

**Marys River Watershed Council
Board of Directors Meeting
Philomath City Hall
December 13, 2011**

The meeting began at 6:35 PM

Board members present: Meleah Ashford, Jennifer Beathe, May Dasch, Bill Pearcy, Wayne Phillips, Mark Taratoot, Thom Whittier and Dave Zielinski

MRWC Staff present: Xanthippe Augerot, Mary Vedaa, Kathleen Westly
MRWC Contractors present: Karen Fleck Harding

Introductions

Announcements and Guest Comments

ED Augerot passed around the brochure for the Nonprofit Organization Board Training April 28th. Director Taratoot announced the next drug take back event; April 28th 2012. The MRWC open house this Friday, December 16th.

Reports

Secretary

Motion to approve the minutes by Director Zielinski. Motion seconded by Director Campbell. The minutes are approved with two abstentions.

Landowner Coordination

The report is accepted into the record.

Education and Riparian Planting

Director Pearcy asked about the MRWC working with the Kings Valley Charter School. Kathleen explained that there is a grant proposal under consideration now. The report is accepted into the record.

Executive Director

ED Augerot and Director Whittier attended the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils meeting last month. The Network is working on implementing regulations for Measure 76. Director Whittier complimented the staff and contractor about the presentation at the OWEB review team meeting.

The report is accepted into the record

Field Project Season Wrap Up

ED Augerot reported that the MRWC received requests for reimbursement from OWEB and other funders. Karen reported that she visited the Shotpouch bridge today and it was functioning as designed. The fencing at Shotpouch also looks very good. There have been 3.5 miles of fencing installed on Shotpouch Creek.

Strategic Planning Survey

Working to develop the list of people to send the survey electronically or USPS. Planning to send the mail survey out on January 5th. The board discussed potential groups and organizations in the local area. Hoping for a minimum of 80 responses to the survey. ED Augerot said that using SurveyMonkey.com for the survey will work well.

Retreat Planning Update

Mary reported that we are scheduled to meet at the Congregational Church in Corvallis Friday, March 2nd (5PM-8PM) and Saturday, March 3rd (8:30AM -4:30PM)

Annual Campaign Update

Mary and Xan prepared a list of contacts to send campaign solicitations. Director Campbell asked if we were going to send thank-you cards to participating landowners. Yes, we can do that. She also asked if it was possible to start the annual campaign in October so we can prepare custom made cards. The board thought it was a good idea to start sooner next year. The only way to donate to the MRWC is by check at this time but hopefully there will be an opportunity to donate via the internet next year.

Winter Quarterly Meeting

For a January 2012 Quarterly Meeting, suggested topics include;

- An explanation of water/wastewater treatment for the City of Philomath.
- Historical aspect of beavers in this geographic area. A panel of experts to discuss the biology of beavers. Beavers vs. cougars and their increases/decreases in population. “How can I encourage beavers on my property?”
- A presentation that provides an overview of how restoration projects work.
- Include MRWC projects in every quarterly meeting.
- Meeting with watermaster and discussion of gauging station data.

Xan will send out some potential dates for a January meeting. Director Ashford volunteered to help organize and plan for the Quarterly meetings.

Other Topics and Announcements

Director Taratoot spoke with owners of Block 15 Restaurant and Flat Tail Brewery about a joint project to make beer with a “watershed council” related label. Labeling or fundraising on such projects have to go through OLCC. One idea was to work with the different brewers to develop a series of beers.

Discussion about certification programs for Christmas tree growers and MRWC support for such certification programs.

Corvallis Sustainability Coalition asked the MRWC if we would like to be a member. It would give us access to their events. They have quarterly public meetings. Director Campbell volunteered to participate at their meetings and report back to the board.

Director Beathe told the board that she will be on leave for the first three months of 2012 but will be available via email.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.