

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 12, 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: Jim Fisher, Chair of today's meeting with Stephanie Wagner excused; Barbara Fisher, Mike Buck, Larry Zurcher, Thomas Benson, Mary Ratcliff, Dwight Sangrey and Mark Rosenkranz. Our Project Coordinator, Patrick Blanchard was in attendance.

2. Operations

• Minutes:

Resolved: Minutes for February 8, 2019 and March 8, 2019 were unanimously accepted with minor spelling corrections on surnames mentioned.

• Finance Report: Tom sent in a cash balance of \$16,353.11. He reported that a HEF fund distribution had been received which accounted for this account balance.

3. Reports

• Watershed Coordinator: Regarding the **Westlake Project**, Patrick met with Noah Scharfstein and Scot Siegel in order to discuss expanding the project area to the whole seventeen acres. They dealt with problematic topics like tree removal for better oak management which became a novel request with our current municipal tree code that attempts to help preserve all native trees. Concomitant issues involved what to do with this timber: if left as snags, how many? If dropped, how to measure fuel load in order to mitigate fire danger? How to fund the cost to drop, remove or terminate life on three hundred targeted trees? In Patrick's report on our **Mountain Park Project**, though he has receipt of a letter of concurrence from the ACE, OWEB wanted a fish biologist to inspect the site to insure the plan satisfies passage for fish. Mention was made about inviting Tom Murtagh from Oregon Department of Forestry to help in this capacity. Patrick talked with the science teacher at **Park Academy** regarding an Earth Day event on April 22nd that would involve two classes. He is excited about what has transpired on this site and will be checking plantings and the newly installed pollinator poles with Mason bees. Lastly, Patrick confirmed that the OLWC received HEF approval on the Park Academy and expanded Hallinan sites.

Two different HEF sites: Park Academy and Hallinan approved.

• State of the Watershed Recap: Patrick shared a common sentiment: he wished the turnout was bigger. The attendees numbered around 35 which left lots of pizza leftover. Larry mentioned a better outreach to students since a younger

profile would certainly benefit the event. Other members thought we needed to involve other partners and hear their stories. This could include school partners like Park Academy, Ash Creek, Parks and Rec., etc.

- **Climate Action Plan:** Dwight reported on the Committee's April 9th meeting regarding OLWC's responsibility for the "tree aspect" of the Plan. One area of focus is finding the right software for capturing tree inventory data. Dwight mentioned the pros and cons of both i-Tree and TreeKeeper for this purpose. TreeKeeper would cost \$2500 per year unless a multiple year commitment was made. He intends to meet with both Jeff Ramsey and Jenn Cairo who conduct this work in Portland. Mary and Dwight will also plan on traveling to Salem to meet with Oregon Department of Forestry contact, Kristin Ramstead to learn how they use the i-Tree software package. However, the most immediate conversation will be with Zsolt Lehoczky with Mountain Park HOA who has a robust commercial package and will be giving a tutorial Friday, April 19th, at 8:00am. Mary said that i-Tree software contained a commendable amount of tools for gathering data. In fact, Morgan Holen used this in Lake Oswego for the street tree inventory. Stephanie has written a two page summary of notes regarding the "Tree Summit" planning so far. Hopefully, this Summit will be our roll-out for the tree planting and saving endeavor as part of the Climate Action Plan. Mike gave a synopsis of the meeting he attended with Stephanie at Duke Castle's house on April 9th. This preparatory meeting invited participants to share their own perspectives on vision and goals regarding our community trees as well as the deficits or needed information to better fulfill our ecological responsibilities. Kathleen Wiens and Stephanie will be forming a committee to plan the fall "Tree Summit" and Mike will stay involved with them.

- **Hallinan Woods Acquisition:** Sarah Ellison could not be in attendance but recognition was made of supportive letters in the *Lake Oswego Review*. An appraisal figure for the Yates property has not yet been released. Patrick has been invited to write a letter specifying the natural resource characteristics of the site as a supportive and educational way for hopeful acquisition by the City if the Parks Bond passes in May.

- **Schedule for work parties:** Patrick listed April 20th and 22nd for two work parties at the **Park Academy** site and April 20 and 24th in **Westlake**.

4. New Business

- **Patrick's work plan for April:** The dates are listed above. Patrick said that Ash Creek does offer native plants to groups and will plant them but the minimum purchase may be around 500 plants.

- **Reactivate Stewardship Committee:** Jim communicated with Stephanie regarding how we operate as a board with some need for better project coordination especially as projects multiply and Patrick's administrative load increases. This results in less managed field operations. Another troubling aspect are projects that do not seem to transition toward closure. Jim shared these constructive steps toward solidifying project endeavors:

- * Form a Stewardship Committee to explore solutions
- * Assign a board member liaison for each project site
- * Expand our board not in terms of membership but volunteer workers
- * Have a checklist to document project work progress on each site
- * Solicit suggestions for future projects from HOA's and NA's for private properties

not covered by HOA's

* Deal with long term management accountability

The Council recognized that most members are not actively involved on the individual work projects. Dwight referred members to the Baldrige principles regarding long-term project management. Members talked about the challenges of how to handle all these sites with current availability and strategies. A Stewardship Committee of Patrick, Dwight, Jim, Barb and Mike will meet on this.

5. Old Business

- **Safety Procedures:** Jim recommends when using herbicides like glyphosate and trichlopyr to soak the spraying nozzle to prevent it from gumming up. Also noted was fungus becoming present in the US that could constitute a health hazard such as candida auris.

6. Public Comments and Announcements:

Freepons Park, April 14th, 1:00-3:00pm.

Plant sale for Audubon Backyard Habitat at Echo Nursery in Oregon

City starting today, April 12th.

Friends of Trees: Hiroshima Peace Tree planting of a Japanese *Ginkgo biloba* in Lake Oswego.

7. Meeting Adjourns: 9:30am

Next Meeting: May 10, 2019 at 8:00am