

**Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
General Council Meeting
January Open House**

17 Jan 2007
Lowell, OR
6:30 PM

Present: Eve Montanaro, Pat Burns, Johan Hogervorst, Chris Roth, Robert Emmons, Rick Valley, Nena Lovinger, Chuck Spies, Jim Reed, Barb Hazen, Chuck Davis, Susan Davis, Ann and Della Webb, Debbie and Pete Egan, Glenn Miller, Stephanie Schroeder, Nancy Sawtelle, Luther Skeels, Kelly Reis, Dave Bontrager, Stefan Aumack, Sam Fox, Bonni and David Erickson, Nancy Moss, Koka Tice

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Potluck
Enjoyed by all.

III. Project Reports

Landowners throughout the watershed shared with us the various restoration projects they have implemented with the assistance of the council and Mr. Bontrager. Each landowner had digital photos or slides to share as a presentation and they shared why they chose to restore their riverfront property and how.

- Dave Bontrager and “Bontrager Trib “– 16 years ago when Dave bought the property he could hear the creek but he couldn’t see it because of all the blackberries. There was a man-made pond there that the former owners bulldozed out every time it filled in. There have been 12 years of restoration work on the property. He let the pond fill in and he planted native shrubs and trees. The creek deposited sand and rocks that are ideal for willow; and to promote fish habitat creation, he had large woody debris added to the creek by a horse drawn team. He hired personnel to grub the blackberries, re planted with trees and then maintained them by watering and weeding. He did find that the solid blue tree protector tubes did not work as well as the mesh tubes. The latter let the air circulate better and the birds could eat the bugs.
- Nancy Moss and Mossy Wagon Creek – there was no place to see her seasonal creek. Mr Bontrager helped her get a small grant through the MFWWC to help her deal with the blackberries. Wallama Restoration Project did the grubbing for her and now the native plants are coming back. She found that the deer wouldn’t go through the blackberry. Goats will eat blackberries but they also eat willows and ninebark. She uses electric fences to keep the wildlife from eating the native plants. The creek is now visible and she enjoys the changes that have occurred on her property.
- Koka – Her property was probably a small logging operation. The soil is really poor. Dave Bontrager helped write a small grant and pick out the plants that would thrive along the riparian area. Wallama Restoration did the grubbing of blackberries, and now without the blackberries, beautiful native plants are returning. Managing the deer requires a dog. The trees and shrubs are thriving. They did learn that fresh sawdust is not a good mulch.
- Lost Valley Nature Center Trail. Dave Bontrager helped write a small grant for blackberry removal and replanting. Wallama Restoration did the blackberry grubbing. An amazing

amount of native plants came up after the blackberry was gone. Children from age 3 to 10 helped with the replanting of 150 plants. They are planning a special event around natives and permaculture this spring. Check the website for further information www.lostvalley.org.

- Fall Creek –Stefan Aumack wrote a small grant to secure OWEB funding through the MFWWC. The land had been used as a pasture; there were blackberries along the creek. He hired the NW Youth Corps, Lane Metro Youth Corps and Kennedy Conservation Corps to do the work. These are high school kids who are learning vocational and outdoor skills. They fenced the cattle path to keep cattle from the water and grubbed the blackberries. They used a fire rake available from Territorial Seeds to cut the blackberries. They also collected some conifers from the National Forest, which survived better than trees bought from nurseries. The opposite was true for shrubs however. He found that used coffee sacks (burlap bags available from Eugene Roasters) are good weed suppressants.

Everyone had great pictures and stories of their projects to share with the group.

IV. Next Meeting
21 Feb 2007
Lowell Service Center
Lowell, OR
6:30 - 8:30 PM

Meeting adjourned 9:00PM.

Barbara Hazen
Recorder