Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
General Council Meeting

19 March 2008
Springfield, OR
6:30 PM

Present: Eve Montanaro, Gregg Vollstedt, Chuck Davis, Barbara Hazen, Nancy Sawtelle, Kelly Reis, Jim Reed, Don Hampton, George Walker, Chuck Speis, Bob Emmons, Nena Lovenger, Allen Martin, Hilary Dearborn, Fergus McLean, John Sundquist, Tom Kaye, Rosanne Wolf, Sheila Klest

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

III. Approve the Minutes of the Jan 16 General Council Meeting - Ms Montanaro
The minutes were approved as written.

IV. Public Comment and Announcements - Ms Montanaro

• Mr Hampton invited people to participate in the tree planting event in Oakridge on May 4 at 2PM. Hazard trees have been removed from Greenwaters Park and they will replace them in addition to planting more trees.

• Ms Reis invited people to bring their children to the free youth fi shing events coming up. There is one in Creswell this weekend, in Cottage Grove on April 19 and in Eugene at Alton Baker Park on May 17. Call her for further information. (541) 726-3515. Youths 14-17 do have to have a juvenile fishing license.

• Ms Reis reported that the stream simulator training was well received. If you have any questions about it contact her or Ms Montanaro.

• Mr Davis drew attention to the article on pharmaceuticals in our drinking water that was in the Register Guard. He said that SUB has tested for some synthetic organic chemicals in the Mid Fork. They are doing a sampling now the results of which should be public in a month or two. The chemicals are usually associated with sewage treatment plants; there are 2 such plants on the river above the SUB intake. The SUB wellfields are subject to exposure from septic tanks. However, they are remote enough that this is a very small risk. One of the chemicals they check for is caffeine.

V. Executive Director's Update – Ms Montanaro

• Council Administration – We are transitioning to a 501c3 organization. The application packet is ready to go to the IRS. We have our financial administration established in-house now and we are managing our funds. The Mid Fork's office

is currently in the Lowell City Hall but this is a temporary placement and if anyone knows of any office space available, we are looking. The Council may need to vacate the space at City Hall in August as they may have more staff coming on board.

• Restoration projects

1. Lost Creek Confluence – The tree planting is completed. Volunteers did 540 plus trees; Oregon Woods planted the rest of the 4500 trees. One section infested with Reed Canary grass was left unplanted and we will plant approximately 900 trees at this location after treating the grass for another year. The irrigation system will be installed by Decker Landscaping starting mid to late April.

2. Nelson Creek. We received a small grant from OWEB to remove invasive plants from 700-1000 feet along Nelson Creek and to replant with native riparian species. Additionally, we just received funding to accomplish another 2100 feet of restoration along this Creek with the same private landowner. Work will begin in September 08.

3. The Haws Site. Aquatic and riparian plantings are complete. The pond looks great and some of the aquatic vegetation has taken root. It was a challenge to find a suitable supplier of aquatic vegetation, but we found vegetation through Trillium Gardens.

4. TMDL implementation Plan. All 3 city councils have adopted the plan and we will be working with the cities to implement portions of the plan as they relate to council goals. Not all plans have been approved by DEQ.

5. Action Plan. We received funding from OWEB to establish a ten-year action plan from the confluence of the Mid Fork to the headwaters. This will look at the entire watershed and be in partnership with the USFS and many other partners. Meetings will start taking place in September 08.

VI. Research on the Invasive Plant Species False-brome – Tom Kaye

There are a bunch of non-native grasses but False-brome is faster growing and more aggressive than the rest of the non-native species. The Institute for Applied Ecology has a web site for False –brome (Brachypodium sylvaticum). http://www.appliedeco.org/invasive-species-resources/FBWG Falsebrome is a grass with broad leaves which droop out from the center of the plant and have a hairy margin. It forms characteristic clumps of lime green grass. It has a true flowering spike, which comes from the base of the plant. It is a perennial and spreads by seeds that are carried from place to place by animals, esp deer, humans and machines. It is native to the woodlands, pastures, meadows and forests of Eurasia and Northern Africa. It is an invasive species in North America and was reported in Oregon in Eugene in 1936. At this time there are two epicenters of occurrence-Eugene and Corvallis but it is spreading up the Cascades and has been found as far north as the Columbia. It can grow to the point of dominance under a closed canopy, which shows how aggressive it is. It also grows well in full sun, in

oak savanna, in clear cuts where it can spread at a rate of 10 ft per year. It can be found from sea level to 4200 ft.

False-brome causes a loss of species diversity as it competes very successfully with native species. It reduces the quality of habitat as it is not a very palatable or nutritious source of food for animals. It can even compete with tree seedlings as well as endangered species such as Kincaid's lupine. The species goes wherever the people from Eugene-Springfield go. It has even been found in parking lots.

Control measures begin with cleaning of clothes and equipment of people and machines that have been in contact with it. The hairy seeds cling to the pants and legs of anything that has touched it. Remove all roadside infestations and eliminate invading colonies while they are small. Control measures include herbicides such as Fusillade, superheated foam (the Waipuna machine and truck), hand pulling and grubbing the roots for 3 years, tilling-mulching-seeding and mowing-mulching-seeding. Mowing and burning alone are not adequate controls. However, if you start with them and end with herbicide you can use less herbicide. When the False-brome is green and the native species are dormant, you can spray with herbicides. Control can be worked on any time from April thru Oct. There is no benefit to multiple mowings; mulching seems to be the key to control. He suggests using blue wild rye straw; you do have to be careful what you use as a mulch as it may seed-in. In Europe there is a fungus, which limits the grass' reproduction. Unfortunately we do not have the fungus here. Most of the eating of False-brome comes from insects. OSU has raised bummer lambs on milk with False-brome flavoring added. They love the stuff.

VII. Public Comment
John Sundquist spoke about the pervasiveness of herbicide and pesticide spraying in our county and the need for the public to let the Lane County Commissioners know how we feel about the use of toxics especially herbicides and pesticides near our schools and public playgrounds. He called for accountability in the roadside spraying program as well as for the development of non- petroleum based products.

VIII. How to Create Native Plant Habitat – Sheila Klest (Trillium Gardens)
It is a good idea to use native plants in your yard and garden. They require less water and pesticide use. However, you have to understand your site-its soil, the type area and how much you can change the environment before you select your plants. Plant communities can be defined as: woodland, oak woods, alpine, conifer forest, coastal and wetland. There are 3 layers you can plant: the ground cover, the shrubs and the canopy. In the woodland community good garden plants are evergreen violets, twin-flower, inside-out flower and native bleeding heart. Shrubs that do well in these conditions are: oceanspray, salal and low growing Oregon

grape. In the oak woods shooting stars, erythronium, iris tenax, oaks, mock orange, serviceberry and tall Oregon grape do well. In wetlands we find cottonwoods, red elderberry, wapito, skunk cabbage and native pond lily which helps keep the water cool.

When you think about changing the environment you can change the exposure, the soil drainage and the fertility of the soil. She finds a lot of people are either trying to restore the environment or mitigating for development. The most important thing in dealing with invasives is persistence.

If you are planting for wildlife consider what they need and like. For example for butterflies there are host plants and nectar plants. A lot of the nectar plants are non-native. The host plants are for the larva and are critical for the species.

Native lawns: Roemer's fescue, California oat grass, fawn lilies, shooting stars, iris, Columbia lily, chocolate lily, camas. You do have to wait to mow if you have the taller, flowering plants. NW Natives in Albany is a good source for the fescue.

X. Next Meeting
May 21, 2008
Haws Property
Westfir, OR
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Meeting adjourned 8:52PM.

Barbara Hazen
Recorder