

# **Marys River Watershed Council**

## **Board Meeting**

### **November 11, 2008**

Meeting started at 6:40 PM

Board Members present: Mark Taratoot, Bud Laurent, May Dasch, Curt Seeliger, Wayne Phillips; Jennifer Beathe

Contractors present: Sandra Coveny and Karen Fleck Harding

Guests present: Gail Oberst, Luckiamute Watershed Council; Kathleen Westly, Muddy Creek Charter School and Meleah Ashford, watershed resident.

## **Introductions and Announcements**

### **Reports:**

**Secretary**-none, except for meeting notes from October meeting.

**Treasurer**-postponed for later in the meeting (see below)

**Council Coordinator**-no additions or comments to written report

**Education and Outreach**- Karen reported that in addition to her written report, Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) has funding available for noxious weed control. Weeds are a direct threat to the prairie habitat and native plants and animals such as Kincaid's lupine and Fender's Blue butterfly. USFWS offered unsecured match for an OSWB proposal for Cardwell Hill. Steve Smith (USFWS) has suggested having a cooperative agreement in place with the USFWS so that grant money from the USFWS can be funneled through the MRWC. The watershed council would be the project manager, or will have funding for hiring. Curt moved to have Karen write a draft cooperative agreement USFW. May seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

### **“Writing the Watershed” Book proposal.**

Gail Oberst attended to ask for a letter of support to OWEB in support of a submitted grant for Gail and an assistant to edit & publish a collection of essays for the Marys River Watershed Council, titled “Writing our Watershed.” The grant proposes the organization of two books, one for the MRWC and one for Soil and Water Conservation District. Gail would be doing the organizing, fundraising and hiring of an intern who is an expert at marketing. The book contents would be written by watershed residents.

The history behind the book is that the Luckiamute Watershed Council wanted to find a way to promote itself and bring a broad range of people into the Council. Gail thought

that it would be a good idea to teach people who work in the watershed how to write their own stories. Gail has been a reporter for many years and wants the books to talk about people's connections to the watershed. The fundraising part of this is to sell the book. Gail said that she would help the council find sponsors to pay for the publication of the book. There were several questions about cost of book, where it is sold, etc.

Jennifer proposed that we digest this information over the next month and get back to Gail.

Karen thinks that while a book to "Write the Watershed" is a great outreach tool, an OWEB grant request might compete with a council-submitted OWEB request for outreach. Sandra didn't think that a letter of support from the MRWC would necessarily be in direct competition with our own grant submission.

Mark thought that it might be hard to find volunteers to work on the book project since we have a limited number of active watershed council volunteers.

Sandra sees a book about our Council as a new outreach piece. The board agreed to get back to Gail within a month so that we can decide if we want to pursue the book idea.

### **OWEB biennial meeting report**

Sandra is going to email report

### **Status of bookkeeping and accounting issues and Treasurer's report.**

Bud is glad to report that our accountant has produced financial reports for the Council. It is a work in progress and there are still items to work out, but Bud and Sandra are confident that it will happen soon.

Sandra said that Ann is working on a conceptual approach to the Council's fiscal management. Bud passed out a Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statements on Accrual Basis and Cash Basis. Wayne asked if it would be possible for Ann to attend a meeting to explain how to read the reports. Bud said that he would ask her. Bud added that he would eventually like to see all projects in a working functional document that explains our finances.

### **Website revision and updating issues**

We will have our website debugged and up and running by the Outreach meeting. We will populate the project updates that Karen has presented. SIDE NOTE: Since the meeting, Mark received notice from Masa that she will be on vacation later in the month and intends to be finished with the project by November 23.

### **Plan for Membership/Public Meetings**

The next Outreach meeting will be on December 9<sup>th</sup>; 7-9 PM; at the Corvallis Library.

Stan Gregory will make a presentation about the Willamette River; the reconnection approach for side channels, and restructuring the role of the tributaries. Karen will talk about some of the projects that the MRWC is doing now. Karen suggests asking Steve Trask to talk about the function of headwater tributaries (fish life in tributaries). The group discussed the best order of presentation. There were additional suggestions for speakers, including Mary Gallagher from the Benton County Museum. Karen has spoken with Mary in the past and suggested that she may have a presentation that would take an entire meeting time, rather than having multiple speakers. Bud suggested that the columnists in the Gazette Times (Morris and Lynn Walker) who have been writing about local history could be asked to make a presentation on watershed history.

### **Additional Board Meetings**

Do we want to have a board meeting in December in addition to our outreach meeting? If we do not, the next board meeting won't be until January.

Council support grant is due in January, Karen wondered if we need a meeting to address the Council work plan. The council support grant was extended to the end of January. Bud suggested a separate meeting that might meet for four or five hours. He thinks that we need to talk about getting a budget formed, the project committee, and the relationship of the council to its consultants. Part of the meeting could include the consultants and part of the meeting could be an executive session. Bud suggests December 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM to 2 PM, and he offered his house for the meeting location. The board agreed that this time could work provided that Thom was available.

Gail added that the Luckiamute WSC recently had a series of retreats that addressed issues that there isn't time for during the regular monthly meetings.

### **Contractor roles: Discuss current roles, other options**

Bud suggests charting out what needs to be done on the council and that we can do this at the meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Next was a discussion on gathering information from other watershed councils regarding how they structure their council "contractors" or "staff."

Curt suggests setting a committee to gathering this information.

Bud thinks that this information needs to be gathered.

Wayne asked if it made sense to have one contractor and one staff.

Karen's job is unpredictable in terms of the funding and the amount of projects she has going on at any one time.

Meleah Ashford offered to do some of the research to find out about how other watershed councils are structured. The group enthusiastically agreed that we would like her help.

Sandra wanted direction for what she should do on the website in terms of working with the consultant hired to produce the site. Mark said that it is close enough to being finished that we should just make sure that it gets done.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM