

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Gubanc's Pub and Restaurant

Friday, April 15, 2016

The *vision* of the Oswego Lake Watershed Council is a healthy properly functioning watershed. This vision is of streams, wetlands, riparian forests, upland forests/trees, Oswego Lake, and other natural resources working together as a sustainable ecological system that supports good water quality, productive habitat for native plant and animal communities, and enhanced quality of life.

The *mission* of the Oswego Lake Watershed Council is to foster stewardship, education, participation, and financial support for the purpose of the conservation, restoration, enhancement, and maintenance of watershed functions that achieve and sustain a healthy watershed.

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Directors present were Chair Stephanie Wagner, Tom Bland, Dwight Sangrey, Mary Ratcliff, Rob Amsberry and Mike Buck. Guests were Wilma McNulty, Maddee Rubenson, and Adra Lobdell (OLWC and TCWC Project Manager)

2. **Operations:**

- **Resolved: Minutes for March 18, 2016 were unanimously approved and accepted.**
- **Financial Report:** Tom passed out a balance sheet and an income statement. He noted receipt of a \$2,000 check from the Lake Corps. The City demanded financial statements as soon as possible, and our bookkeeper got them done for the first quarter. Our account balance is \$10,000 plus the already mentioned check amount. Some draws on the account will go to pay Adra, plant procurements, Web master, bookkeeper, Post Office box fee and our liability insurance.

3. **Reports:**

- **OWEB Small Grant Project Update:** Adra coordinated another work party last Friday with Lake Oswego and Lakeridge High School students. She commented on how receptive they were for education and information about the project and site. And they also worked industriously on invasive removal. The Brighton site is presently a quiet front though Stephanie met with Theresa regarding permits. Rob mentioned these permit applications were on his desk for review and a pre-permit meeting is scheduled next week. This will allow Henderson to continue its maintenance work on the site. Dwight commented that permitting for Mountain Park is also being undertaken. He said the pre-app went fine and people are coming to realize the change in positive ways.
- **City of Lake Oswego HEF Projects Grant:** Adra said new landowner agreements are in place but she is unsure about delving into the new projects with funding still not secured. Adra will follow up with Anne MacDonald to get some reassurance and time line. Turning to the specific sites for an update, Adra said that Boutwell has a work party on April 23rd from 10:00am – 1:00pm with Stephanie in the lead. Under her lead, the Hallinan site was visited by Ash Creek to ascertain advice and costs for removal of laurel and holly. Ash Creek will try to combine scheduling work at this site with contracted work for Lake Oswego Parks; and their estimate of \$800 seemed fair. Mike and Adra will evaluate the site

since it appears to have flagging for water resource delineation. Mike will target tree ivy first on the newly expanded site of this project.

- **School Outreach:** Mary and Stephanie will move forward on coordination for Fall interaction. Their main pursuit concerns how to be a conduit for programs City has. Stephanie will also set watershed tour dates. Stephanie reiterated that private schools can also be on the list of invited participants. She said parents at Our Lady of the Lake School are very receptive for watershed education. Her outreach extends to three private elementary schools. Touchstone is also doing water quality education, and Dwight anticipates eager respondents for continued watershed educational opportunities.

- **Springbrook Park Update:** Tom talked about OLWC tour of wetlands and incised tributary creek from seasonal run-off. The conveyance was dry when personnel from Parks toured with OLWC representatives and Anne MacDonald. Rob mentioned some things that could be done without involving permitting, for example, placement of live willow and dogwood stakes in the riparian area. He thought work to stabilize stream flows and hydrology the best focus. Jeff Munro will undoubtedly brief Megan on our observations. The group benefited from this on-site visitation and shared envisioning ideas about how to facilitate restoration. Next steps include GPS project with data gathering and downloading. Planting would be a necessary next step when the conditions are favorable for survivability. Tom thought a combined OLWC and FSP activity would be well received.

4. New Business:

- **Mountain Park Nature in Neighborhood Grant:** Dwight talked about this Metro bond funded program. Tom attended a grant workshop. With Mountain Park leading this funding strategy and OLWC a fiscal partner in the application process, hopes were dashed with a negative response from Metro. Once again, Lake Oswego's proximity and shadow may have contributed to this outcome as had previous attempts submitted by City residents. Dwight remains positive with his newly established relationships and well-received counsel regarding aspects of the application and project goals. Certainly applying for other funding opportunities like OWEB will be streamlined with the lessons learned. Dwight recommends a two dimensional matrix of objectives that seem, from funding awards, to garner recognition: A social-educational program with disadvantaged linked with the environmental restoration component. Though this necessarily involves the continued concentration on invasive removal and native planting, Dwight would like to enlarge the watershed perspective to include incised headwater streams. These demonstration projects could serve as models for other impacted areas suffering from stormwater affects due to increased housing and infrastructure. Nature in the Neighborhood grant possibility could be more facilitated by inclusion of a significant theme, a highlighted educational component and involvement of more parties and partners beyond Mountain Park. Maddee commented that monitoring was occurring at two sites on Springbrook Creek: one in the upper reaches and lower at Hope Community Church. Anne MacDonald also wants to get a monitoring station at the crossing of Iron Mtn. Blvd. by Hunt Club. Discussion among the Council focused on establishing priorities in conjunction with public work projects and the addressing of critical surface water needs in town. When positive things happen, more support and funding gets directed to where those efforts are happening. Dwight said that Mountain Park had a new landscape supervisor, Suzie Spencer who comes from Lewis

and Clark College. He said she sees great potential for the common property open space. In conclusion, Dwight said he would want to speak with CCSW regarding the opportunity for a long term project.

- **Mentoring Program Partnership with Backyard Habitat:** Stephanie's own contacts and her communication with site evaluator, Cindy Ellison, points to the need for a mentoring program. OLWC is receiving phone calls from residents needing resources or specific counsel regarding their landscapes and yards as better habitat. Mike has visited one resident near the canal just last week regarding Japanese knotweed in her riparian area. The Council talked about how to recruit and train people in this capacity. Adra will put out a press release asking if residents would be interested in helping neighbors get rid of invasive species. This could be a great partnership affiliation with OLWC and a program with handbook on basics could be created and developed as we go. Our guest, Wilma McNulty, talked about Yakima's newly acquired site, formerly the West End Building and campus, and how interested they were in being a good neighbor—responsive to their own natural resources on site once they knew others valued these amenities. Mary mentioned she was signed up to take a class on species identification. She also mentioned a multimedia presentation on "The Living Bird" at Montgomery Park on April 21st at 7:00pm. She requested if Council members had rain water harvesting techniques and examples to send her information. The last event mentioned was the Audubon plant sale on April 23rd and 24th as well as Leach Botanical Garden sale on April 16th at Floyd Light Middle School.

5. Staff Reports:

- **State of Watershed Event:** Adra asked whether members thought a late August or mid September after the return to school would be better timing for this event. The consensus seemed to favor mid-September with an open house format and presentation. So a combined social and program structure seemed to appeal to most. Wilma mentioned that the new neighbor, Yakima, might even host such an event in their headquarters. Other potential venues include Palisades Park and Recreation building and Mountain Park.

6. Public Comment and Announcements: Wilma briefed members on an open space associated with the Vista Ridge Apartments that has become infested with invasive species. She called Mike who looked at the site and thought it was private property but noted her concern and it seemed quite doable. The topic of how to work with HOA's and declared open space was discussed. Getting cooperation and permission for a work party with neighborhood and tenant collaboration seemed to be a successful strategy that Wilma could pursue.

Work Party at Boutwell on Earth Day from 10:00am - 1:00pm.

Maddee's thesis defense on June 10, 2016 at PSU Science Research Center.

7. Meeting Adjourns 9:40am.

Next Meeting: Friday, May 6, 2016 at 8:00am.