

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, December 1, 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: Jim and Barbara Fisher, Mike Buck, Mary Ratcliff, Chair Stephanie Wagner, Tom Bland, Larry Zucker, Sarah Asby, Mary Ratcliff, Dwight Sangrey, Tom Bland, and Rob Amsberry. Our Project Manager, Patrick Blanchard was in attendance as was Zsolt Leholzky and Sarah Ellison. Cathy McQueeney, Education and Outreach Specialist from Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, was a partnering guest. Board members listened and dialogued with Cathy over the mission of our local conservation district and the many programs and services it provides in helping residents become authentic stewards of their lands. She informed us regarding the tax base for operations and projects; the difficulty and challenge of balancing decision-making in regards to the urban and rural character and needs of our county; Phase I and II planning in regards to Backyard Habitat expansion; and the five “W” focus on weeds, wildlife, water, worms, and working lands. Cathy expanded on what resources were available from CSWCD in terms of educational materials, equipment, programs like WeedWise, assistance as for agricultural family succession planning, etc. Ten watersheds are currently represented in the County. CSWCD distributes non-restricted funds to help further these individual watershed council goals and projects. Non-restricted funds are especially vital for helping pay for staff, supplies, rent and other supportive aspects of watershed councils. When Stephanie asked about possible assistance to help with the LOSN goal of planting 5000 trees, Cathy recommended submitting a proposal with a breakdown on the costs and scope. CSWCD has an invasive weed or species of the month (“Terrible Twelve”) and for this December, holly is the pick. Hopefully, CSWCD will be represented at our February State of the Watershed Event; and we can have linkage to their website from our own.

2. Operations:

- **Minutes: October 13, 2017 minutes were unanimously accepted as presented.**
- **Financial Report:** Tom had a number of meetings with Patrick and Stephanie to help organize and clean up statements and expense coding and clarify our five tracking programs. They established a coding system for all expenses to ensure that the expenses are coded to the correct program. Tom will now be able to complete form 990 which should make it easier for donors to see our financial operations and make it easier for the Council to receive donations and gifts. A Balance Sheet for September and a Profit and Loss Statement for the quarter to date and the year to date were both distributed to members. In January, Tom will have a budget ready for the OLWC. For donors that may use PayPal, Tom sends a letter for tax purposes. He recommended that our Council do something like Friends of Springbrook Park does for personal solicitation letters. We might work with Linda to do something analogously with our email and newsletter.

3. Reports

- **Staff Report:** Patrick is planning a fundraising run at Tryon Creek Park. Normally state parks do not allow fundraising runs but Patrick seems assured of sanction if he covers bases like insurance liability, choosing a starting place other than the State Park (Lewis and Clark), posting the run between early summer and early fall, dealing with horses, etc. The distance would be a 10K to a half marathon length. A maximum of 200 people would be allowed and runners would be obtaining sponsors by donation on miles completed. Naturally, this kind of event with marketing and planning, volunteers needed, aid stations—all the mechanics needs a committee.

Resolution: OLWC Council unanimously moved to form a Committee to start the fundraising trail run.

If members have an idea on the name of this trail run, please submit their ideas to Patrick. Suggestion was made that this event also be a joint deal with Tryon Watershed Council.

Patrick said that the HEF had been approved but no monies have been received. Reports on Brighton and Mountain Park for OWEB are complete. Stephanie and Patrick attended a meeting on the replacement of a culvert in Mountain Park for \$15,000 and it was approved. Our Council will also be submitting a request for \$8500 from CSWCD. Lastly, discussion on the hopes for land acquisition at Hallinan centered on significant rationales as habitat cluster or connectivity, proximity to school, pathway masterplans, creek and watershed enhancement.

- **Education: LOSN School Gardens (not discussed due to time constraints)**

4. Old Business

- **Sarah Ellison and Coalition for Hallinan Nature Park MOU**
Resolution: OLWC Council voted unanimously to accept the MOU from the Hallinan Coalition (Sarah Ellison presenting).
- **State of Watershed Event:** Sarah is our liaison on this and planning continues by the Committee.

5. New Business

- **LOSN 5,000 Tree Project:** Council was presented with this climate action goal with corresponding request for partnership. All concur on the principle role of trees for regulating healthier environs and how this already fits into our own watershed goals. A corollary approach to preserve trees was also mentioned given the reality of a cultural mismanagement of a large percent of our urban trees. LOSN is looking for partners to help facilitate implementation of their Tree Project goals. Thoughts on how to achieve a more healthy community canopy included ideas like less building lot coverage especially in First Addition, emphasis on larger or iconic and native trees, better educational outreach to citizens. LOSN wants to propose this project idea for the City Council January 2018 goal-setting retreat.

Resolution: OLWC Council voted unanimously to help planning and funding for the tree section aspect of LOSN Climate Action Plan.

(No other agenda items were attended to due to time constraints.)

6. Public Comments and Announcements:

OLWC Work Party: Wembley Park site Dec 2, 2017 at 9:00am.

7. Meeting adjourns 9:35am.

Next Meeting Friday, January 12, 2018 at 8:00am.