

**Marys River Watershed Council
Board Meeting
July 21, 2009
6:30-8:30 PM
Philomath City Hall**

The meeting began at 6:35 PM

Board Members present: Jennifer Beathe, May Dasch, Curt Seeliger, Thom Whittier, Wayne Phillips, Mark Taratoot.

Contractors present: Xanthippe Augerot, Karen Fleck Harding

Council members present: Jana Seeliger

Announcements

Thom announced a notice of public hearing for possible adoption of revised floodplain regulations and revised Benton County Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2009, 7:00 PM at Benton Plaza Meeting Room.

Karen said that she met with Steve Trask and the County to discuss what would be required for restoration work in the floodplain.

May commented that she attended the Philomath planning commission meeting last night to give testimony on a proposed annexation in Philomath. May wanted the board to know that she represents herself and not the MRWC when commenting about that topic.

August 20th, a picnic sponsored by the Marys Peak Stewardship Group will occur to comment on the proposal by the US Forest Service to do restoration work on the top of Marys Peak.

Xan reported that there is an opportunity to comment on a BLM Density Management harvest plan for Green Peak II, which is in the headwaters of Oliver Creek. Comments are due by August 13, 2009. She will post a brief notice to the listserv.

Thom reported that the OWEB Council Support grant came in and Xan signed it and sent it back.

Chairs report

Thom's main activities in the last month and a half were to hire a new watershed council coordinator and sign a money contract with her.

We received \$7,500 from Oregon DEQ as our portion of a "fine" levied against Allied Waste. The Luckiamute Council also received a mitigation payment.

Outreach and Education Coordinator's Report

Curt asked how often the fish traps at Tum Tum were checked and Karen said every three days. The Beaver Creek rapid bio-assessment was completed today and Karen thinks the main issue in Beaver Creek is high temperatures.

Financial Report

Xan said that we need Bud and Jennifer's signature on a Citizen's Bank corporate authorization resolution. The resolution keeps Thom, Bud, and Karen on the bank list as signatories for all accounts held at Citizen Bank and substitutes Xan for Sandra
Curt made a motion to accept the resolution. May seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Coordinator's Workplan

Xan plans to have office hours from **9AM-12PM Monday-Friday**

Three-Week Priorities (Prior to August 11th Board Meeting)

1. biennial Council work plan and budget, for approval 11 August
 - first year as specific as possible
 - second year in broad terms
 - work with Karen and Anne, share with Bud and Thom prior to next Board meeting

2. plan and implement Annual Membership Meeting & elections
 - speaker proposals – Steve Trask on beavers, Nelson on Pacific lamprey, Starker Forests historical forestry video
 - date proposals – Tuesday evening Sept 22 or 29?
 - location – Philomath Council Chambers?
 - provide dessert?
 - publicity – ensure we have the latest membership list, plus send to newspaper, listserv, website, other outlets

3. grant processing and proposals
 - reports, requests for disbursement, etc.
 - review Willamette Model Watershed Call for Proposals, meet with Todd Reeve
 - meet with Wendy Hudson and Leilani

4. Meet with constituents, stakeholders, Board members
 - one-on-one with each member of the board
 - Reps from other major partner, e.g., BSWCD, County, Corvallis, Philomath, USFWS, other watershed councils
 - Major interests/sectors – Dave Buchanan, Dan O'Brien (Greenberry Irrigation District), Larry Vennell, etc. for agriculture; OSU folks – Stan Gregory, others

Work Plan Year One, preliminary vision

1. 2010-2011 Work plan and budget developed and approved by Board
2. Strategic plan
 - a. clarify vision, streamline and update Action Plan?

- b. how much member involvement to solicit? Use Annual Membership meeting to start a feedback process?
 - c. monitoring strategy --
- 3. Clarify and formalize partnerships, as necessary – USFWS (in process), BSWCD, neighboring watershed councils to address orphan Willamette drainages, others
- 4. Fundraising strategy by December 2009
 - a. grants
 - b. individual donor plan
- 5. Restoration projects – to be detailed in conjunction with Karen
 - a. project development
 - b. Landowner outreach
 - c. project design
 - d. project implementation
 - e. monitoring
- 6. Education
 - a. K-12. Focal project(s) for the next biennium? Evaluation of effectiveness?
 - b. general public – tabling, tours, lectures, etc. Which events lead to the most meaningful contact time for participants? How best to manage work load? Role for volunteers?
- 7. Communications
 - a. volunteer engagement
 - b. membership processes
 - c. committee revitalization
 - d. website and listserv
 - e. newsletter
- 8. Board development

Xan asked if the BCSWCD should be involved in meetings to discuss “orphan” watersheds. Mark said that he thinks they should at least be informed of meetings and invited to attend. Xan thought that the action plan from 2003 reads similar to a strategic plan. Curt commented that the action plan is missing “action”. Xan thinks that how we proceed depends on our time horizon.

The piece of work that is the most difficult to fund is project development. Xan expressed her desire to work on “multi-landowner” projects as much as possible and believes that the multi-landowner approach should be important in our strategic plan. Thom asked if Xan had a chance to look at the workplan Sandra created. Xan said that she has not reviewed it yet. She wants to know what the council would like to see on the workplan and added that she also wants to see parts of the education and outreach components in the workplan.

Thom commented on membership involvement and that it would be important to develop ways to increase council membership involvement.

Karen said that it was her assumption that if we were successful in getting a grant from the MMT/BEF, that the funding would provide for developing a strategic plan. There was some discussion on the development of a strategic plan.

Discussion of plans for Annual Member Meeting

Program ideas include: Pacific Lamprey (what's been learned and what questions are being asked); Starker Forests local history project (not ready yet); Beavers (Steve Trask). The consensus was that a lamprey presentation was our first choice, with a beaver presentation as a back-up. Karen will follow up with potential speakers.

Xan proposes having our annual member meeting on a separate date than our board meeting. Meeting date agreed upon by the board is Tuesday, 9-22.

Jana commented that it would be nice to have the meeting in conjunction with a way to increase membership, but that it is difficult to do that. Jana also said that it would be nice to have door prizes.

Possible locations include Philomath City Hall, the Museum in Philomath, the Corvallis Library, the Philomath Scout Lodge, Corvallis Fire Station 5 on Walnut.

Board Election and potential candidates

Xan commented that she thinks a good number of candidates would be about 11 people. The maximum number of board members in the Bylaws is 15. Curt reported that he has asked five people if they are interested in being on the board and three of those people said no. Curt is stepping down from the board.

Mark suggests that we recruit as many people as possible to the board, up to the maximum.

Xan asked for a deadline for announcing potential board members. September 8th is when we will have the information about slate of candidates ready to send out. Xan asked the board if they will be ready to discuss the slate of candidates by the next board meeting. The general consensus was yes.

Can we offer a stipend to the speaker if they are not supported through their employer to come and give a presentation? Xan said that it would be nice to at least pay for mileage and Curt agreed, as did other board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM