th</sup> – tentative potluck

Meeting adjourned at 8:28

Minute taker: Dan Hurley