

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 11, 2018

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: Stephanie Wagner, Jim Fisher, Barbara Fisher, Dwight Sangrey, Mike Buck, Larry Zucker, Mary Ratcliff, and Mark Rosenkranz. Our Watershed Coordinator, Patrick Blanchard, was in attendance as was Sarah Ellison from Hallinan Heights Woods and Zsolt Leholzky from Mountain Park HOA. Ryan Lentz attended in place of Rob Amsberry and Megan Big John, senior crew leader for natural areas and parks for Lake Oswego, was a guest.

2. Operations

• Minutes

Resolved: Minutes for April 13, 2018 were unanimously accepted as presented.

• Finance Report: No report was given since our Treasurer, Tom Bland, was not in attendance.

3. Reports

• Megan Big John: Megan met with Jim and Barbara Fisher at Hallinan Woods to discuss ongoing restoration plans and the evolving thought about best management and maintenance aspects. When invasive removal began, English ivy was the major focus. Then, with so much bare and exposed soil, a proper native planting palette became imperative. Poor soil structures have presented challenges for healthy planting outcomes and a search for a good groundcover continues. Also concentration on other invasives like herb Robert and shiny geranium became an added challenge. Megan sees the answers or approach through a discipline of being science-minded, staying observational and looking at following or assessing natural regeneration of vegetation, investigating new seed spreads, and evaluating invasive species in terms of ability to control it and determining what it endangers. Discussion among members involved threat levels to oaks, noticed return of native plants like tellima and waterleaf at restored areas, struggles with relatively new invasives like garlic mustard which is also allelopathic, and need for photo points and recorded observations as maintenance continues. Dialogue continued on costs

and value for invasive removal and how to involve partners and volunteers in the difficult and ongoing work of identification, precise methods of locating invasives, sharing resources, education, and cooperation—that go hand in hand with

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monitoring responsibilities.

- **Staff Report:** Patrick wants to invite Jeff Lesh from Clackamas Soil and Water’s WeedWise program to a give an educational workshop presentation on invasives at Mountain Park in July. The invitation will be sent soon.

- ◊ Patrick helped oversee a pollination program at the Park Academy where students learned about bees and flies and their habitat. He has one more class to give on watershed health and water quality.

- ◊ On the OLWC restoration projects, Patrick is working with Jim Fisher and on a tree plan. He also is involved with Cottonwood School students every week in addition to helping organize a Northwest Service Academy planting at Mountain Park. He also is helping Mike in monitoring the Springbrook site. A few native plants in gallon containers need to be situated and Patrick has applied herbicide to some of the persistent blackberries. He also has procured new signage for our restoration sites.

- ◊ Tryon Fundraising Run is currently on hold with Patrick too busy to focus on this organizational aspect.

- ◊ Fee for service possibilities received support from the Council when Patrick gives consultant services and plans activities to benefit natural resource areas. He asked direction on any potential problem areas since he wanted to avoid conflict with any professional businesses offering the same services. Feedback from the group supported efforts to have Patrick as a full time coordinator; and members shared that many non-profits do fees for services as long as it fits the mission of the organization. For instance, camps and field trips at Tryon receive charges from participants. People did not see this as a competitive conflict but just common sense for him to do work himself than pay someone else.

4. New Business

- **HEF sites related to Climate Action Plan:** In regards to the “Tree Plan Recommendation” in the Plan, Stephanie said that Jenny and Eliot from the Sustainability Advisory Council drafted what went to Council but she and Patrick wrote the plan. She said that there were some misconceptions about the tree plan among City staff though it was approved as a concept by City Council. The Council directed that the Climate Action Plan get wrapped up into a City sustainability plan. Our Watershed Council now is tasked with making this happen in a thoughtful, systematic way. This involves clarity on getting partners, deciding on monitoring approaches and tools to gauge success, etc. How to garner support from the community was a short brainstorming conversation among members. Among targeted partners mentioned were Lake Oswego School District, student participation as a means for parental inclusion, ties to curriculum as well as to landscape needs; connecting with Morgan Holen, the City contracted arborist.

Stephanie talked about positive takeaways with this Tree Plan which included an increased tree canopy, improvement of public land spaces and development of community wide partnerships. She said that the plan is aspirational and goals for planting or saving 5000 trees over five years could change. Why we are doing this? This is the message that needs articulation. Larry cautioned everyone that with the

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District in transition with key personnel what will help accomplish partnering goals with schools are specific objectives and focusing on just two schools with supportive principals. Partners and sponsors want a tight plan. June 1st is the deadline for a HEF grant plan with targeted sites. Patrick has his sights on this picture. Sonja preferred targeting adjacent sights—park and school-- as Hallinan and Westlake offer. Zsolt said that Mountain Park HOA could do one hundred trees a year. The Tree Plan includes both native and ornamental trees.

5. Old Business

- **Hallinan Woods Fundraising:** Sarah thanked Larry and Patrick for letters of support. She said that five neighborhood associations have banded together for NEG funding for \$43,000 in requests. Many letters of support are coming from community groups like the School Board. Sarah has been attending and advocating for purchase of the Yates property before the PARKS Board. Stephanie will be attending this month's meeting. The goal is to get this parcel on the CIP list. And the hope remains that the whole two acres will be acquired which would almost double the natural open space for Hallinan Park.

(Other agenda topics have to be deferred until June due to expiration of meeting time.)

6. No Public Comments or Announcements

7. Meeting Adjourned at 9:50am.

Next Meeting: Friday, June 8, 2018 at 8:00am.

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