

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 11, 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: Rob Amsberry, Jim and Barbara Fisher, Mike Buck, Mary Ratcliff, Tom Bland, Chair Stephanie Wagner, and our Project Manager, Patrick Blanchard.

2. Operations:

- **Minutes: July 14, 2017 minutes were unanimously accepted as presented.**
- **Financial Report:** Tom confirmed that Aleta will be doing payroll and has already processed the first one. He also has set up an automatic deposit to make both state and federal payments. Patrick reports his hours and time which is split between projects, operations and OWEB. Tom sends invoices to Aleta and will be working with Patrick to make sure allocations are rightly categorized. As an aside, both Stephanie and Tom announced that they will be retiring from their day jobs before the year ends.

3. Reports:

- **School linkage:** Stephanie said that Larry Zucker takes the summer off, but she has met with him and appreciates this partnering connection in the umbrella context of our community's sustainability network. Superintendent Heather Beck also has reiterated her ongoing support for watershed education in the curriculum. Stephanie said that the Lake Oswego School Bond money for construction will be abiding by sustainable practices and that each school wants to have a sustainability liaison. Faculty members who accept this position will receive a stipend.
- **Tanglewood:** Patrick is working to get final funds for this project which, though approved, is undergoing review. He is confident that with the documentation provided, the funds will be forthcoming. And Zsolt Leholsky, Mountain Park's Landscape Manager, has conferred with Patrick regarding this site. In hindsight, both acknowledge that more could and should have been done to educate residents on the reasons and rationale for this environmental upgrade. Some neighbors felt misinformed or unclear given an earlier rendering of the planting which does not match the native palette implemented on site. The Watershed Council, in conjunction with Mountain Park's monthly newsletter, will put out a short story focusing on the "functionality" of this restoration project and how it hopes to

mitigate downstream incisement in the drainages.

- **Brighton:** Patrick reported on this site and his work with Theresa Spangler toward a Fall planting after suppression of invasives. They have budgeted \$1300 for native vegetation. One vexing issue is that apparently non-native hawthorne trees are required to be retained since that was stipulated in the Brighton development scenario. Theresa is working to get this condition changed at the City level. Patrick said that Brighton does have available water for plant sustenance. OWEB wants an October 15th deadline for project completion. Stephanie said that contract services in the original grant have already been paid. Only thing left in the budget is for the plant procurement.

- **HEF:** Patrick resubmitted our application yet has not heard back from Sonja.

- **Watershed Visibility:** Stephanie led a discussion on “getting our word out:” how we present ourselves in local publications like *Hello LO*, how we get our work parties calendared and advertised, how we should take advantage of social media platforms for outreach. Mary stated that she does have pictures regarding our OWEB project sites. A member suggested we emphasize volunteer appreciation at our **Watershed Event**. Others recommended using *NextDoor*, a table at Millenium Park, and the monthly Lake Corps newsletter.

- **CCSWCD:** Stephanie and Patrick would like to re-establish contact with Clackamas County Soil and Water--recognizing that they already have a tax base for funding and might have discretionary funds. This contact might prove useful in terms of helping get rid of Japanese knotweed and other problematic invasive vegetation at sites

- **Park Academy:** Patrick met with the Principal, Craig, on August 10th. Stephanie was not able to make that meeting so she will set up another appointment with him to discuss educational linkage with this project scope. Our shared objective is to have an ownership mentality of the site and have the students help with the restorative design elements and the actual work as their ability dictates. Since the school already has a greenhouse, it offers another possibility for propagation of native plants for the site itself. Hopefully, through this school collaboration, we can branch into the community since this special needs school attracts families from all over the area and even beyond. We await the HEF grant regarding this project site.

- **Storage:** Council discussed the most feasible place for storage of equipment. The new City Maintenance building, according to Rob, is secure but closed on weekends when we would most likely need access. Luscher Farm was talked about and Patrick offered the idea of a trailer. Every option seemed to have pros and cons and Patrick will look into costs of different trailer types

4 New Business:

- **Native Plant Sustainability at Sites:** Mike mentioned the ongoing problem with maintenance in these long, protracted summer seasons. The native plantings will not survive without a hydration plan during the months of summer. We can help mitigate this problem with homeowner cooperation where possible, mulching and trying to get water spigots installed near our project sites. Virtually all the plants

at Hallinan have not survived the summer so we will need to replant but with a better maintenance plan. Hopefully, some plants from the Yates site can be moved prior to residential development.

5. No Old Business topics

6. Announcements: Sarah Asby had recent open heart surgery for a valve replacement. Members wishing her well! Tom announced a Springbrook Park Work Party on October 14th and Mike has one scheduled for Iron Mountain on October 15th.

7. Meeting Adjourns at 9:30am.

Next Meeting is Friday September 15, 2017 at 8:00am.