

**Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council
Steering Committee Meeting Notes
November 13, 2008**

Attendees: Larry Weaver, Dave Cunningham, Allen Martin, Pam Reber, Brian Forge, Gail Hemsoth (for OWEB Conference debrief).

Check-In:

Larry – saved the election in D.C. after traveling by rail through Canada.

Dave –Has been going after holly and an ancient grape vine. Attended the OWEB Conference.

Brian—Attended the OWEB conference; helped table at Mt. Pisgah Mushroom Show.

Allen – Also attended the OWEB Conference on Thursday.

(Alison told Pam prior to the meeting that she was working on: turtle data for the researcher who is compiling regional data, assisting NABA in developing curriculum and will be attending a Youth & Nature workshop.)

Debrief of OWEB Conference

Gail—Attended FBP’s Floodplain Tour, attended banquet with Chad P. whose talk was inspiring for at-risk youth; attended two invasive species workshops—including one on OPB results from Silent Invasion and Sunday Edition Statesman Journal Front Page 10-month series; heard from a rancher (OWEB Board member) that holds an entire watershed whose 2 returning salmon turned into 600; and she asked about the feasibility of baiting bullfrogs and heard about a Dr. Lence/Lance at OSU who did fish them out of Finley Wildlife Refuge. Should be done with a barbless hook baited with salmon eggs (?) and should be done before they lay eggs starting in March. After a period (how long?) of night (?) fishing them, he had removed all of the large adults capable of eating everything from baby turtles to baby ducks.

Dave—Attended a streamside gardening workshop, got a whole case of ‘Garden Smart’ books as well as a CD of streamside techniques. Attended a not-so-good workshop on logging and building with lumber for carbon sequestration (a 100-year turn around). Attended WEEDIN workshop. Attended a landowner recruitment workshop that used maps to build buy-in with landowners—they showed how one could use a palm pilot with an aerial map & habitat types already loaded, if connected to a GPS, could be used to show landowners data while on-the-ground. Dave tried to attend a fiscal workshop, but he didn’t like the vibe.

Brian—IDEA: Could get the CG paper to do something on the invasives as per the Statesmen Journal AP postings.

Brian attended Bill Bradbury’s talk, as well as two invasive species talks. Had other talks on his agenda, but work commitments came up.

Allen—Attended Thursday sessions: Projects from Fantasy to Fiction; managing contractors, managing contracts, pitfalls of dealing with landowners—all were straightforward except for conveying to landowners what is expected of them. Need to

have a written agreement with the landowner that outlines that they will do certain things. Creating effective organizations was good and well attended. He felt that overall, the workshops were too broad brush.

Pam—Attended a very good session on partnerships that had important materials for communicating the thresholds of decision making from unilateral to collaborative. A strategic planning session was very useful as well. Helped coordinate one invasive species panel, and she will be adding detail to the Appendices.

Executive Summary

No comments. Links to additional components will be sent via email.

October Financial Report/ Settlement Check

Not much change from last month in financial statement.

Discussion about accepting the money from the WRK settlement included questions about whether or not there are strings attached (none were identified either in the letter, or when Pam spoke to Travis Williams about the check on 11/04/08). It was noted that this inquiry should be documented in case we are asked. In addition, discussion about how to spend the money occurred. The spending plan for the funds at this time include organizational development and moving towards nonprofit status. This will likely include the legal expenses and have been allocated for covering the 6 council participants we sponsored to attend the event. Brian and Larry proposed a bonus for the Coordinator!! Unfortunately, unrestricted funds for bonuses are in tough competition with unrestricted funds for other operational needs . . .

Biennial Report

Allen was asked to write something as Chair by Pam and Jerina. His idea is to pose a question, *why do you volunteer to work for the watershed council?* to others and to extend this to our committees. He will then compile the results for a summary. For Brian, as a landowner with a project, he was referred to experts in every field—fish biologists for fish questions, plant questions were referred to botanists. Because of all the information he got before joining, Larry—as a central resource of information, he started participating in the council in order to identify resources for his land ownership-related projects. In addition, the benefit of having projects to show and tell, like Garden Lake Park, that represent an ethic he feels is important to foster.

Allen thinks we should sell this resource-capability, make it more apparent.

Dave wants to be part of this for the stewardship component, he thinks the watershed needs an advocate, and he is interested in sustainability. Back when we first started, he wanted a resource for his students because he was doing stream surveys with them. But he saw a lot of jockeying and politics and was turned off. His comment sounded like he was invested in results.

Allen, when he started, because of his field, he had an interest in the region as his home. While he already had access to the resources, he wanted to pursue working with an organization that would effect some change.

Brian, when he was doing the fish trap with Erik, was forced to go to the creek everyday and it motivated him to care about the resource.

Conversation moved to local partnerships, including Cathy Bellevita's work with the Bohemia Park. Allen noted it was very unique to find that they were planting some native species at the site. Overall, this discussion laid the groundwork for people to think about the current position and future direction of the watershed council—information that is required for completion of the support grant.

Support Grant

Allen suggests that we should be very concerned about putting together a very strong document so that we incorporate as much detail. He suggests that Pam put out a draft, and then everyone can add highlights. "He cannot emphasize enough that we need to have a 'kick-__ grant'."

We will email the evaluation criteria and the Support Grant template out to all Steering Committee members so they can begin to understand the significance of this next support cycle.

THE CHAIRMAN ASKS THAT ALL STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCESS.

Please begin by reviewing the evaluation criteria at:

http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/GRANTS/docs/csupport/WSC_Evaluation.pdf

And the application form at:

http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/GRANTS/docs/GrantApplications/CouncilSupport_1008/WSC_application_09-11.doc

Storefront Briefing Paper

An extensive discussion occurred about the risks and benefits of moving on this potential opportunity. Due to the current economic climate, there was not consensus about investing in that space at this time, despite an overall favorable response to the idea. The conversation began with concerns about our current operating budget, the question about OWEB funds continuing past 2014 and their possible reduction with a state budget crisis then moved into diversifying our funds and community presence.

Issues to further flesh out in regards to the briefing paper:

- ✓ Pull the current taxes on the Old City Hall (via RLID, or at the county tax office), we qualify for the full value of the 'abatement' that we can provide with tax-exempt status.
- ✓ Secure additional funds for our operating budget.
- ✓ Identify all possible options, including getting donated space, other spaces on Main St. in CG, moving to Creswell, not having an office, buying a property, etc. Break out all costs associated, including renovations, utilities, etc.
- ✓ Attempt to summarize and possibly quantify the benefit and 'community profile' that a storefront would offer. Then it would be easier to decide if it fit with our other goals.
- ✓ Consider a fundraising drive associated with having a community space: e.g. Walama suggested they would maybe be willing to sponsor \$25/mo for a desk space--\$300/yr.

Next meeting December 4th Agenda Items

Support grant preparation will be the focus

Look at expanding steering committee

Start thinking about annual work session—does January 10th work for folks?

Appendices:

A. Executive Summary

B. Briefing paper

A. Coordinator Executive Summary

October 2008

Upcoming Events

Nov 19th Holiday Open House

Nov 22nd Garden Lake Tree Planting

Dec 9th 5pm Ed/Outreach Committee Meeting at the office

Dec 9th 6:30pm Technical Committee Meeting at the office

January 27th (Tuesday) Public Meeting on Invasive Species in Creswell at the Community Center 6:30pm 'The Silent Invasion and What you Need to Know'. Spread the word!

Program Updates by Funding Category/Quarterly Work Plan Outline:

Support Grant

Administrative Duties

Fiscal management:

See report. Need to set up a meeting at Siuslaw Bank to switch signers and MWA after securing a letter from MWA.

Pam has been researching how and when to make the fiscal switch in light of our pursuit of nonprofit status. June 2009 is the current target for now.

Office: Have done some rearrangement with new staff person.

Committee coordination:

Steering Committee:

Strategic Planning? The OWEB Conference had a number of panels on strategic planning and partnerships. The Coordinator will be attempting to facilitate integration of this into our upcoming meetings and January work session.

Members: Paul Boehner, Diana Bus and essentially Dustin have all recently resigned. I propose that we have a facilitated discussion in December about our partners, and discuss in more detail how to recruit involvement onto the Steering Committee. However, if you have someone in mind, please let Pam know. She will begin the process with you in recruiting anyone you think is of interest.

Education & Outreach Committee conducted extensive work in order to hire our new Outreach & Administrative Specialist. Application reviews & scoring were conducted Oct 7th, and interviews on October 14th. She began work and will be meeting the Steering Committee formally at our December 4th meeting.

Technical committee will meet December 9th, but have been holding discussions and having project meetings independently.

Garden Lake

Our Oct 25th work party was made successful by 5 high school students and the UO Softball team!

Floodplain Restoration

Our October 22nd meeting qualified as one component of this outreach. Additional meetings should be coming up soon. On November 19th, the Middle Fork will hold a meeting with the maps in Springfield.

Upper Willamette Water Quality Monitoring Program

I met October 8th with local school representatives and Stephanie Schroeder from Walama Restoration Project, and our WQ monitoring lead, Aryana Ferguson about integrating this year's school program into the water quality monitoring.

Laurie Bernstein has agreed to co-lead our council's liaison work with this effort.

Mosby Creek

Monitoring Project

OSU Aquatic Inventories Project has completed their monitoring work on the mainstem of Mosby Creek. Peggy Kavanagh, the team lead, joined us at the Friends of Mosby Creek picnic to give an overview of their habitat assessment methods. Their results should be available sometime between November and early January.

Instream Project

Conversations continuing with Bob Danehy, they are monitoring their flow stations in which Kent Koester, our lead researcher with Friends of Mosby Creek, has begun calculating on his own!

Friends of Mosby Creek

In September, the Friends of Mosby Creek Second Annual Picnic was a success. Meetings of the planning group will likely begin again this winter with a 'Restoration Partners' event in February or so.

Appendix B. Briefing Paper CFWWC Steering Committee Should we have a storefront?

Type of Action by Committee: Decision X, Information X

Issue: (describe the issue, if one exists)

We may have the opportunity to secure the empty office space in our building for an additional \$250/month or so. This may be a time-sensitive opportunity, but we essentially have been invited to submit a proposal. The current rent is \$750, I proposed to the building manager (who later discussed with the owner) that we may be interested in the space for \$500/month. For our remaining support grant budget, this would be an increase of less than \$2,500 for the remaining biennium.

We could make it clear in our proposal that our ability to pay would be based on our next grant, or otherwise attempt to hold our rent at a reduced rate for a certain amount of time. The property owner has already indicated that if we utilize our tax-exempt status to secure some type of property tax deferral, that we can realize the full value of that deferral towards our rent.

This space would require some renovation to use all the square footage (the back half) for professional purposes beyond storage. The front half would require some financial investment to make it dynamic and interesting. The utilities we use would increase most likely due to the space being larger and somewhat uninsulated. There is some grant funding available for 'shared office space', and we could offer Walama Restoration Project space that would probably qualify us for this. In addition, it is a tangible asset that we could invite partners to join us in enhancing for joint purposes.

Objectives:

- Meeting one of our Top 5 Priorities: Promoting the watershed council
- Create a space for the community and partners to utilize our maps, books and other materials.
- Utilize store front windows for promotion and education!

Proposal or desired outcome:

- A recommendation about how to proceed with this potential opportunity.