

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council Steering Committee Meeting

**December 13, 2006 6:30 PM
Lowell, Oregon**

Present: Chuck Davis, Dan Hurley, Barbara Hazen, Mike Beitz, Diana Bus, Eve Montanaro, Chip Weber, Fred Sperry, Stephanie Schroeder

I. Introductions

II. Approval of the Agenda
Agenda approved as written.

III. Approval of the Minutes of 26 Oct 2005 Steering Committee Meeting.
Minutes approved as written.

IV. Steering Committee Members Concerns and Announcements

* Mr Weber reported that the Forest Service will be able to pay for the MFWWC office utilities. He hopes that with the money saved on utilities Ms Montanaro will be able to buy the new computer she needs. He also reported that the Forest Service will be sending Ms Montanaro to collaborative stewardship training as a part of the Jim's Creek project.

* Mr Beitz said that there is limited liability insurance coverage for the watershed council if we are a non-profit. The Steering Committee discussed the pros and cons of obtaining non-profit status. It was mentioned that back issues of the Long Tom Watershed Council newsletter contain this debate also. Mr Beitz volunteered to look into the cost and feasibility of becoming a non-profit. Ms Hazen suggested that he contact David Adkin of Nonprofit Support Services for an estimate. Suggestions were made that he also contact the McKenzie and Siuslaw Watershed Councils.

V. Coordinator Update - Ms Montanaro

* Status of council grants:

* The Technical Support Grant for planning Phase 2 of the Lost Creek Confluence project finishes this week.

* The Lost Creek Confluence project, Phase 1 grant finished this week. The final report is due in 60 days.

* The Fish Passage grant finished on Dec 5. The final report is due in 60 days. The concerns mentioned in previous meetings have been dealt with.

* We have 4 small grants ongoing.

* In the future Ms Montanaro said that we should put projects out to bid and also get an example of people's work prior to awarding the grant. We need to do more work on the front end of a project. We also need to establish consequences for not meeting deliverables on time. The next contract we will have our contract team written into the contract. The technical advisory team should not have to decide on accepting the whole project; the contract team should do this.

* EBSP trail damage concern. After talking to OWEB, Ms Montanaro reported that she had taken \$800 of the money remaining in the Phase I grant and bought gravel to repair and maintain the trails in question at Elijah Bristow State Park. Around \$3000 did go back to OWEB. The consensus was that we do have to tend our community relationships

and understand that things that we do may have side effects.

* Open positions: Ms Bus will be replaced in her at-large position by Nancy Sawtelle who is also from the BLM. Ms Hazen's term is coming to an end; she will run again. The environmental position is still open. Doug Quirk, Carolyn Cox and Stephanie Schroeder are interested in it.

VI. Limiting Factors Database - Ms Montanaro

The Limiting Factors Database is a companion to the Willamette Priorities Project. While it is due now, we can still adjust it until 2007. It gives more back-up for the priorities list. Mr Weber would like his staff to help Ms Montanaro fill this out. Mr Sperry suggested that we work in the lower part of the watershed because it is more impacted. Mr Weber would like to look at the whole watershed from top to bottom. The Steering Committee agreed to submit the work that Ms Montanaro had done.

VII. Network of Oregon Watershed Councils - Mr Beitz, Ms Montanaro

The Network was established by the watershed councils to build capacity, improve relationships with each other and educate the public. John Moriarty is the coordinator at this time. The Network now needs new funding. They have to create a structure in order to seek new funding. They envisioned a 3-tier structure. There would be an Assembly of Councils that the coordinators and members of each of the 91 watershed councils would attend. There would be a 16 member Board of Council Representatives that would act like a Steering Committee and a 4 to 6 member Executive Board that would make the business decisions. The question was asked if this network will make us more effective on the ground. So far they have lobbied for watershed councils in Salem and have a website outreach. Why have such a large network? They are trying to generate the council needs from the ground up as opposed to from administrators down. There was concern about creating a new layer of bureaucracy. The Steering Committee supports communication between watershed councils and networking but with an efficiency that this structure does not present. The Network does compete with watershed councils for limited resources.

Decision: The motion was made and seconded not to support the Network at this time in the form it is presented in. The motion passed with one dissenting vote. The Steering Committee did voice support for the concept of communication between watershed councils through an entity which represents them and to facilitates communication between them.

VIII. Focus for this Biennium

This topic was tabled until the next meeting. It will be among the first discussed then.

IX. Next Meeting: 25 Jan 2006.

Meeting adjourned: 8:40 PM.

Barbara Hazen, Recorder