

# OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 8, 2020

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 for virtual meeting:** Stephanie Wagner, Mike Buck, Mark Rosenkranz, Dwight Sangrey, Jim Fisher, Mary Ratcliff, Sarah Asby, Tom Bland, Tom Berridge, Barbara Fisher along with Jack Halsey, Watershed Coordinator; Kat Maloney, Community Outreach Specialist; and Laurent Nickel, Herbicide Specialist. (One feature of a Zoom session appears to be the “catching up” vignettes by members as everyone congregates on-line: Stephanie shared a story on buying produce and seafood locally—yummy crab cakes as a result; Tom Bland built a critter fence; Dwight had eight yards of barkdust to play with; Jim and Barbara discovered two more native plants calling it home in Hallinan Woods—Broadleafed star-flower and Hooker’s Fairy Bells

## **2. Operations**

### **• Minutes:**

**Resolved: Minutes for April 10, 2020 were unanimously accepted.** To clarify on a question asked regarding our OLWC email account, Jack switched email server and a few members were notified by him since accounts had been previously set up for automatic forwarding to personal accounts.

**• Finance Report:** Tom Bland reported that he had completed our 990-EZ tax form for exemption from paying income tax. He said board members had all turned in their “conflict of interest forms” except those working for stakeholders. Since there is no fear of relational affect, he requests their filling and turning in forms. OLWC received two more donations for Earth Day and another one for \$1000. An ebullient Stephanie said that these donations manifest community recognition and support. She also said that reports were going in for City grants scheduled for June. The newly formed Finance Committee will be meeting next week and Stephanie asked if other members were interested in this work. Dwight accepted. Jack has drafted a charter for the Committee to finalize and three members on the Committee provide a more appropriate level of accountability.

**•Volunteer Hour Tracking:** Tom found this tracking easier to do return with the ledger so well filled in. Jack said about half of our group does it every time. The more we can document hours we commit, the better. Auto-entry or let Jack know; whatever is easiest. Jack emphasized how helpful this data is for grant reports and tax forms. Barb made out a form for her and Jim to use for tracking their hours over the days and weeks for accurate reporting monthly; and she will email to it any member who requests it. Jack said that members can retroactively report hours if they have missed previous reporting times.

### 3. Reports

#### • Watershed Coordinator—Jack

• **CSWCD Budget Update:** Jack attended a Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District conference attended by many County watershed council members requesting reinstatement of more funding for continued projects. As previously reported, CSWCD had cut annual funding from around \$200,000 to \$20,000 due to land acquisition and asset development. Jack thought that there could be more funding with this increased advocacy. Stephany had listened in to the budget hearing and applauded Jack's letter. Jack has been very involved in this—cooperating with the other County watershed councils to achieve objectives with a unified message on how important this funding has been for collective restorative impact in our County.

• **Volunteer Program Update:** With Covid-19 precautionary measures still in force, Jack reported no scheduled public events by the OLWC. However, Mike did a neighborhood project over two weeks in the Evergreen neighborhood street parkway with around a dozen volunteers respecting social distancing on each work party. Mike let members know what needs are obvious on City right-of-ways especially since City subcontracting crews are not working during this time. He did this invasive removal clean-up in concert with Pam Peterson, City Street Maintenance Landscape supervisor.

• **Project Updates:** In cooperation with the County WeedWise Program that listed Garlic Mustard as April's invasive species of the month, Jack devoted attention to removing this scourge from Lake Oswego environs through collaborative efforts with partners and board members. Jack said he will send members a map where Parks and Recreation has found and treated it with herbicides. Board members shared where each had found it in their own experiences while visiting our natural open spaces. Other invasive species, like Herb Robert and Shiny Geranium were also noted by members and discussed as to tolerable levels. Mike mentioned a good video produced by the Oregon Department of Agriculture on both of these species. It seemed that members had a consensus on approach based on a site-specific analysis. Jack reiterated that WeedWise has a prioritization process complete for referencing.

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, Jack met with a drone contractor, Nick Wagner, for a first flight scheduled at Westlake Project. He took hundreds of pictures and then forms an "orthoexhibit" of clear resolution of the site which has advantages for planning and for communicating our restoration story there. The detailed imagery provides significant data as tree heights, canopy levels, and longitude and latitude locations (geo-referencing). Since Nick donated his time and work on this, Tom Bland requested from Jack a "zero invoice" form sent for donation equivalence. Jack said that this one flight contained a gigabyte of data but has a compressed version. The use for reporting and capturing differences especially at this project site when so many large trees are being removed will be significant. How data is captured presents manifold uses: biomass calculation, tracking invasives, identification of plant vegetation among others. And Jack said that the drone survey is much cheaper than an on-the-ground survey since it is efficient and saves on process time.

#### • Outreach Specialist—Kat

• **Urban Forest/iTree update:** Kat updated members regarding Earth Day/Arbor Day events. She mentioned good levels of engagement on social media and wants to continue promotions. One social media activity she focused on was Earth Day Bingo. As a result of this outreach, we had \$200 donated. In addition, tens of trees were saved from ivy. Kat met with Tom Bland and Mike on what their own Urban Forest Committees were doing prior to Covid-19. Her next step is meeting with people who expressed an interest in March and getting them excited about what they can do within their own

neighborhoods. Kat reached out to several neighborhood associations and three or four expressed interest and follow-up. Mike mentioned some activities that the Lake Grove UFC had been doing but welcomed training on i-Tree. Jim asked Kat regarding any specific demographic that pertained to these committees. Kat replied that she had just talked with chair contacts primarily. Tom Bland mentioned needs in his own Upland neighborhood with Springbrook Park planning a focal point. How to engage partners and social media would be a good post Covid-19 opportunity for forestry restoration there. Regarding i-Tree, Kat met with arborist Morgen Holen who recommends parameters for this data collection. Kat said she would send out a survey program version next week and invited any questions members might have. A second data version would then be coming out in a few weeks after the first data test. Barbara asked a question regarding any planned summer work with interns. Stephanie mentioned two campaigns or programs that were being promoted: soil health and all that is involved with seeing soil as a system and what contributes to its betterment (and what doesn't like herbicides). This will roll out in June. Jack said that we would again have summer interns from IRCO and Kat will be helping provide support with him. PSU interns from the Communication Department are planned to help with the i-Tree program roll out. Stephanie mentioned she is thrilled with what Kat is doing to set up these emerging programs.

- **City of LO Charter X Amendment:** Stephanie met with David Powell in light of this initiative not having the signatures to get on November's ballot but seeking a document with the City position on this. Apparently, the City Council is waiting to see what develops so everything seems latent right now.

- **Stewardship Committee update on Park Academy:** Mark and Jack visited this project site on May 1st and found garlic mustard. They filled two garbage bags with lots of two-year and some one-year plants. They surveyed the property for restoration potential, and Mark showed on his computer screen a map pinpointing these features: locations of garlic mustard; key habitat areas; knotweed treatment location; encroachments; creek incisement, erosion, sedimentation problems; property lines; adjacent properties' natural linkages and opportunities. Mark comprehensively went over multiple aspects needing more attention yet clearly enunciated the restorative potential not only for this site but continuing down the channel basin.

#### **4. New Business**

- **Asian Giant Hornet** (Stephanie's connection was terminated.) Jack said no documented cases have yet occurred in Oregon but monitoring agencies have eyes on it. Please be on the lookout.

#### **5. Public Comments and Announcements (none)**

#### **6. Meeting adjourns at 9:45am.**

**Next Meeting: June 12, 2020 at 8:00am.**