

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, July 14, 2017

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, Mark Rosenkranz, Dwight Sangrey, Mary Ratcliff, Sarah Asby, and Mike Buck. Our guests were our new Project Manager, Patrick Blanchard, and Mountain Park's Landscape Manager, Zsolt Leholzky. Stephanie invited Zsolt to share his background and interests that led him to this current job placement. He said he came from an agricultural engineering and restorative horticultural background with experience gained in Americorps (Seattle area) and employment with the Snohomish National Forest in addition to water quality work with King County. Zsolt says the challenging yet opportune task ahead of him in Mountain Park is "getting the word out" and "opening eyes" to what is possible for the landscape environment there.

Patrick Blanchard was welcomed and introduced to OLWC Council. He said he came to us from a "weird line of environmental work" that followed his undergraduate degree in Natural Resource Management from Northland College in Wisconsin (2010). He has worked in conservation education, gained experience in the U.S. Forest Service with stream survey work, and in California helped organize an ongoing stream restoration project on Redwood Creek. This enabled him to gain leadership skills with a team of interns and get hands-on experience with riparian restoration and monitoring. So he has had habitat enhancement background and has worked at Mt. Hood, Forest Park and even Austria. Patrick enjoys trail running and biking and awaits reunion with his dog who is coming home from Austria.

2. Operations

- **Minutes:** June 9, 2017 minutes were unanimously accepted as presented.
- **Treasurer's Report:** With our Treasurer, Tom, absent, he sent in June 30th financials to Stephanie who will forward them to members. Our balance stands at \$4,017.00. Adra has put most of the HEF grant together and it has been submitted. Our new contact person at City Hall in place of Anne MacDonald is Sonja Johnson. Stephanie reiterated the key connective piece with our OLWC restorative work and the City's need to meet MS4 criteria. To collaboratively address watershed health, Patrick will try and facilitate a meeting with Sonja and Stephanie. At this meeting,

our Council hopes to find out what record keeping will be incumbent on our part to help submit necessary reports in the future.

3 Reports

- **Staff Report:** Patrick shared ideas about streamlining and making things more efficient. He quickly observed from looking at budget expenses how much money has been spent on outside contract work; and how we might save some funds by taking advantage of his applicator license. In terms of budget categories, a suggestion was made to change “contractor” to “project implementation.” Patrick also thought we could tailor our expenses by targeted herbicide application, more direct implementation with other resources and tools, and getting more versatile equipment (like a Stihl model with multiple attachments). Of course, doing more of our own work means finding storage space for supplies. Safety in usage and storage was highlighted so we continue to operate in responsive procedural fashion. Patrick also mentioned the need for a printer. Sarah thought she had a spare that he could use. In terms of on-the-ground projects, Patrick would like to contact Clackamas Soil and Water to see how they might help on some problem areas. Mark offered to introduce Patrick to a network of volunteers who do landscaping at the Methodist Church adjacent to The Park Academy. Patrick said he made “site assessment forms” and will be sending them out. He also said that he will ensure photo monitoring is part of his plan for records and reports. Zsolt invited Patrick to visit Mountain Park for a perspective on what has happened there and what is envisioned.

- **School and Community Outreach and Partnerships:** Stephanie is working with Larry and implementing a new STEM. She is also connecting with teachers who want to take on watershed education. A meeting with The Park Academy is scheduled for August 10th and curriculum support will hopefully be addressed. There exists a great potential to involve parents and community in this project site and Patrick hopes to develop a cooperative relationship with the Principal, Craig.

4. Old Business

- **Permitting Process**—Stephanie said we had a Final Document thanks to Dwight. The task group will bring it to the next meeting and Mary volunteered to help Dwight with the draft review. A member said that the technical pages needed to be more user friendly. Members voiced concern that it be presented in the right way to City Hall and we might benefit from direct sharing with a City planner. Dwight recommends we have an introductory “interface” for this working document.

- **Strategic Plan Development:** Stephanie said that our process on the Strategic Plan would continue and thought next meeting would be a good opportunity to revisit this package.

5. New Business

- **HEF Grant 2017-2018:** Stephanie and Patrick will follow up with the three project implementation requests for funding.

- **Budget adjustments:** Stephanie versed members on some small budgetary matters like reimbursement for Patrick’s phone and office supplies. And she confirmed that payroll will be handled by Tom and Aleta. Patrick will retain copies

of any receipts for purchases.

- **Safety procedures:** OLWC will need be responsible for a worker's comp policy and guidelines for working alone on our sites especially if power equipment is utilized. Patrick offered to reassure by letting members know his schedule and activity on the individual work projects.

- **Mary Ponto request:** Mike received supportive request from a citizen who asked for Council support to recognize natural resource values on City surrendered property off of Kruse Way. Stephanie said that watershed health can be integrated with development were the land use application to head in that direction.

- **State of Watershed Event:** A committee was formed consisting now of Stephanie, Patrick and Mary. No date has yet been set. Mountain Park was decided on as the venue and Dwight will help orchestrate date and time. Possibly this event might be held at The Park Academy next year. The format of last year was deemed to work well and a recommendation to move the event to early October was voiced. The Committee will plan and refine details for this event.

- **Summer social:** Lastly, Stephanie volunteered to host a summer event for members and partnering landowners. This would be a potluck like last year where families (including dogs) are welcome

6. Public Comments and Announcements: None

7. Meeting Adjourns 9:30am

Next Meeting: Friday, August 11, 2017