

# OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Lake Oswego School District office

Thursday, October 10, 2013

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.

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**1. Welcome and Introductions:** Directors present were Mark Rosenkranz, Rob Amsberry, Chair Andy Harris, Stephanie Wagner, Greg McMurray, Donna Atherton and Mike Buck. Guest is Matt Deniston, Sitka Technology Group. Chair opened the meeting at 8:10 am.

**2. Public Comments: None**

**3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

**Deferred till next meeting. Andy has the minutes.**

**4. Operations:**

- **Financial Report:** In a written memo, Tom gave our bank account balance as \$925.15 with only one check written since last meeting. Our webmaster, Linda Keast, received a payment of \$270.83.

- **Website Report regarding Web site domain registration:** Linda suggested that this can be locked in for up to five years. Linda can pay for it and add it to her invoice.

- Elections for officers and for Council members are scheduled in November. The serving term is for two years.

**5. Council Business**

- **CCSWCD grant submitted by Stephanie.**

- **WC "council of councils" meeting soon.**

- **Confluence Software:** Matt Deniston is a partner with Sitka Technology Group and with funding from Bonneville Environmental Foundation and Meyer Memorial Trust along with the BPA has developed "Confluence," a software program designed with tools to help manage and track conservation and restoration programs. Matt gave a presentation on the advantages of *Confluence* and showed Council members the intricacies on its use as currently being utilized by current non-profit groups and governmental organizations. (Donna joined the Council meeting and introduced Michael Esping who will be the School District's liaison

with OLWC). Matt continued speaking on the goals and benefits of this data based system that can be shared with outside environmental organizations for added functionality. OLWC members viewed how to access and use *Confluence* through Matt's web-based mapping system and went through menus tagging collected data, showing landowner contacts, project goals, budgets, monitoring management and outreach efforts. Matt said six or seven watershed councils were currently using the program to keep track of projects and site activities, funding and grants, outreach events and generation of reports. To concretely show the aspects of *Confluence*, Matt went to a specific watershed site: the confluence of the Santiam and Luckiamute rivers in the Willamette Valley. Active projects were colored on the map and a system developed to track future work. One downside in the program was the lack of an automated way to update data; e.g., new tax data regarding properties. Matt mentioned that funding Foundations are expecting and demanding more communication and information regarding what results they are getting for the monies issued to various conservation and environmental groups. *Confluence* helps in the data gathering for this endeavor. When asked about the annual or monthly fee for subscribers to *Confluence*, Matt said his group was trying to figure out a reasonable price (\$1000-\$3000 per year but that did not include start up fees) but reiterated that his company had invested over \$1 million in developing and refining this software. A member suggested that details of this software program would best be pursued by a sub-committee and mentioned the possibility of partnering with another Conservation district.

- **Status of Strategic Plan Implementation: Handout given by Chair.**

- **Intern Position discussion and decision:** Stephanie requests approval of this intern position sponsored by an anonymous donor. Tom would know who it is but disclosure would not be public. Stephanie passed out a "Letter Agreement" between OLWC and Lecia Schall. Board members felt this fit into the scope of our goals contingent upon approval by the School District. Stephanie reiterated that teachers have asked for this support activity and the money (\$5000) was well worth what the intern would provide in contributed services.

- **OWEB Small Grant Report:** Stephanie sits on OWEB and encouraged members to get a "foot in the door" with this grant funding. The grants can extend to \$10,000 and can accommodate all invasive species restoration projects on private land or on school properties. Stephanie reiterated what an opportunity this would be for a neighboring riparian restoration project.

- **Network of Oregon watershed councils in Newport :** Andy mentioned this meeting that would merit attendance.

**6. Announcements: None**

**7. Next Meetings: November 14<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 10:00 in the Staff Development Room.**

**8. Meeting Adjourned 9:40am.**