

Marys River Watershed Council
Board Meeting
February 10, 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, Wayne Phillips, Thom Whittier.

Contractors present: Sandra Coveny, Karen Fleck Harding

Guests present: Jana Seeliger, Joy Gipson, Jim Weldon, Meleah Ashford, Ron Yechout, Wayne Giesy, Rana. Foster, Jim Fairchild

Bud asked that extra copies of the agenda be brought to the meeting for guests.

Reports

Secretary

Approved meeting notes from January 13th meeting.

Treasurer

The board had previously requested a report that shows more detail about monthly bills. Bud presented reports for reconciliation detail, accounts payable and accounts receivable. He reported that the bookkeeping department is organized now so that it is able to produce any QuickBooks report. Bud passed out a three page Treasurer's report. In it, he discussed financial protocols for MRWC, document management, the status of the Haswell gift, access to MRWC account and fiscal decision-making, and a resolution that he would like the board to consider.

Brief discussion about the Haswell gift. Bud suggested a CD for 80% of the funds and a Money Market Account for the remaining 20%. Sandra explained that we have a cushion of about \$6,000 for bills. Mark reminded the board that he made a suggestion at the January meeting to split the money in half and put it in revolving 6 month CDs. Karen expressed concern about the intent of the Haswell gift and wants to make sure that it is spent on its intended purpose.

The board agreed that we'd postpone the rest of the discussion until the executive session.

Council Coordinator

No additions to written report. Sandra mostly worked on grants and finished several final grant reports. MRWC is receiving final payment on most of the projects.

Education and Outreach

No additions to the written report. Bud asked about the budget attached to the scope of work for the Institute for Applied Ecology. Karen clarified that one of the eleven sites is solely “riparian” and that the riparian work is not split out by site. She added that the Cantrell property has already finished the oak restoration through another contract.

Chair

Thom helped edit and review the council support grant proposal for the next biennium. He joined Karen, Sandra, May and Mark at a meeting with Meyer Memorial Trust (MMT) and Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to talk about their consideration of MRWC for the grant.

Bud suggested keeping track of volunteer hours and the board agreed that board members would submit their monthly hours at board meetings.

Special Reports

OWEB Council Support proposal (Sandra) The MRWC will know by spring if it receives an OWEB support grant. Funding begins in June if MRWC is successful. Sandra said that there is a tiered approach in the way that OWEB distributes funding. Many (councils?) are waiting for the governor’s budget. Bud called the Oregon Network of Watershed Councils to ask what board members could do to give support to the legislature about the importance of OWEB support. Sandra will try to find out a more specific schedule for the OWEB program funding.

Karen reported that the Oregon Trout Streambank RFP will go out this month. We have four grants submitted to OWEB, and it might be a good idea to submit a couple of them to Oregon Trout if it looks like we are not going to get the ones from OWEB. Karen said that there is much competition and the applications to OWEB, though recommended for funding, might not be rated strong enough to receive funding.

Reinstatement of Blair Creek Culvert Grant (Karen and Sandra)

The grant has been approved to extend the project through 2009 because the culvert under the highway had to have modifications due to a city water pipe perpendicular to the inlet. Hopefully this year, it will be determined whether not the culvert will work (to pass fish, not flow) and if does not pass fish, modifications could be made in the summer of 2009. This grant is administered by the Benton SWCD.

Bonneville Environmental Foundation-Meyer Memorial Trust Model

Watershed Program (Sandra) Sandra reported that BEF-MMT is supposedly coming out this week with their decisions for the \$5000 planning grant that would enable the recipient to develop a 10 year plan for restoration and monitoring work. Sandra also

briefed the board on the meeting with two of the reps from MMT/BEF. She said that they asked many questions and reminded the council that their endowment has decreased in size recently and that there have been more requests for their funding.

Planning for next membership/public meeting topic.

The meeting is currently scheduled for March 10th at Philomath City Hall, but there is concern that the location will not accommodate the participants. The focus of the meeting will be further discussion on HCP issues in follow up to the public meetings that have concluded.

Karen would like to have a format where specific issues are identified in advance. A set of issues would be distributed to key people that Karen will identify to participate. She would like the meeting to include a variety of people with different perspectives, time for background on the issue, and to have a facilitated, general discussion to address issues/concerns. Each topic or major issue could end with a suggestion to Benton County. Karen has notes, questions, and issues from other community members. Resource people that know background on the HCP topic have agreed to be there. Jim thought it would be helpful to have a professional facilitator. The MRWC doesn't have money in the budget for a facilitator, so Karen has asked the county if they would consider paying for a facilitator. Is the board comfortable with the county paying for a facilitator? Yes. The county is supportive of the WC's plan to host the meeting. Also related to the HCP, a landowner-only task group/committee is forming to have a series of 2-3 evening meetings to discuss their concerns regarding the HCP.

Bud asked why the County is so supportive of the MRWC having a meeting that is additional to what they are already doing. Karen thinks that the county supports additional opportunities to understand the issues in the HCP.

Letters of Support and Potential Cooperative Agreement(s)

In support of the **Benton Fish Passage Improvement Program** proposal being submitted to the title II committee.

Greenberry Irrigation District

The Greenberry Irrigation District (GID) is requesting a letter of support for the GID Phase 3 Pipeline Project. The pipeline project would allow additional piping of water south to Finley NWR and 1,300 acres under management of GID members, and west to augment Muddy Creek flows. Karen reported that mercury testing showed lower levels of mercury in the Willamette River than in Muddy Creek. Thom thought that if as a result of this project, there would be increase flows in Muddy Creek that would be a good result. Karen said that they are considering installing meters to account for the flow. Several Board members voiced strong support for meters. Bud asked for clarification on where the water is coming from. Sandra explained that all regulatory agencies have approved the project and the handout says that all permits are in place. If all the agencies have signed off are they

Mark clarified that the water taken is not "extra" water; it is for irrigation and is held back at dams for the purpose of being sold to irrigators under contract. It was explained

that the intake will have fish screens and that ODFW has strict requirements for the screens.

Additionally, Dan O'Brien, the manager of GID would like to come to the MRWC and give us an update on what is going on at the GID.

Jennifer moved to have Sandra write a letter of support for the pipeline project.

Curt seconded the motion.

In discussion, Mark asked that the letter comment on our support for metering on the pumps, but Karen thought that it wasn't necessarily important for this particular letter.

Motion passed with one abstention

USFWS Cooperative agreement Cardwell Hill

This particular agreement addresses one of the properties that has blackberry infestations. The project would open up habitat for the Fender's blue butterfly. It would enable hiring the farm crew to do the work in a way that the contractors would not have to be "federal contractors." This agreement is initiated for one particular project, but once in place, USFWS can give a work order to do similar other projects. This makes it easier and quicker to fund projects.

Bud asked if there is overhead involved. Karen said that it can be included and she doesn't know if there is a cap.

Agreement from board is needed to move forward with the agreement.

Curt asked if it establishes an official relationship with USFWS. Karen said yes.

Bud would like information on paper describing our costs/overhead.

Karen said that it would be helpful to have a better idea about what our actual costs are.

Curt moved to have Karen pursue the cooperative agreement.

Bud seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Benton County Prairie Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Karen reported that there was great attendance at the meetings and some people even went to all three meetings. There was interest in the Landowner Committee and Karen was able to pass on names of people that are interested in being more involved to the County.

Bud asked if any of the guests would like to comment on the HCP and then asked Jim when the end of the public comment period is for the HCP. April 2, 2009. Bud asked Jim what he would like to see the council do regarding the HCP. Jim said that since we are sponsoring the next outreach meeting with the topic being the HCP, that the council is looking for input as well. Outside of the public comment period, the council is listed on the stakeholder's advisory committee. Jim suggested that the MRWC representative on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee could weigh in on our position or concerns.

Thom asked about the county timeline after the comment period is over and if they are going to be meeting with the stakeholders after that date. Jim said that they will have one more meeting to revise what they heard in the public comment period. As far as a further window for public comment, the deadline could be April 2nd. Once it is passed by

the County commissioners, there will be another comment period but that will be to US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Bud commented that if the council wants to submit comment it should make certain that the comments that come out of the MRWC outreach meeting be summarized and submitted to the county as comment.

Mark noted that if the council is going to make a comment on the HCP based on the outreach meeting that the comments need to come from members of the council.

Wayne Giesy asked if there is a map of the proposed area that includes the HCP.

Karen said that the county sent a letter to those within the area to notify. Sandra noted that if a person wants information on the HCP, they have to look for it.

Discussion around charter for HCP and whether or not it is being followed.

Back to Mark's point about what will or should come out of the Council's March meeting. Sandra suggested our purpose is to be a forum and opportunity for learning. We should encourage participants to submit their own comments. The board agreed that would be a good approach.

Adjourn public meeting and begin executive session at 8:15 PM