

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Gubanc's Pub and Restaurant

Friday, November 14, 2014

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, Andy Harris, Michael Buck, Sarah Asby, and Tom Bland. Guests included Mary Ratcliff from SAB and Lecia Schall, our intern.

2. Operations:

- **Minutes: Resolved: Minutes for October 17, 2014 were unanimously approved.**
- **Treasurer's Report:** Tom reported no change in our account: \$1843.78 remains. Tom highlighted the need to put fund-raising front and center on our agenda and offered to draft a solicitation letter for the website. He will also contact webmaster regarding a payment system like PayPal if one does not currently exist.

3. Council Business:

- **NRAB Presentation:** Stephanie and Mike attended the November 5th meeting of the Natural Resources Advisory Board and presented a brief presentation. Mike spoke first from a more moral, ethical viewpoint attempting to find common ground through the shared language of three mission statements (NRAB, OLWC, Stewards) and people's own internal connection with nature that invites a response. Then Stephanie gave a fascinating watershed tour in a narrative form that also kept members attentive and inquiring. Stephanie felt that she and Mike left a good impression yet we need to continue refining talking points, help establish a common vision, and convey the linked reality (connective system) of our watershed. Pictures depicting the current conditions of our watershed environment would be helpful, and locating those on a watershed map would prove useful for determining improvement projects illustrative of good stewardship. Mike mentioned that Lauren Hughes had told NRAB that City Council had approved \$250,000 for improving open space and conditions along roadways. Stephanie and Mike will try and set up a meeting with Shannan Stoll and Scot Siegel to see how OLWC might take part in this effort with what Stephanie proposed as an analogous endeavor undertaken by Friends of Tryon: "Reach for the Creek." This involved cooperative private residential owners on the perimeter of the park who also had adjacent stream corridor properties. It was a positive way to get the community involved

in restoration. OLWC could play a role in helping to identify critical problem areas, detailing assessment on ecological sites, coordinate monitoring with the PSU intern with Lake Corps, and organize existing data. Our own inventory of where we find good creek morphology and contrasting with bad examples could prove advantageous for those in the community wanting to improve stream conveyances. Andy mentioned that well functioning streams would certainly mitigate the natural phosphorous sedimentation moving into the lake waters. Members thought it prudent to target areas that have already been identified. Stephanie and Mike will get some assessment data from Mark and run it by Andy for amplification. We know it is incumbent upon us that we need to identify “deliverables” and focus on the volunteer nature of the program.

- **Watershed Literacy :** Lecia gave members the results of the pre and post test data. She said that with 600 students participating, knowledge about watershed literacy almost doubled. Lecia was enthused about the ideas percolating from the student involvement in storm water functioning, impervious surface instruction and the engineering piece. Never resting on laurels, Lecia still works on what needs reformulation for even better instructional methodology especially since some teachers who have to handle this part of the science curriculum do not share an academic science background. She emphasized that the more localized the teaching instruction in regards to watershed knowledge, the better retention for students since they can relate to it directly.

- **CCSWDC Support:** Stephanie reported that we would not be receiving any funding since the time for requesting has expired. This does necessitate our need for a 2015 budget discussion and Stephanie will bring to December’s meeting our Strategic Plan to help us assess our immediate goals.

4. Announcements: Mary gave out the Audubon’s “Wild Arts Festival” event on November 22-23, 2014 at Montgomery Park.

Mike has the second Friends of Iron Mountain work party on November 16, 2014 at the Brookside trailhead to the park. He also will attend the Tree Canopy workshop in Tualatin on November 18th. It runs from 9:00am – 4:00pm.

5. Meeting Adjourns: 9:30am

6. Next Meeting: December 12, 2014 at 8:00am – 9:30am.