

**Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council**  
**General Council Meeting**  
**March 21, 2007 6:30 pm**  
Springfield, Oregon

**Present:** Chuck Davis, Barbara Hazen, Gary Roy, Dave Bontrager, Don Hampton, Eve Montanaro, Nancy Sawtelle, George Walker, Nena Lovinger, Dan Hurley, Donna Riddle, Rick Valley, Chris Roth, Sean Stewart, Michael Falk

I. Introductions

II. Review and Approve Meeting Agenda - Ms Montanaro  
The agenda was approved as posted.

III. Public Comment and Announcements - Ms Montanaro

- Mr Hampton-The Oakridge Tree Planting Festival is Sunday, May 6 at 2 PM.
- Mr Davis said that the expanded Agricultural Chemical Roundup, which included Junction City and Coburg, ended up with nearly 50 tons of material. Full details will be in the next newsletter.

IV. Steering Committee Report - Mr Davis

- The last steering committee meeting was Feb 28.
- We spent time being updated on Coordinator activities and the status of pending grant proposals.
- Discussed hiring of the project manager for the Lost Creek Confluence project (LCCP).
- There was a presentation to the OWEB Board on Mar 14.
- April 18 the Lane County Watershed councils will be presenting to the County Commissioners. Anyone interested in attending please contact Ms Montanaro.
- We conducted new member orientation for Bryan VonBargen, Chuck Spies and Don Hampton.
- The watershed council office is being sold. The office will be moving April 14. At this time we don't have a new location.

V. Coordinator's Report - Ms Montanaro

- Regarding the office move. We would like to keep the office in the Lowell area. Conversations are in process. We do still need a long-term solution. We don't have the funds to pay rent; we have been paying utilities and living rent free in a Forest Service building.
- Grant Status: Phase 3 of the Lost Creek Confluence project has been awarded by OWEB. We also got funding for the Army Corps Outreach project re: flood plain restoration, Phase 2. Both OWEB and ODFW are supporting the Haws Chub project.
- We are advertising for a project manager. This person will be dealing with managing the rest of Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the LCCP. This includes the site preparation for planting in 2008. We hope to have the manager in place by April 13.
- The Council Watershed Education Program has just hired an educator to work with Lundy Elementary School. She is Holly LeMasurier. She

will build on the work done by the MFWWC Education/Outreach committee. The plan is to expand to other schools in the watershed and develop a curriculum about natural resources that meets the state requirements.

- April and May events:

1. May 24 we will be working with students from Thurston High School. There will be about 170 7<sup>th</sup> graders who will come to Clearwater Park and/or the SUB Willamette Wellfield to remove weeds and plant trees. We need about 20 volunteers to help with the work.
2. We are looking for opportunities around Fall Creek Park for Lowell High School students to do some clean-up.

Let Ms Montanaro know if you can assist.

#### VI. Native Plants and Permaculture - Examining our Views and Actions on Native vs. Non-native plant species - Chris Roth

In 2005 Lost Valley Educational Center started to be a more deliberate nature center. They are currently dealing with things like cross pollination polluting their Pacific crab apples. Permaculture is about living as if ecology mattered. It includes the idea that you have to have a sustainable culture backing up the sustainable agriculture. At Lost Creek they have approx. 200 years old oak trees, which are older than their Doug fir trees. They have camas meadows where they find a lot of tools and flakes, etc. In the fall they are planning to have a controlled burn. Some of the crops that permaculturists plant are on the Native Plant Society's never plant list. They are planning to dialogue about this in the May 11-13 gathering.

Anthony Creek has flooded and washed free of large woody debris. There is a lot of tree cutting going on around it. The Education Center is looking for inexpensive solutions to put debris back in. They made rock baskets of wire, planted trees in them and used them to anchor large woody debris. They are hoping to get some water meander into the creek and to also encourage beaver to locate there.

The previous owners of the Center had dug a lot of ditches due to the heavy soils there. Now in trying to slow the flow of the water off the land they have undertaken some riparian restoration projects. They have created a pond and now have waterfowl and red-legged frogs there. They are creating wetlands and marshes out of a drainage ditch. They are also experimenting with excluding the deer from the land they have worked on. Their fencing is made out of native species such as cottonwood posts. Chickens are being used to eat invasive seeds. Rich Valley evaluates the strongest plants and saves their seeds. In some ways he is domesticating the plants in a time-honored way that was started by the Native Americans. He wants to use the plants for food as well as be the plant's ally.

The Gathering in May is to start a dialogue regarding the plants we want to encourage, in order to help us meet our needs as human beings.

#### VII. Birds of the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed: A View of our Avian Friends in the Watershed - Dave Bontrager

There is a huge diversity of birds along the Mid Fork due to the diversity of plant communities - backwaters, riparian woodland, thickets, ponded water and reservoirs to mention a few.

Mr Bontrager shared a beautiful 2 tray slide show of birds found locally. He also had interesting tidbits of information about each one and why they pick a certain habitat to nest in. If you weren't there, you missed a great show.

VIII. Closing Comments - Ms Montanaro

We are moving to a bimonthly General Council meeting. The next meeting will be in May. May 16 at Oakridge High School.

Meeting adjourned 8:49PM.

Barbara Hazen  
Recorder