

Joint General Member and Steering Committee Meeting

Location: Stayton Community Center

Date: September 8, 2016

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Attendance:

Role Call for Quorum: Brad Nanke (City of Salem-Chair), John Caruso (Marion County – Secretary/Treasurer), Suzette Boudreaux (Little North Fork Sub-basin), Jan Irene Miller (Landowner-At Large), Mike Kroon (Natural Resources)

General: Jim Bayuk, Darrin Neff, Grady McMahan, Al Clark, Karen Clark, Stanley Niemiec

Council Coordinator: Rebecca McCoun

6:05 PM **Steering Committee Meeting Called to Order**

Roll Call for Quorum: No Quorum

Council Mission Read

Introductions

6:10 PM June 2016 General/Steering meeting minutes were put on hold for approval until next month given we do not have a quorum.

6:10 PM **Public Comment and Announcements**

Rebecca noted the NSWC received a generous anonymous donation of \$1,000. Funds will go under the “Special Projects” account.

Rebecca noted the September Third Annual Detroit Lake Cleanup will be held September 24, 2016 which is SOLVE’s Beach and Riverside Cleanup weekend and is National Public Lands Day. We will plan on having a Little North Fork Cleanup the second week in October. Rebecca will register with SOLVE this coming week.

The June 2016 presentation on Climate Change and Geology provided by Gordon Grant, USFS Researcher was brought up. It was an excellent presentation and several members asked Rebecca to see if we could have him come back to the present to the council in the spring of 2017.

6:15 PM **Presentation:** Rebecca McCoun, Council Coordinator provided a power point presentation update on the existing and new council projects. Rebecca will post the presentation on the website.

A group discussion on drought and the Detroit Reservoir followed.

7:10 PM **Progress Reports**

Treasurer: John Caruso reported three grant projects will be coming to an end in December. Two have quite a bit of money still left in them. Rebecca informed him some outstanding invoices still exist and that she does plan on extending two of the grants. John also noted the CREP Revolving account is in the negative and Rebecca noted we are still waiting on FSA CREP reimbursement payments.

Operations: Brad noted the NSWC/CPRCD recently signed a Master Service Agreement with R. Franco Restoration. The NSWC/CPRCD also recently signed a contract with Sandra Coveny, GIS Analyst to do GSI work for the Partners of the North Santiam. The MMT Basin Wide Impact grant will cover these costs.

7:20 PM New Business and Group Discussion

- **NSWC Self-Assessment:** Rebecca provided an overview of the new OWEB Watershed Council Self-Assessment Tool. Rebecca handed out a hard copy of the self-assessment questions. Rebecca will also be sending out an excel file for each member to read over and answer. Rebecca noted the council will go over all the questions together at the October meeting using an automated polling system. The group will then review the results and identify areas needing the most work.
- **Darrin Neff, USFS Fish Biologist Update:** Darrin reported the USFS staff had recently completed an extensive presence/absence assessment of Pacific lamprey/sculpin in the tributaries above the Detroit Dam. No Pacific lamprey were found above the dam.
- **ODF Forest Management Discussion:** Mike Kroon and the group discussed the Oregon Department of Forestry's management of State Forests in the Willamette and the concerns raised by Linn County.
- **Working Farms & Ranches Work Group:** Jan Irene provided the council with information on the newly formed Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) or Working Farms & Ranches work group. Jan Irene attended a meeting over the summer. Jan Irene provided shared with the council a little bit about the group. Jan Irene provided some additional information to Rebecca after the September watershed council meeting. The additional information is below.

Note: Jane Irene sent Rebecca McCoun an email on 9/16/16 she received from Annie Kilburg about the program. Below is information directly from an email Jan Irene received from Annie Kilburg, Consultant with Kearns & West, Inc. on 8/16/16.

What is the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program? Oregon's rich agricultural heritage and diverse farm and ranch lands are the cornerstone of the state's rural communities. At the same time, well-managed agricultural lands support valuable fish and wildlife habitat and enhance other natural resources. Oregon's land use system has helped protect the working landscape. However, farms and ranches are increasingly challenged by fragmentation, conversion to non-farm uses, complex regulations, and planning for generational transfers.

As envisioned, the program will provide voluntary incentives for farmers and ranchers to support both viable agriculture and practices that maintain or enhance fish, wildlife or other natural resources on agricultural lands. A one-pager outlining the work group's purpose is attached.

What will happen at the sessions? The sessions will include an overview of some of the early ideas for the program's early concepts. Work group members will then seek feedback from attendees about opportunities, challenges and additional considerations for the program.

The work group is committed to receiving broad stakeholder input early in the program's design. These two sessions are the first in a series of meetings to gain feedback. After harvest and field seasons are complete this fall, the work group will also hold listening sessions for farmers, ranchers, land trusts and others across the state to continue receiving feedback on the proposals.

Who is the work group? The OAHP Work Group was convened by Governor Brown's office and includes representatives from the Oregon Farm Bureau, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and Sustainable Northwest, along with farmers and ranchers.

- **Straub Environmental Center:** Jan Irene also shared with the council the summer meeting she had with Straub Environmental Center staff. On August 15, 2016 Jan Irene had the Straub Environmental Center Executive Director, Catherine Alexander, President, Rick Bastasch and one of their youth environmental educators come out and tour the Bird Haven Farm. Jan Irene invited Rebecca to join the tour meeting. After the tour the group sat down and discussed possible opportunities for the North Santiam Watershed Council, Straub Environmental and Jan Irene and Jim Bayuk could partner in environmental education in the North Santiam Watershed. This was a high level exploratory discussion.

8:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**