



MARYS RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

DECEMBER 2007

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING - DECEMBER 5TH

7-9 pm - Philomath City Hall - 980 Applegate St.

Agenda: Revisiting the Bylaws and Structure of the Council

We will be discussing possible amendments to the Council bylaws. Your participation is important!

Bylaws changes will require a full Council vote at a future meeting.

Written comments can also be submitted to coordinator@mrwc.net

Please come prepared to comment, and also to enjoy some holiday refreshments!

As the Watershed Council enters a new phase of implementing our action plan, with increased on-the-ground activities, it is valuable to revisit what it means to be part of the Marys River Watershed Council. Our annual budget for projects has more than quadrupled, and our operational budget has doubled in the past couple of years. We need to make sure our council structure works for its members, committees, contractors, and funders, while meeting our fiduciary requirements.

The Steering Committee recommends that the Council bylaws be revisited and revised to reflect our current operational needs. The Committee has reviewed bylaws, decision making structures, and staff roles of other councils across the state, and developed the following DRAFT proposal for discussion and consideration by the full council.

DRAFT Framework for Revising Marys River Watershed Council Bylaws

Prepared by the Council Steering Committee - 20 November 2007

Council Goal (Mission)

The goal of the Marys River Watershed Council (Council) is to promote broad and informed public participation in ecologically and economically sound sustainability and improvement of natural resources and environmental quality in the Marys River Watershed.

Council Objectives

- assess watershed condition
- identify opportunities and recommend priorities for maintenance and improvement
- promote public understanding and facilitate impartial and broad-based discussion of issues
- promote learning about the watershed
- promote stewardship by individual landowners and assist them with projects
- promote collaboration among organizations and agencies
- conduct restoration projects

Council Structure

Board of Directors – The Board is a decision-making body with a minimum membership of 7, nominated and then confirmed with Council election. The Board manages all of the affairs of the Council; officers are chair, chair-elect, treasurer, and secretary. The Board will meet every other month or more frequently as needed. All meetings are open to council members and to the public.

Chair - The Board will be lead by a Chair with a Chair-elect that shadows and provides support to help fulfill Chair duties. The Chair is the main point of contact for Board and contractor discussions unless otherwise established. The Chair will serve for 1 year coincident with the Chair-elect. The Chair-elect will take over as Chair after one year as a Chair-elect and a new Chair-elect will be appointed. In the Chair's absence, the Chair-elect will serve as Chair.

Decisions - The Board will make decisions by voting, with a simple majority rule. The Chair will determine what decisions will be brought before the Board. A quorum is needed to vote and is defined as a majority of Board membership. For example, if the Board has 7 members, 4 must "be present" (may be electronic, by phone, etc.) to vote and 3 must vote in favor of decision.

Committees - will be created by the Board and exist so long as needed; committee chairpersons will be appointed by the Board. Examples: fish passage, water quality, fiscal, education & outreach, project review, sub-basin.

Council Meetings – Council will meet at least 5 times per year.

Decision-Making Meetings - The Council will meet annually to elect Board members, Chair, and Chair-elect. However, if vacancies occur between annual meetings, Board members will be appointed by the Board to fill vacancies temporarily and finish the term.

Education and Outreach Meetings - In addition to annual decision-making meetings, Board will facilitate quarterly thematic meetings for purposes such as education and outreach.

Records and Agendas - Meetings and agendas will be publicly announced and open for all to attend and provide input. At the direction of the Board, watershed and education coordinators will prepare background material for agenda items, arrange guest speakers, etc. The Board and Committees may schedule other public meetings as needed. Voting and records of decisions will be documented in minutes and posted on the web site.

Council Membership- Membership will be open to all. Members will sign-up, vote on Board membership and bylaws, and receive notices of meetings, newsletters, etc.

Coordinators- Coordinators and bookkeeper will receive monthly direction from the Board and more detailed direction or guidance as needed from the Chair.

Current Bylaws of the Marys River Watershed Council are available by request or at www.mrwc.net