

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

The meeting began at 6:30 PM.

Board members present: Meleah Ashford, Jennifer Beathe, Holly Campbell, Wayne Phillips, Mark Taratoot, Thom Whittier and Dave Zielinski

MRWC Staff present: Xanthippe Augerot, Mary Vedaa, Kathleen Westly

Introductions

Announcements and Guest Comments

Kids Day for Conservation is Saturday, October 1st.

Reports

Secretary

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

Landowner Outreach

There is no report this month.

Education and Outreach

Kathleen reported that she is working on planning for education projects for the upcoming school year and also working on the knotweed project in addition to other activities as listed in the report.

The report is accepted into the record.

Executive Director

Director Whittier asked whether or not Kathleen's listed 0.5 FTE is her total FTE or just for the knotweed project. It is her total time.

The report is accepted into the record.

Summer Projects Update

Duffy Creek project is finished except for fencing and riparian planting that will take place during the winter. Knotweed project is scheduled to start later this week or next. Wren nectar network is progressing. Karen is working with Steve Smith and others regarding Lupine as a listed species.

Annual Meeting Update

September 18, 2011. Beaver Creek Community Center; 12 PM – 4PM. The council is

providing lasagna. Mary explained what help that is needed for the meeting and board members volunteered to help out. Three stops are planned for the tour.

Board Nominations

There will be one new candidate for election and five current board member for re-election to the board. The election will take place at the annual meeting on 9/18/11.

Strategic Planning Update

ED Augerot reported that they continue to be in the information gathering phase via interviews and listening sessions. Mary has been updating the contact list for the council. There have been two listening sessions and one is scheduled. There will also be individual interviews. The consultant will develop a synthesis document once the listening sessions and interviews are complete. ED Augerot reported that she is pleased with the process so far. Director Taratoot asked if the council plans to follow up with the City of Corvallis City Manager and Public Works Director who are not yet working for the City. Yes.

The board discussed retreat dates in February and will target a Friday and Saturday during that month.

Director Ashford asked what type of board help will be needed related to the strategic plan. ED Augerot said that there will be a survey that board members can send to contacts.

Other Topics and Announcements

ED Augerot passed around an announcement for a meeting on 9/20/11 about the Benton County Riparian and Wetlands Project. She said that her position on the topic is that the council is supportive of a voluntary approach more so than a regulatory approach. The regulatory approach is affecting work that the council does in working with landowners to improve riparian habitat because landowners are concerned about being regulated. ED Augerot asked the board for its input as to how she should represent the council. There was board discussion about regulation vs. volunteer management. Several board members supported the plan that ED Augerot speak to the council's experience that the volunteer approach has been successful for the MRWC. ED Augerot will not oppose the regulatory approach, but will express support for the volunteer approach and offer the council's help as a model for this approach.

The OWEB board meets tomorrow and there are a group of people who plan to attend to oppose an OWEB proposal to reduce the Special Investment Program (SIP) funding. Our council receives funding from the SIP so a reduction would impact the MRWC.

The council support grant process is changing but in the near term, OWEB is likely to give flat funding for the next biennium.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.