

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 8, 2019

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, Tom Bland, Mike Buck, Jim Fisher, Barbara Fisher, Mary Ratcliff, Mark Rosenkranz, and Tom Berridge. Guest attending was Szolt Lehocsky, Mountain Park Landscape Stewardship Director.

2. Operations

• Minutes:

Resolved: Minutes for January 11, 2018 were unanimously accepted.

• Finance Report: Tom reported we had in excess of \$28,000 in our account, but that will decrease after a check in the amount of \$11,175 will be written for a Westlake vendor that applied herbicide treatment services.

3. Reports

• Watershed Coordinator: Patrick was celebrating his marriage and he submitted a written report with "Annual Review Goals. Two work parties in the **Westlake** project are planned for February 16th and March 16th. A member suggested that a Google calendar be set up that we can access or link into. Zsolt reported on **Mountain Park** culvert removal project and said that we did not get the full scope of need on permits from the City. This points to a critical need on City staffing: a planner familiar with natural resource processes when waters are impacted. Having undergone this learning process, we now have template or model to work from. An Army Corps of Engineers permit is apparently not needed with a *Letter of Concurrence* obtained from DSL. But something in our process has triggered oversight with these federal and State agencies with complications of communication between them. What is needed for the permit process remains still undefined and key personnel need to be brought into the picture for clarity. Patrick, handling the OWEB financing submission, is trying facilitate this process so a clear understanding of this scope of enhancement work can receive permission for implementation. And Stephanie is advocating for a person in the Planning Department who can serve as a natural resources coordinator when these situations arise. Szolt related what Mountain Park has financially invested in drawings and plans and expressed frustration that meetings like the initial pre-app did not proffer

the procedural steps to anticipate with other entities like the Corps and DSL. Stephanie clarified how funding was currently allotted on this project including reimbursement for Patrick's time.

- **Hallinan Woods Acquisition:** Stephanie wrote an endorsement for this proposal which was published in the *Lake Oswego Review*; and Jim and Barbara together submitted a letter which was printed. Apparently the owners are patient on their development plans and are open to a fair acquisition compensation for their property. Debbie Craig appeared before City Council encouraging a new Parks bond to begin when the old one retires this year. Members talked briefly about whether the bond would need to be increased in rates or could be kept at the same level yet achieve goals of acquisition and help on restoration projects. Daniel Nguyen is the City Councilor liaison with PRAB.

- **Climate Action Plan:** Mary said this Committee has yet to come together yet she is focusing on tree services as a starting point to collect information for a database. A good database is a prerequisite for effective management of our urban forest. Currently the City does not use any software database. Stephanie did reach out to Megan Big John regarding this issue. A March 1st goal was set to find a database contact person and obtain a list of potential software programs from Szolt. Comments from a number of members on tree issues in our City ensued. One of SAB's action goals would be to host a "tree summit" in the Fall which could address both the planting of trees and better stewardship for the trees we already have. The OLWC could provide help by capturing what is being done on the ground now— what are our targets and how we can we provide a comprehensive approach. Definitely, partnerships will be critical as outreach extends to both public and private realms that compose our canopy. A good database would also help us determine how to diversify our tree species for sustainable management. Mary and Stephanie are in dialogue regarding this Plan moving forward.

- **State of the Watershed Event:** Barb shared a spreadsheet with event logistics. Tom said he as a "run of show" outline with presenters and hosts. More planning by a smaller committee will prepare this SOW event.

4. New Business

- **Patrick's Evaluation and Work Plan:** Stephanie emphasized SUPPORT for Patrick in this project coordinator role. She thanked people for their input and communicated to Patrick some of the major planning and management skills identified. She ended with a reflective question: What do we need to do for his work being more transparent to the Board? In terms of project work plans, Stephanie wants a clear delineation by December each year that corresponds to strategic goals, funding and itemization of the scope of work. Board members are encouraged to collaborate on these work plans. Patrick then puts these on a calendar integrated with his own concentrated endeavors. Efforts to procure better attendance at work parties remains a high priority. Summer turns into a

maintenance scenario for our project areas. Patrick is currently working on an organizational structure and asking members to submit progress project reports on our past and ongoing restorations. We always need to evaluate how our works fulfill or comply with our strategic goals and achieve the best use of funds. The improved watershed remains our highest goal and this takes vision, partnerships, and tools one can hand-hold and tools for effective communication. Everyone here has gifts and talents for use.

5. Old Business

- **Safety Procedures:** Mike mentioned a new procedure stemming from a Westlake project work party where volunteers were beyond sight and sound: exchanging cell phone numbers with the lead project supervisor. Another member mentioned whether orange vests might be in order.

6. Public Comments and Announcements: March 16th work party at Westlake.

7. Meeting Adjourns 9:30am.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 8, 2019 at 8:00am.