

# OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 13, 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.

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**1. Welcome and Introductions:** Jim Fisher, Barbara Fisher, Mike Buck, Tom Bland, Larry Zucker, Mark Rosenkranz, and Tom Bland. Our Project Manager, Patrick Blanchard, was in attendance as was Sarah Ellison from Hallinan Heights Woods.

## **2. Operations**

### **• Minutes**

**Resolved: Minutes for March 9, 2018 were unanimously accepted as presented.**

**• Finance Report:** Tom distributed a Balance Sheet for the first three months of 2018 that included Profit and Loss data on our separate programs. He favorably noted the \$2,000 donation from the Lake Corps yet also said that OLWC has not yet received the anticipated check from the City but that it should be in process. Tom compared the last three months with the ending three months of last year. No surprise that Spring shows more activity. He reiterated that contributions to Hallinan are set up in its own fund. Sarah expressed a desire that contributors or visitors would have access to more information. Currently, PayPal just collects email and since Tom sends a personal thank you letter noting the receipt from a donor, a residential or physical address is needed. He will be sharing donor names with Sarah. To make the most of a financial report moment, Patrick presented the HEF check of \$8,612.50 from Parks and Recreation to Tom. To conclude, Tom said he awaited an invoice on the insurance certificate we need.

## **3. Reports**

**• Staff Report:** Patrick first reported on the **Park Academy** site where ivy removal continues to be of foremost concern with the outlook for native planting to happen in the fall. This timing helps avoid summer hydration problems for plants that would go in at this time of year. At **Hallinan and Yates** site, the new chain saw purchased by Jim is seeing lots of action here and also on the Gans site near Wells Street. Jim commented on different the open space looks with the canopy open—minus the tree ivy, holly and laurel. OLWC has acquired some necessary tools and they are in various hands and locations so Patrick has made an inventory posted on the drive which he will share and members can add equipment they may have.

Patrick said he has been working with Cottonwood Charter School at Tryon Creek for “in field” learning. Eighth graders do water assessment at the creek as part of survey work. And he has met with Yakima representatives three times since they are eager to have employees participate in service days. Their own site has a woodland and meadow with a neglected Three Sisters Creek. It seems they are interested in restorative work. In terms of **Mountain Park** and our OWEB grant site, an implementation plan is being executed to address erosion concerns. Summertime will be targeted for culvert removal and construction for the span bridge replacement. The funding will total around \$50,000 with around \$20,000 needed for the bridge. The OWEB grant is for \$15,000. Lastly, Patrick mentioned that the **Westlake HOA** had contacted him since they have twenty acres of oak habitat. This watershed is in the Tualatin basin and Clackamas Soil and Water cannot take on any more projects but would be supportive of action taken to enhance this natural open space. Ash Creek was solicited for a bid but apparently the cost of \$113,000 for invasive removal had the HOA looking for other alternatives. Patrick said that they are hoping to become involved with the Climate Action Plan and would want to concentrate on one of the three tracts.

#### **4. Old Business**

- **LOSN 5,000 Tree Project:** Patrick passed out an overview plan for this project that was drafted by Jenny Slepian and Eliot ?. The first year, 500 trees would be planted with energy devoted to identifying partners and defining a methodology for implementing the goals. Patrick stressed the need for GIS platform which might be a good way for high school students to be involved. Maintenance and hydration would also be critical needs to be addressed. He wondered about getting a truck and tank for such purposes—which means he is looking at the budget.
- **Hallinan Woods Fundraising:** Sarah reported that her NEG application with four confirmed neighborhoods would request \$38,400 for the fund to purchase. She said the PARKS Board is sounding more favorably toward purchasing a portion of the Yates property. Yet Sarah would like the whole two acres secured. Though Heidi Schrimsher is a listening advocate, she feels outnumbered by other Board members who have a focus on more active parks rather than natural open spaces. Sarah believes that SDC funding could be utilized for half of the value of the property while the other half would need to come from the City’s general fund. Discussion veered into whether the OLWC should have a liaison to help frame natural areas as more than passive places but open for engagement by young and old. Our natural opens spaces, seen mostly for leisure enjoyment, could also be “classrooms” of rich educational value. This could also help schools take a new look at their own ground maintenance and landscapes that often include natural features.
- **Safety procedures:** Patrick highlighted that with our new chainsaw, teams of at least two a necessary precaution. Protective gear and a cell phone also were noted as advantageous. In terms of first aid, Patrick does have a first aid kit with him. Checking out sites for the presence of bees or wasps is now recommended.

#### **5. New Business**

- **Fee for service:** Patrick asked members if they thought it appropriate for him to charge a fee when asked to give advice regarding contract planning on particular properties like Brighton or Yakima that would go into our PayPal account. Members

thought services rendered in such fashion, which could even include managing volunteer work parties, makes perfect sense.

- **Park Academy Project Extension:** The adjacent property owner next to the Park Academy wanted some familiarity with the restoration plan so he could share it with the new owners. This parcel also holds riparian areas and due to natural resource delineations, it cannot be subdivided for development. Patrick met with this owner (Mark) and has maps and locations of outfalls and is ready to have an extension of the project if the new owners share the values for restoration and would be cooperative in the venture.

- **McNally Property Restoration:** Jim wrote an email to Stephanie regarding a concern that the very resource we are working on could be ripe for redevelopment if Wells Street were to be finished in a way to allow for access. Lisa Deckert is the new neighboring owner who also owns the street access to this site. Jim thought a conversation with the McNally's a necessary prelude before more restoration occurs since we do not want investment on a site that could be converted to residential development. It seems that in the past a three lot partition might have been contemplated, but Jim cannot find any land use file regarding this.

- **Business cards:** Patrick will get some since he is often asked.

- **Need for Watershed Restoration Signage;** In the ongoing need for signage at our work sites, a member recommended procuring them at Oswego Blueprint or Signs Now. And that it might be a good opportunity for a donation request.

**6. Public Comments or Announcements: Friends of Iron Mountain Invasive Removal and Planting, April 15, 2018 at 1:00pm.**

**7. Meeting Adjourns 9:30am. Next meeting: Friday, May 11, 2018**