

# OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Gubanc's Pub and Restaurant

Friday, November 13, 2015

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 Chair Stephanie Wagner, Mary Ratcliff, Sarah Asby, Tom Bland, Mark Rosenkrantz, and Mike Buck. Guests were Intern Maddee Rubenson, Dwight Sangrey, and Adra Lobdell (OLWC and TCWC Project Manager), Anne MacDonald, and Dave Beckett.

2. **Operations:**

- **Resolved: Minutes for October 9, 2015 were unanimously approved and accepted.**
- **Financial Report:** Tom reported expenditures of \$12,387.52 leaving a net balance of \$20,563.48. This does not include the last plant order for \$868.50. Before closing, Tom adroitly solicited members to make a tax deductible contribution to the OLWC. Stephanie and Tom will work on this year's budget projection in keeping with HEG grant period.

3. **Reports:**

- **OWEB Small Grant Applications:** Adra reported that she is still waiting to hear the outcome for the submitted applications for Brighton HOA and Mountain Park's Tanglewood site. Both Stephanie and Adra acknowledged that the Brighton site posed difficulties for funding due to long term neglected maintenance and correction of the existing stormwater system. OWEB is still involved in final processing of applications. Regardless, Brighton HOA will still pursue invasive removal and making a wildlife habitat area. Stephanie received comments at the Sustainability event regarding many HOA related environmental enhancement needs in addition to concomitant problems like summer fire danger. She also noted that OLWC should and could receive more funding from Clackamas County Soil and Water for our projects.

4. **Council Business**

- **City of Lake Oswego Project grants:** Adra updated Council on the positive steps taken after the promising rains to bring our three current projects to a conclusion. "No Ivy Day" on October 24<sup>th</sup> helped bring out volunteers for invasive clearing at the Hope Community Church-PNA Springbrook Creek site. More ivy and blackberry vine removal is scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup> followed by native planting. Mike mentioned that planting and a little more invasive species removal needed to occur at both Boutwell and Hallinan sites. A new homeowner at Boutwell is very cooperative and supportive of our efforts in

that riparian area. Mike and Adra have ordered around 300 native plants for the Hallinan site with a three hour work party set for November 21<sup>st</sup>. Mike mentioned that future enhancements could include holly and laurel stump treatment and Mark thought he had a licensed staff person who could provide this service. Another invasive removal for the half acre Hope Community Church-PNA Springbrook Creek site is set for Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> between 1:00 – 4:00pm. The first three months of 2016 will be devoted to finishing old and beginning new projects.

- **Lake Oswego Stormwater Manual:** Anne MacDonald addressed the Council prior to staff report before the Planning Commission, and focus was concentrated on how many square feet should the threshold be that would trigger compliance with this new code proposal. Ranges suggested vary between 500 to 3000 square feet. Anne reported that tracking new development has manifested many smaller infill projects and that 3000 square feet threshold would capture 65% of permits. As true for any code, how to write criteria that covers all variables becomes the insightful challenge. Imposition of stormwater measures will be a necessary development occurrence to help avoid occurring negative impacts, neighbor complaints, nuisance flooding amid other TMDL reduction hopes. Anne emphasized the important role of accurate information on the issues and lamented the weak attendance at public open houses designed for explanation of the Manual as well as to garner critical input. The Council learned new information from Anne on a variety of related topics from perc tests to soil maps. Council thought that a "Q and A" section on the City website could be invaluable for providing reliable information. No doubt residents will be seeing many more rain gardens in our town as developers work to meet infiltration requirements. Council can perform a great task by helping provide clarifying information when needed. A suggestion was made for Adra to gather a list of anticipated questions regarding stormwater. Anne said the Manual aimed at providing clarity, and sections dealing with relevant stormwater treatments help illustrate the objectives.

- **Board Support for Projects:** Stephanie initiated Council discussion on what is needed by member participation to go forward with watershed projects. Her aim was to broaden responsibility so the restorative projects do not primarily fall on one or two people. Tom suggested we follow Friends of Springbrook Park's rotation of members for projects. He has check-off sheet for leaders that he will share with Council. Mike noted the many aspects involved in our HEG projects from plot selection based on criteria to property owner agreements, work parties, and native planting palette creation and ordering. It seemed a consensus among Council that the burdens would be shared for future projects. Anne mentioned that our projects for 2016 be turned into the City by mid-December. She also said that Ivan Anderholm was preparing a memo for City Council regarding public properties scheduled for restoration work that meet goals for habitat, urban forestry, and water quality. Mr. Anderholm will be making decisions on project priorities for both private and public lands that contain natural resources.

#### **5. Staff Reports:**

- Adra mentioned two recent site visits she and Mike made to residential landscapes with natural resources on Fernwood Creek and Oswego Canal.

**6. Public Comments and Announcements:** Mary mentioned the Wild Arts Festival on the weekend before Thanksgiving at Montgomery Park.

**7. Meeting Adjourned at 9:30am.**

**Next Meeting: December 11, 2015; 8:00 am.**

