

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
Board of Directors Meeting

17 Jun 2009
Lowell, OR
6:08 PM

Present: Sean Stewart, Barbara Hazen, Eve Montanaro, Chuck Spies, Pat Burns, Gregg Vollstedt, Wade Sims, Don Hampton, Debbi Dalrymple, Nicole Czarnomski, Jenny Getty

I. Welcome and Review of Agenda – Mr Vollstedt

II. Approve Minutes of 27 May 2009 BOD Meeting Minutes – Mr Vollstedt
Minutes approved as written.

III. Restoration Program Manager Introduction – Ms Czarnomski
Ms Czarnomski spoke to the BOD discussing her background, her interests and some of her plans. She has a Masters degree in Forest Ecology from OSU which gives her a watershed/landscape background. She is working on her Ph.D. in Hydrology Engineering and is currently studying how vegetation affects bank erosion. She is planning to work on developing a monitoring program for the MFWWC. She is also involved with River Restoration NW.

IV. Board Member Announcements

- Mr Spies said that LCOG has received a grant to do a wetlands study for 10 small cities that don't have a wetlands inventory within their Urban Growth Boundary. It'll be a 2 year study, starting July 1st. Lowell will be participating.
- Mr Stewart: The irrigation system is up and going at the LCC project. He will be hauling straw mulch out there to put around the plants. There is one less culvert out there. The one that had blown out several times has been replaced with a rock ford. He hopes to start another round of Japanese Knotweed removal on Lost Creek this week. The Governor's proposal to hire part-time help this summer would provide increased labor for the parks and for weed removal.
- Mr Hampton said that they got a whole bunch of trees planted and mulched during the Tree Planting Festival in Oakridge last month.
- Ms Dalrymple said that Weyerhaeuser is working on False brome and Scotch broom treatment plans. They are hoping to get some stimulus dollars.
- Mr Sims said that the Forest Service got 800K in PAYCO funding for the next 2 years. None of the invasive plant programs were funded. They got funding for trash removal, YCC programs and work at Little Fall Creek. The YCC program is working on some trail maintenance, weed pulling and turtle population restoration projects. They are also doing some fuel reduction near Oakridge. The Forest Service has hired 2 hydrologists. The Jim's Creek Stewardship Project staff is planning to have some tours to show off the "New Forestry." The Forest Service hasn't heard about any stimulus funds being awarded yet. They did get funding for the collaborative project with the watershed council.

- Ms Montanaro said that it took her a month to write the Model Watershed grant proposal. Ms Getty and Ms Czarnomski helped prepare maps and contribute. It'll be reviewed for the next couple of weeks. The grantors will start awarding money in mid-July. This will be a good opportunity to focus on sub-basins and involve more people in our restoration efforts. Ms Montanaro will be going on vacation starting Monday. She will be back July 6. With regard to the Action Plan contract- she has spoken with Guistina's lawyer. The feedback that she has gotten is that we are well set-up to terminate the contract. She still needs to talk to Lori Abernathy of the Forest Service about terminating contracts. She'll deal with this when she gets back from vacation.

V. False Brome Treatment and Eradication Project – Ms Getty

This project has been ongoing for the last year and a half and is about to wrap up. The purpose of the project was to provide outreach and education to private landowners, map the presence of False Brome and plan a strategy for managing it. False Brome is a native of Eurasia and Africa. It was first recorded in Springfield in 1939. It grows in a wide variety of habitats. It is apple green with wide drooping leaves that have hairy margins. It has droopy spikelets that are associated with the main stem. False Brome out competes native plants; livestock and wildlife do not eat it. It even out competes tree seedlings for moisture. One of three major concentrations of this plant is in this watershed, from Springfield to Winberry Creek. Ms Getty sent out 1800 letters and brochures, held 3 workshops and presented 3 five minute blurbs at grange and equestrian team meetings. They surveyed 4K acres; 181 private landowners participated in the surveys. They found 340 acres of False Brome. The core area is north of the river but they also found some along Lost and Rattlesnake Creeks. It is very dense along the waterways. Treatment will focus on areas outside the core infestation, vector corridors and high use recreation sites. Almost all of the landowners involved were willing to do treatment. One of the goals is for group partners to treat their lands while the watershed council addresses the private lands. Treatment will begin in 2010. Funding has been awarded from 2 sources: OWEB and USFS RAC. The treatments are listed in the MFWWC False Brome Implementation Plan. The plan is to branch out to other invasive species once the False Brome is dealt with.

VI. Employee Health Benefits – Ms Montanaro

The BOD went into executive session to discuss health benefits for the employees. MOTION: To accept the recommendation of Ms Montanaro and Mr Wilder for the Health Benefit Plan. Passed Unanimously.

VII. Employee Pay Scale Policy Discussion – Ms Montanaro

MFWWC needs to establish an incentive process for employees beyond the median salary for their position. Several ideas were presented for future consideration. The discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting TBD- Jul or Aug Lowell, OR 6-8 PM

Meeting adjourned 8:08 PM. Barbara Hazen Secretary