

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
Steering Committee Meeting

28 Sept 2005
Lowell, OR
6:30 PM

Present: Pat Burns, Mike Beitz, Barbara Hazen, Diana Bus, Peggy Marcus, Chuck Davis, Eve Montanaro, Chip Weber

I. Introductions

II. Approval of the Agenda
Agenda approved as written.

III. Approval of the Minutes of 22 Jun 2005 Steering Committee Meeting.
Minutes approved as written.

IV. Steering Committee Members Concerns and Announcements

Ms Bus: There is an article in the newsletter about the BLM revising its Resource Management Plans. They are currently doing the Western Oregon analysis. Alternatives being considered are dropping the Reserve status of some land. Contact the Eugene or Portland office if you have questions. They are also considering which lands to open for recreational vehicles, etc. Interested people should submit their names and addresses.

Ms Hazen: Lane County is reviewing some of its zoning such as setbacks in the riparian areas. They have already had several public meetings. She will try to get the dates of other public presentations regarding this.

Mr Davis: There was a bloom of blue green algae on Dexter Lake this summer. The algae died at the time they were set to study it; they were hoping to measure the toxin release when it died. The City of Lowell did do some counting. There was not enough algae present to close the beaches. Blue green algae sometimes produces toxins and sometimes it doesn't. The DEQ is now set up to do toxin screens in 2 days.

Mr Weber: The Forest Service is doing a joint management plan with the Army Corps on Hills Creek; specifically the shoreline and the uplands surrounding the creek. They will establish what they want to do and who has the authority to do it. The results might be a topic for our Oakridge meeting in the spring.

V. Coordinator Update – Ms Montanaro
Lost Creek Confluence Project

Phase I: Phase I is wrapping up. The trees look good. The mowing has been done for the season. In October the plan is to take the pump out, clean the lines and close up for the winter. We are incorporating the 3 acre ODFW planting site into the project. Joe and ODFW staff ran the

irrigation lines out to the trees there this week. MFWWC contributed \$170 to the project; ODFW contributed \$500. Joe adjusted the pump to get the water out there; there was enough pressure to do it. Joe will spend about 30 more hours on the project; some money will go back to OWEB.

Phase II: The final draft has been sent out to Steering Committee members. The window for comments ends Monday, Oct 3. The grant application has to be developed by the end of October. The Technical Assistance grant for planning this project ends on Sept 30. There is 1 more set of deliverables – the final draft and the final presentation. Ms Montanaro will invoice for them.

Fish Passage Prioritization Project: The last deliverable is due Oct 31. There are 3 more sets of deliverables, which the contractor is working on concurrently. The project should come in on time. The contractor sent it out to the review team last week. Feedback has been slow to come in. Mr Weber proposed a joint meeting of the two sponsoring watershed councils for the presentation. Ms Bus mentioned that now is the time to present grant proposals to the BLM for RAC funding of culverts. She suggested that we could ask OWEB for money for the design and BLM for funding of the implementation of a culvert repair or replacement. Ms Bus will review the BLM based culverts. Mr Weber asked Ms Montanaro to call Nikki Swanson at the Forest Service to see what their plans are regarding their culverts.

October Work Plan

- The number 1 priority is to write the Phase II grant proposal for OWEB funding.
- Second are the 4 small grant proposals she is working on with Dave Bontrager.
- Third is a pre proposal to the Governor's Fund for an educational outreach project. The first year of the fund is focused on the Willamette. Proposals are due by Oct 14. Matt Rea is proposing a landowner outreach for restoration of the flood plain. Matt will be putting together the pre-proposal. Pam from the Coast Fork Watershed Council and Ms Montanaro will work on the pre proposal with Mr. Rea. Pam will take the lead on it. Ms Montanaro would act as a co-facilitator and get some compensation for doing so. The Steering Committee voted to support this project.

VI. Budget Update – Ms Montanaro

- Coordinator compensation: Adding \$4000 from Phase 1 and \$168 from BLM LFC to monies for coordinator compensation were approved.
- Phase II Technical Assistance grant: Some money will be returned to OWEB.
- Little Fall Creek Outreach grant- the financial report is not in yet. The meeting went well. 4-5 people are interested in small grants. The attendance was good. Ms Montanaro is getting phone calls from landowners who didn't attend the meeting as well. She will ask Mr. Bontrager to go out with her on the follow-ups. People are getting the word from newsletters and neighbors.
- Mr. Davis has proposed \$2000 for the MFWWC in the SUB budget. It would support community outreach.
- Ms Bus hopes that the BLM will have \$2500 of support this year for MFWWC also.
- Ms Montanaro said that there is a need for a good computer system. Mr Weber said that the Forest Service has surplus computers. He asked Ms Montanaro to let him know what she needed. Check GSA online for Forest Service sales.

VII. Jim's Creek – Mr Weber

Mr Weber proposed that the MFWWC be the convener of the stewardship advisory group for the contracting they would do and for other restoration activities. The MFWWC would facilitate the meetings, etc which would allow the Forest Service to move into the role of a participant as opposed to a convener. The first year will be spent finding out how far this would go. The Forest Service project workers think it would be a good idea. Mr Weber would craft an agreement as to the first year. The tasks would consist mostly of communication, organizing a field trip, facilitating meetings and getting a collaborative group together. The advantages for the MFWWC are that we would be working on some of our Work Plan items, there would be publicity for the watershed council and there would be additional funding for Ms Montanaro. It would probably take 10% of her time in the first year. Mr Weber asked the Steering Committee to vote to support this involvement. The Steering Committee approved.

VIII. Council Business – Ms Montanaro

The Steering Committee meetings for November and December will be combined into one on Dec 13 due to the upcoming holidays. The December General Council meeting will be on the 14th in Lowell. The November meeting will be in Oakridge.

IX. Strengthening Council Effectiveness – All

- Watershed Council Statewide Gathering Nov 3 and 4 in Bend. The Steering Committee voted to support paying the registration fees for up to 2 people plus Ms Montanaro, which would be \$225. Anyone interested in attending should contact Ms Montanaro.
- Consider forming standing subcommittees; e.g. a contract review team to approve contract deliverables from contractors.
- Environmental Seat on the Steering Committee. So far no one has applied for the seat. Ms Montanaro asked Neil Bjorklund who suggested 2 people who might be interested. The committee agreed to ask Mr Davis to contact these individuals.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 PM.

Barbara Hazen
Recorder