

**Marys River Watershed Council
Board Meeting
April 14, 2009
6:30 - 8:30 PM
Philomath City Hall**

Meeting began at 6:38 PM.

Introductions and Announcements

Board Members present: Jennifer Beathe; Ken Crouse, May Dasch, Bud Laurent, Curt Seeliger, Mark Taratoot, Thom Whittier.

Contractors present: Sandra Coveny, Karen Fleck Harding

Guests present: Janine Salwasser, Jeff Schininsky and Gary Tarleton

Thom explained why the scheduled presentation from Dan O'Brien, Greenberry Irrigation District (GID) was postponed. The Gazette Times article suggested that Dan was going to be speaking at our meeting about Representative Peter Defazio's earmarks, but he was not.

Bud asked what the plan is for hearing from Dan. We are unsure at this point. It is possible that we could work with the GID in the future to facilitate public discussion. Karen said that what initially motivated Dan's visit with the Board is fish passage and turtle habitat work in the Muddy Creek Sub-basin. It wasn't the intent of Dan's presentation to discuss infrastructure issues.

Announcement: Thom announced the event Under One Sky, Along One Stream, Friday, April 17, 6:30-10:00 p.m., La Sells Stewart Center, OSU, Corvallis. The event includes music, previews of documentaries featuring local watersheds, and a presentation by Peace Corps volunteers and more. Suggested \$5-10 donation.

Reports

Council Coordinator - written report.

Education and Outreach –written report. Curt asked if the Rock Creek Tour is open to the public. Yes. Curt asked about the funding for Woods Creek. Karen said that The Freshwater Trust has offered MRWC \$40,000 for our next phase of restoration in Woods Creek. Oregon Trout Streambank's webtool is in its pilot stages and Oregon Trout (now Freshwater Trust) has had a good experience with the MRWC implementing Streambank projects.

Misc. Operations Issues

Larger Office – The MRWC has the opportunity to move into a larger space in the same building. The rent would be \$300/month with more space (200 square feet) and a door. There would be room for two desks so that two people could work there at the same time. Bud asked where exactly the room was. The current rent of the space is \$150/month. Sandra is strongly supportive of continuing to have the council office in the same location. Mark asked about the reduction in funding for council support and Sandra said that money for council support does not go to office space.

Jennifer made a motion to move the office into the new, larger space for \$300/month. Curt seconded. Sandra asked when the board wanted the move to start. Whenever Sandra thinks the time is right.-May 1st. Mark asked about a contract and Sandra said that the council could move out with 30 days notice. All board members voted to approve the motion.

Joint Ways & Means Committee hearing(s)

This discussion is to determine the MRWC participation (if any) in the hearings. Sandra suggests board members testify because they carry more weight than contractors/staff. Thom volunteered to go to the hearing to make a statement should the council desire him to do so. Thom suggested telling the committee the benefit of both financial value/efficiency and ecological value of the council's work. Bud suggested presenting the percentage of funds that goes back into the local economy. He thinks the presentation shouldn't be focused on hours. Curt suggested "employee days". Janine said to be sure to include volunteer hours.

Meyer Memorial Trust & BEF

Sandra met with the new Willamette program director for BEF, Kendra Smith. She wanted more understanding as to why the MRWC wasn't included in the round one for the model watershed grant. Kendra suggested that the "middle Willamette chunk" is missing—that included the Marys and the Luckiamute. She has proposed that the Marys and the Luckiamute collaborate and work together to be the recipient of a grant. One of the concerns that Sandra expressed is that the boards of the two councils don't meet or know each other. Sandra works with Nicole, the Luckiamute WSC coordinator, on a regular basis. But the relationship that doesn't exist is that the boards don't currently work together. Sandra thinks that there is a possibility that our council would be considered for funding from the BEF. She said that this funding could possibly come in the next 8 months and that the program is evolving as it grows. Bud said that he spoke with Kendra's boss, Todd, and that he expressed strong support for the MRWC. Bud will arrange for a meeting with Todd, hopefully in the next few weeks.

Recent education, outreach and project development and discussion of our direction for 2009-10

Thom explained that Karen has requested more feedback and guidance for her work. She started with the action plan that included a restoration screening map that she says has been the most useful tool to her for giving guidance for strategic restoration efforts. High priority areas include Oak Creek, Woods Creek and Beaver Creek. There are ten

different factors used in prioritizing restoration potential. One reason those locations are priority is because of cold water in those streams

One of the major focus areas has been the Cardwell Hill area. (based on support of willing landowners and critical habitat for listed species for uplands). Participants have worked closely with USFWS. USFWS has been working on a cooperative agreement with MRWC to allow them to fund MRWC for work in the watershed. Currently 9 landowners are working on developing habitat plans funded by OWEB.

At Woods Creek, fish passage was a first opportunity (first pass) to work on habitat restoration. Next, was working with landowners on Japanese Knotweed control. These efforts lead to Oregon Trout funding a project last year: alcove development, log placement and riparian planting.

Karen did the outreach for the rapid bio-assessment that Steve Trask did. There was an increased understanding and participation among neighbors in the restoration work that is going on.

Karen reported that the council just received more funding from Oregon Trout/The Freshwater Trust for the next phase of work in Woods Creek.

Curt asked why the “large buy-in” from the landowners. Karen said that the group of people was diverse, but the landowners felt involved and part of the process. Sandra commented on the impact of persistence and personality and how the investment of time and energy can pay off. Thom commented that the work is strategic and that it takes planning and building on what has been done.

Karen said that it is about building community and ecology.

Thom said that Karen wants to continue with the community outreach in these specific sub-watersheds, but that other parts to her job consist of school education, and general community outreach. OWEB will fund technical assistance for landowner outreach, but that process hasn’t been tested yet.

For Beaver Creek, funding has just been received from OWEB for landowner outreach to do a rapid bio assessment and identification of restoration prescriptions for the limitations that are found. It would also be important to continue that outreach to work on those restoration projects.

Next areas to focus on: Greasy Creek sub-basin; building on the work at Rock Creek, Blair Creek and Gellatly Creek. Karen has suggested to Marys Peak Stewardship Group that they invest in outreach in the Greasy Creek subbasin and they were very receptive.

Education component-Karen has been trying to connect students to the restoration efforts in the sub-basin (examples are Newton Creek, Blair Creek and Philomath Elementary wetlands). Newton Creek Wetlands Stewardship Field Day is now 6 days to serve students of Philomath and Corvallis Middle Schools.

Karen has also been working on site with the Philomath Elementary School and says that the teachers have been doing a great job developing the curriculum and using their wetland site.

Lincoln School in Corvallis has “adopted” the Blair Creek project and has worked with

the project from planning to implementation and monitoring.

Curt asked about the effect working with the school has in relation to developing the trust with landowners. Karen said that the owner at Newton Creek is committed to education and she has been working with him for developing a longer term plan. School children have been involved at Blair Creek, Woods Creek (fish trapping), and there are definitely connections that happen with parents and landowners.

Curt commented that the amount of work is more than one person can do at less than full time.

Bud said that another way of looking at this work is chronological. Past, present and future. Somewhere there is a percentage to put on that based on how it is related.

Curt added that the trust-building is the gold in the bank. He would like to see that untouched in the future. Maybe the education and outreach committee can pick up the slack in scheduling.

Education & Outreach Committee Report: recommendation for modified workplan in response to 50% OWEB funding

Committee comments are as follows:

Spring Stewardship Field Day- the cost was \$5000 and is expected to increase. The committee proposed that The Freshwater Trout be asked to pay for that expense.

We need to make sure we still have landowner outreach. We have to have the capacity to respond to landowner contacts.

Council outreach meetings-they can be done by someone else- they don't need to be done by Karen.

Keep supporting high school students in teaching children in younger grades at Newton Creek wetlands.

We don't get paid to do maintenance or monitoring and the committee was challenged on how to carve that out of outreach as well.

How can the council get the landowners to maintain interest in their projects?

Sandra said that one of the Meyer Memorial Trust's main goals is to provide monitoring money.

Mark expressed concern that the Meyer opportunities might have strings attached that would give us our priorities rather than having us set our own priorities.

Curt stated that the reason we are discussing this is that the funding has gone down.

There are various sources of funding. Since we don't have numeric values on the efforts, how do we throttle back on the efforts?

Sandra said that OWEB requires us to tell them what we are going to do with the money (50%).

Technical Assistance proposal is due on April 20th and it is suggested that the MRWC apply for Technical Assistance funds for landowner recruitment/outreach.

Karen enjoys working with the education of school kids but believes that she has the most to contribute to the landowner outreach portion.

OWEB Proposals

Karen wants to resubmit the OWEB proposal for Blair Creek Fish Passage. The one for riparian planting on Tum Tum River will be submitted also. There is support to submit these proposals, and the landowner recruitment proposal mentioned above, on April 20.

Recruitment for new Council Coordinator

Thom will have a separate email address for questions related to the coordinator advertisement. Comments: we will generate a list of places to submit the posting and get it out as soon as possible. The target closing date for applications: May 15th

Financial Report and resolution on bank account signatories

Curt made a motion to accept the resolution that Bud wrote. Mark seconded the motion. The board voted with all in favor to adopt the resolution that designates official signatories for financial matters.

Bud's treasurer's report was sent out electronically prior to the meeting and he commented that the council has a "good healthy balance". The council is up to date with accounts payable with the exception of a bill from River Design Group and they are not going to get paid until the MRWC gets reimbursed for the work they've done. Sandra met with the City of Corvallis and straightened everything out. They needed an explanation.

Sandra reported that ODFW processed the check.

Jennifer moved to accept the Treasurers report; May seconded the motion and the board voted to accept the report with all in favor.

Planning for next membership-public meeting(s)

The next membership meeting is in June and the MRWC is coming up on Board member election. Board members should help recruit candidates.

Bud commented that there is no specific date for elections and suggested that the council not to do officer elections at the annual membership meeting.

Thom suggested an annual meeting in June where we elect board members and have the annual membership meetings on other dates.

What would the outreach session be besides the Rock Creek tour?

John Selker, OSU

Steve Trask, Biosurveys

Student from Philomath on Senior Project on Amphibians

It is possible to have the membership meeting separate from the board meeting because the board has a full agenda.

Sandra has been working diligently with Ann and they are on track to finish the updating that they have been working on by the end of May.

| Meeting adjourned at 8:45

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