

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, December 14, 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: Chair Stephanie Wagner, Larry Zucker, Tom Bland, Mike Buck, Jim Fisher, Barbara Fisher, Mary Ratcliff, Mark Rosenkranz, Sara Asby and Tom Berridge. Guests attending were Project Manager, Patrick Blanchard, and Jeff Chase from Palisades Lake Estates HOA in lieu of Jeff Fuchs.

Stephanie welcomed and introduced Jeff to OLWC Council members and afforded him presentation time to brief members regarding his HOA Board's plan to renovate a stormwater feature that has deteriorated since its resource enhancement in 1985. Though Jeff did not author the plan, he was the chair when this issue came to his Board's attention for redress. Jeff Fuchs, a resident who led the "Pond Committee," was responsible for the plan draft to deal with impacts to the functionality of this pond. Jeff passed out a colorful handout of the geographical site with pictures, maps, descriptions of the problem, and direction the Committee took to address the measured silting levels—namely dredging. This pond is part of Lost Dog Creek drainage, a perennial stream emptying into Oswego Lake. The goal of the HOA is to maintain this asset by getting comprehensive engineering consult and necessary permits. The verdict of the HOA is that this pond is no longer a functioning detention system due to the sedimentation fill. From the City side, Rob Amsberry served as a resource, and the HOA selected Henderson for help on feasibility and engineering aspects. Currently, the HOA is working on calculating the costs and arriving at funding sources. Their direction is to follow the original plan yet have a concomitant maintenance plan so the functioning is not compromised. An entire new plan would require or trigger more permits and a much more rigorous process since work on natural riparian features have much more regulatory oversight now than back in 1985. Jeff went into some of the issues that makes revitalization problematic: need for heavy equipment to remove silt; sensitivity to sewer lines that run underneath this resource; diversion of creek during improvement in-creek work; where to displace the dirt.

Patrick mentioned the Brighton Neighborhood HOA as a possible model to follow. Stephanie thought that an OWEB small grant would have potential as a partial funding mechanism. But the grant was contingent upon this not being a mandated project by the City. Stephanie wondered whether the City would be willing to support some sort of grant through Clackamas County Soil and Water since the City

owns the golf course and Luscher Farm properties, the headwaters of Lost Dog Creek. Jeff seemed appreciative of this coalition framework. Stephanie asked Patrick to help facilitate this coordinative endeavor that would necessarily involve many different stakeholders. Some positive aspects of involvement were seen due to the proximity of Lakeridge and Park Academy.

2. Operations

- **Minutes:**

Resolved: Minutes for November 9, 2018 were unanimously accepted.

- **Finance Report:** Stephanie continues her own mastery of Quikbooks and hopes to have our finances in admirable organization by the first of the new year. Tom reported our account stands at \$14,965.99. A budget will be ready by January meeting time. Barbara did suggest someone with expertise who could serve as an oversight person for annual review.

3. Reports

- **Watershed Coordinator:** Patrick reported on **Westlake** project with the contracted herbicide spraying almost finished over seventeen acres. He had consulted with arborist Morgan Holen and ecologist Noah Herlocker regarding best management practices for preserving the oaks from being usurped by both invasive and other native trees. And he admitted the Pre-app at the City was challenging while Stephanie considered it “amazing” considering the promise for future restoration. The hope is Noah will actually be doing a restoration plan for the area given City Manager approval at the beginning of the year. Smaller trees like holly and hawthorne have been cut and left to decompose on site. The plan is to have larger trees, those competing with and compromising the incredible oak preserve, girdled and left as habitat trees. Patrick hopes to coordinate with Ted Labbe’s oak preservation group since an inventory would accord with both groups’ goals. Noah will also be communicating with Nicole at CCSW. And the Westlake HOA has initiated its own establishment of a “friends” group for continued restoration work on this private property entity. In regards to the **Mountain Park** project, Patrick lamented that a permit might be needed while he and the consultant, Henderson, attempt to answer as comprehensively as possible questions of grading, infill, and supports for the bridge that replaces the existing culvert. More oversight from the Army Corps of Engineers further exacerbates facile project implementation as time is devoted to communicating project clarity. Patrick informed us that almost all the invasive removal has been completed at **Park Academy** site and now attention will be on replanting efforts. Jim and he worked on re-sprouted *Arum italicum* at **Hallinan**, and the scheduled December 8th work party was canceled due to herbicide spraying

- **Hallinan Woods Acquisition:** Sarah Ellison could not attend but sent an email update to Stephanie. The main focus now centers on building value for this natural place by its promise for environmental outings for school children as part of their science curricula. Sarah and Stephanie are looking into deepening this integrative environmental program with the cooperation of teachers and parents. Watershed trips could be planned in these areas also

- **Climate Action Plan:** Stephanie is working to finalize the database by March and

coordinate with potential partners in the City like Megan Big John, high schools, and others like iTrees. She emphasizes that the goal is not just in planting new trees but assessing the existing tree inventory and its condition. Dwight is putting together a white paper regarding a systemic approach. Kathleen Wiems is interested to help in this CAP/SAB project.

- **Thank You Get Together:** Currently on hold.
- **PRAB goal for restoration on private land:** Heidi Schrimsher wants to work with OLWC and CCSW and potentially activate HEF and Soil and Water funds. Expiring meeting time did not allow for further exploration of this topic.

4. New Business

- **Budget:** As stated earlier in the minutes, this will be available next month.
- **Patrick's evaluation form:** This will be sent to Board members and is intended as a critical tool of support for Patrick. **Alignment**

5. Old Business

- **Safety procedures:**

6. Public Comments and Announcements:

- **Happy Holidays!**
- **\$10,000 coming from CCSW for Westlake.**
- **State of Watershed date needed—February?**
- **Specific work dates at Westlake: Third Saturdays of the month. Mike will connect Babs Hamachek with Tom Berridge over email.**

7. Meeting Adjourns: 9:38am

Next meeting January 11, 2019 at 8:00am.