

**Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council
Education/Outreach Committee meeting Notes
December 9, 2008**

Attendees: Beverly Wilson, Tami Schroeder, Eric Cullander, Pam Reber, Jerina Page.

Check-in:

Bev: By the tool shed built last year, Bev wants to create a 3-section native habitat in a C-shape around the concrete where tables and benches are. She wants to use the area as an outdoor classroom. Her principal has basically approved the project and Americorp will help build a cold frame. Pam suggested that Jason Blazer from Camas Wetlands could possibly help; will send contact info to Bev.

Tami: Reviewed the month-long, statewide events in May, including Down by the Riverside (May 20th last year). She will be doing a public event in Foster but could possibly do one in Dorena if a service group is available to help. Hazardous Waste Cleanup is May 9 in Cottage Grove. Pam wondered if there could be a youth leadership component to these events, as Gail Hemsoth mentioned including youth in addressing the issue of rural dumping at this year's event.

Eric: Been doing water quality sampling in his classes with the STREAM project. Outlined recent fiscal freezing on education: field trips cancelled.

2009 Events Timeline Review for 2009:

Jerina reviewed the draft schedule for the newsletter for 2009, including proposed topics and noted dates where events are yet to be scheduled: 7/22, 9/23 and 10/28. For the January 27th Creswell event on Invasives, Bev noted that her students will prepare songs and posters, similar to last year, including going on air at KNND again.

2009 Newsletter Planning Review:

Everyone looked at and generally approved a draft layout on Jerina's computer. Donna had previously reviewed this as well. Jerina and Pam noted how preparing information then using the same or minimally altered text/layout across the board for the e-newsletter, website, blog, fliers, printed newsletter, press releases, etc., creates substantial efficiencies in workload.

Discussion followed on the current state of the Council's media and additional ideas to consider, including creating a page on the website as a clearing house for other relevant community events, news from other watersheds, etc., plus putting the newsletter on the website. It was agreed that limiting the use of acronyms or clearly explaining them would make all outreach more user friendly. For example, always spelling out the first mention of an organization's name followed by the (abbreviation) which would then be used the article thereafter; possibly creating a glossary of acronyms; in any educational piece that uses scientific terms, define or explain the terms in parenthesis following the usage.

All agreed on how important it is to reach all our stakeholders with all their diverse views and brainstormed on how to do that. It was agreed that we could improve outreach to granges, service organizations, and seniors. One idea was to devote an area of the newsletter to the type of information these groups might find interesting, including an educational page that could be pulled out and kept.

Bev and Eric then discussed the impact of the current economic situation on education. No new science textbooks have been adopted for 10 years and curriculum is problematical. There are no field trips this year. Field trip costs include \$180/day for a sub, 55 cents/ mile for the trip, \$18/hour for the bus driver plus whatever entrance fees are involved for the event, such as \$12.40/student at the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

A brief discussion followed on how the Coast Fork could positively impact this situation, on the hopefully positive effect the incoming administration may have on such issues, and possible funding sources to help bridge these gaps. Long range ideas included the Coast Fork adding grants-strategizing to its education/outreach agenda; adding more funding for educational/outreach components into future grant applications; and accessing federal funding sources. It is possible that the No Child Left Inside might prove successful and be implemented on a larger fiscal scale.

Appendices: Draft 2009 Newsletter Schedule