

News & Notes

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Hello members of the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council -

Happy New Year! We wish you a prosperous and happy new year. The Holiday Open House in December was a perfect ending to 2005, and we hope that you will join us for our January meeting to welcome in the new year.

Our first meeting of the year will ask you to affirm three new Steering Committee members, to learn about our planned activities for the year, and to participate in an open forum.

The MFWWC has three open Steering Committee positions and we are happy to announce that three very talented individuals have expressed their interest in joining our team. There are two "at-large" seats and one designated seat for an Environmental Representative open on the Steering Committee. Please see the next page for the "biographies" of the three Council members who have volunteered to serve on the Committee. You will also have an opportunity to meet and hear from these members at the meeting.

After conducting our Council business, we will have a presentation on the planned Council activities for 2006. The presentation will include an overview of the MFWWC's mission, our top priorities for improving watershed conditions, the Action Plan, the finalized work plan for 2006-2008 (derived from the Action Plan), and projects you can expect to hear about and get involved in over the year. Finally, we will end the evening with an "Open Forum".

General Council Meeting Agenda

- 6:30 Welcome & Introductions
- 6:33 Review and Approve Meeting Agenda
- 6:35 Approve November Council Meeting Minutes
- 6:38 Call for Public Comments and Announcements
- 6:48 Coordinator's Report
- 6:53 Steering Committee Report
- 6:58 *Affirm Steering Committee Positions*
- 7:20 Break
- 7:35 *A View of Council Activities planned for 2006*
- 8:05 *Open Forum*
- 8:25 Closing Public Comments
- 8:30 Adjourn

January General Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 18

Oregon Department of Forestry Office, Springfield
(3150 East Main Street)

6:30 - 8:30 pm

In an effort to include diverse perspectives, interests, and ideas in all that the MFWWC accomplishes, we need to hear from you. Your input is invaluable, so please come and participate in an "Open Forum" Wednesday evening. This is an opportunity to tell us what you would like to know more about, or introduce your organization to the Council.



Join us Wednesday, January 18th!

Prospective Steering Committee Member "Biographies"

The MFWWC currently has three open Steering Committee positions; two "at large" seats and one designated seat for an Environmental Representative. As we welcome Council members into these positions, we'd like to thank those who have served on the Committee. **Diana Bus**, served a two-year term, and brought a tremendous amount of energy, knowledge and leadership to the Council. Diana's expertise in acquiring funds and managing personnel was an invaluable resource to the MFWWC. She assisted in the acquisition of funds for council support, outreach to landowners, and the Fish Passage Database project. We will miss Diana on the Committee! **Barb Hazen** has been with the MFWWC from its inception. She has completed her third 2-year term with the Steering Committee and is ready to sign up for another! Barb's contributions to the MFWWC have strengthened Council capacity and provided continuity. Barb served as the Chairperson of the Committee in 2001 and 2005, and has been a committed minute taker at both the General Council and Steering Committee meetings (even when she had a broken wrist!!). We thank you for your commitment to the Council, Barb, and we welcome you aboard for another term!

In addition to Barb Hazen, two Council members have stepped forward to serve on the Steering Committee for 2006 - 2008. We will "affirm" these members at Wednesday's meeting. As described in the Council charter, you are eligible to participate in the affirmation if you have attended one of the previous three General Council or Steering Committee meetings. The Council coordinator will have a list of all eligible "voters" available at the meeting. Get acquainted with the prospective Steering Committee members: Nancy and Barb will fill the two "at large" positions and Stephanie will fill the designated seat for Environmental Representative.

Nancy Swatelle: Nancy has worked in natural resources management for 26 years. She is currently working with the Eugene District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as the Senior Staff Botanist/Plant Ecologist, where she has been since 1989. Prior to that she worked for the Salem BLM and the U.S. Forest Range and Experiment Station in Corvallis, Oregon. Most of her work has focused on rare plant, vegetation, and ecological issues. Nancy helps to coordinate the Sensitive Plant Program, Native Plant Materials Program and the Special Areas Program for the Eugene District. She has served on board positions for both the Native Plant Society of Oregon and nationally for the Natural Areas Association. Nancy is very interested in local issues and has just moved to Fall Creek. "Now that I am living in Fall Creek, it is a great opportunity to get involved with the MFWWC". Nancy has a particular interest in restoration and feels that partnerships and collaboration are the best way to see successful, long-term results.

Barb Hazen: Barb Hazen has served three previous terms on the Steering Committee. She has been heavily involved with the Council since the Councils' early formation days. She has been the Councils' stalwart "recorder" for the past six years, compiling nearly all of the meeting minutes during that time. She is a member of the Sierra Club, and is a long-time avid hiker who loves the trails that are found in the Middle Fork Willamette watershed.

Stephanie Schroeder: Stephanie has worked as a field biologist in the Willamette Valley for many years, and she moved to Eugene in December 2001. She is now working with Walama Restoration Project (WRP) as program development lead, grant writer, administrative lead, and Treasurer of the Board of Directors. WRP is a community organized non profit dedicated to mending landscapes and educating the public about native ecosystems from the Southern Willamette Basin to the High Central Cascade Mountains. "As a staff member of WRP, I have been able to participate in multiple grant-funded riparian restoration projects with landowners along Lost Creek in Dexter. There I have gained a deeper sense of MFWWC's mission, and support the idea of encouraging multiple and diverse stakeholders to collaborate in meaningful stewardship projects throughout the watershed". Stephanie has a strong passion for studying, honoring, and enjoying the natural processes of native ecosystems as well as the role they have in contributing successional to the health of adjacent human-altered and/or imperiled areas within our bioregion. "As a steering committee member, I would seek to offer my perspective and expertise on issues concerning the future and immediate health of the diverse ecosystems within the Mid Fork watershed". When she is not weed wrenching, scrubbing greenhouse plastic, making overheads for school workshops, or gazing upon her chaotic flock of barnyard birds, she is known to be walking aimlessly through pockets of habitats with binoculars in hand.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Fish Trap Monitoring at Delta Ponds:** The Eugene Stream Team is seeking volunteers to monitor fish traps in the Delta Ponds. Information from the data gathered will be used to assess the success of a project that connects the Willamette River to Delta Ponds for the benefit of spring Chinook salmon, migratory song birds, and western pond turtles. Volunteers will be trained in the operation of the traps and the identification of fish at workshops (held partially on site) led by Erik Moberly of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. No prior background with fish identification is required. Please contact Lorna Baldwin at 682-4850 or lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us for more information.
- ❖ **Winter Class on Waterbirds:** Dave Bontrager, an ornithologist and Lost Creek landowner, is offering another one of his popular classes on birds. An introduction to the natural history of birds associated with streams, lakes, marshes, estuaries, and the coastline will be offered this winter. Part One is three 2 1/2 hr. classroom meetings that will focus on migration, habitat distribution, food habits, behavior, and breeding biology. Part Two is the identification of these birds through four field trips to sites in the greater Eugene area plus a day trip to the coast. Cost for both part one and two together is \$65.00. Contact Dave Bontrager at 937-3970) or (dbontra243@aol.com) for more information.
- ❖ **Upper Willamette CWMA Meeting:** Tuesday, January 17, from 10:00 to 1:00 pm at the East Lane and Soil Water Conservation District Office (780 Bailey Hill Rd., Suite 5, Eugene). The CWMA, a weed management association, will have their quarterly meeting on the 17th. An annual report of the work that has been accomplished in the past year will be presented, as well as, and update from Glenn Miller of ODA on the newest noxious weeds. Contact CWMA Coordinator, Vern Holm, at (971) 241-2173 or vholm@onlinemac.com for more information.

Volunteer Opportunity....

The Mfwwc just completed a GIS-based study of fish passage barriers in the watershed. We will now field verify that information by heading out into the watershed to conduct surveys. Board member, Adam Ulrey, and ODFW staff will work to establish a protocol for surveying. Join our team for this exciting project!!! Call us now.

Questions or comments? Contact the MFWWC at 937-9800 or mfwwc@efn.org



Mark Your Calendars...

January 17: Education and Outreach Committee meeting (3:00 pm, Council office, Lowell)

January 18: General Council meeting (6:30 - 8:30 pm, ODF Office, Springfield)

January 25: Steering Committee meeting (6:30 - 8:30 pm, Council office, Lowell)

February 15: General Council meeting (6:30 - 8:30 pm, OHS, Oakridge), Topic: Bull Trout in the Upper Watershed.

February 22: Steering Committee meeting (6:30 - 8:30 pm, Council office, Lowell)

March: MFWWC self and staff evaluations.

April 1st: English Ivy Weed Removal work party (9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Springfield Wellfield).