

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 12, 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.

1. Welcome and Introductions for virtual meeting: Stephanie Wagner, Tom Benson, Mike Buck, Mark Rosenkranz, Jim Fisher, Mary Ratcliff, Sarah Asby, Tom Bland, Barbara Fisher along with Jack Halsey, Watershed Coordinator; Kat Maloney, Community Outreach Specialist; and Laurent Nickel, Herbicide Specialist

2. Operations

• Minutes:

Resolved: Minutes for May 8, 2020 were unanimously accepted.

• Finance Report: Our OLWC Treasurer, Tom, said that he will invoice the City on May 11th to request \$38,213.00 for the next installment project funding. Stephanie thanked Jack for getting the active reports sent to Megan Big John who is responsible for assessing the reports and granting the finances for our active projects. Stephanie met with Dwight who now serves on the Finance Committee in order to acquaint him with the financial side of our operation. Having seen the books, Dwight gave his own reassurance on how the last two years looked according to his own perceived professional acuity. The Finance Committee will give a more detailed and formal report in July.

3. Staff Reports

• Watershed Coordinator—Jack

- CSWCD MOU:** Jack first talked about Volunteer tracking and recording and reiterated that he will send the link out that was also included in this meeting's agenda notification email. He also sent out a draft of a MOU document on June 9th to formalize our coordination with the CSWCD's WeedWise Program. We share their mission and already are cooperatively working on identifying and targeting some species like garlic mustard. Jack said a majority of Clackamas County watershed councils already work with WeedWise. CSWCD has over 100 landowner agreements in Lake Oswego, mostly concerned with invasive garlic mustard. We are not obligated to work with any of these landowners but we could. This also provides an avenue or opportunity for other volunteers like neighborhood Urban Forest Committees to participate. Mark said the Canal Cooperation has been part of this program also.

Resolution: OLWC Board unanimously approves the agreement and authorizes Jack to sign it on our behalf.

Barbara said that the map attached to the document did not show all of the watershed. Jack said that a new interactive map would be implemented on their website soon which would allow people to zoom into various locations. A member asked if we could get this for our website.

- **Lake Oswego HEP Reports:** Jack said that he will file three reports to the City by the due date on Monday, June 15th.
- **Lake Oswego HEP Application:** This application includes new projects on two private properties: Wells Street next to our Gans project and another on Twin Fir Road just across the road from the Hope Community Church property. Barbara and Jim acquired the landowner agreement and initially assessed the former site. Jack and Mike toured the Twin Fir site, and Jack got the landowner agreement in hopes of improving the riparian tree canopy environment. Jack also is requesting additional funds for helping manage here the formerly mentioned CSWCD program on garlic mustard. Jack explained that the City grants funds on a site by site basis. The total financial package will be around \$60,000 to \$70,000 over three years. About \$45,000 will be devoted to staff time. Jack admitted that Covid-19 may require policy adherence that constrains group volunteer efforts.
- **IRCO Internship Update:** Jack said he is still planning to utilize internships but the timeline has been delayed to the beginning of July. He will not have details for at least two more weeks and will apprise us of any continuing policies for safe working conditions during this Covid-19 situation.
- **Outreach Specialist—Kat**
 - **Urban Forest Committees:** In her monthly update, Kate said she contacted Tree Summit members and some NA chairs and hoped for a meeting next week with those interested in collaboration. She will be sending a poll to those who expressed leadership desires for a meeting date. Kat said Forest Hills and FAN were very active especially in Type II process vigilance. She admitted that this pandemic time has created challenges to galvanize folks who are interested. If Board members are engaged in their own neighborhoods and want to help people connect, please contact Kat. Stephanie said that it will be much easier to engage when we have something specific to do. Kat does have outreach materials that give an overview on what an Urban Forest Committee can accomplish. It is located on our OLWC Drive in a UFC file. She said each UFC should have its own policies but would also share in broader urban forest goals.
 - **I-Tree BETA 2.0:** Kat along with Stephanie, Mary, Jack and Morgen Holen met a week and half ago to formulate policies, survey and test. She will be refining the results of their work and sending it to the Board, Tree Summit Committee and Megan Big John for continued participation and feedback. She wants to see how the survey platform is working before opening it to a larger group.
 - **“Soil Your Undies” update:** This will be held off until probably July. Kat said that outreach materials were being drafted and loaded onto the private side of our website for review.
 - **PSU Communications Intern:** Kat said that two applications were received for this position. She interviewed yesterday on June 11th and will have a decision early next week regarding this specific help with our Outreach Campaign. The person receives credit for work performed to develop outreach materials, but this is not a paid position.

4. New Business

• **Black Lives Matter statement—creation, approval and distribution process:** Stephanie said that Jack and Kat ran the OLWC statement by her before it was sent out to our public. She stated that timing and relevance warranted the quick response and gave Jack the permission for distribution prior to any Board review. Stephanie felt the strong statement fit in appropriately with our DEI emphasis and integration into our work and this release seemed to be consistent with other forms of public communication like our newsletters. Mark said he read and incorporated other organizations' statements before issuing his own for North Lake Management Society. He wanted to push diversity policy and outreach to underserved communities. He related the process he followed and commented on the pushback received. Individual board members started to weigh in on the uniqueness of "our" statement—that it was not equivalent to a newsletter since it dealt with controversial issues and, hence, politically charged language. Though no one disagreed with the content or intent, Board members felt that a process for review should have preceded the release since it was issued corporately in our name. And this was beyond the political realm; it constituted a deeper, personal subject matter that goes to the heart of each of us and why our authority wanted to help author it. As advocates, we constantly work not to turn a blind eye to the environment. We hope that we are attuned to hear the "cry of the poor" wherever it may be. Our words of inclusiveness aim not to be conflictual but to help heal the fractures in our society that are undoubtedly structurally and systemically caused.

• **DEI Approach:** Stephanie led members in a continuing discussion on where we need go as an organization with what we now hold in our hearts. This is not a time for silence but for us to realize our voice, to resist complicity in exclusionary behavior. Our dialogue together was seen and felt as a teaching moment to expand our consciousness. Members explored and tried to imagine what actions could be taken to broaden our perspectives so we are more sensitive to uncomfortable realities among us. A few board members shared their own experiences for inclusiveness at other participative organizations including Mountain Park HOA, our high schools, the Lake Oswego Chinese Council, Wisdom of the Elders—to mention a few. All identified with the moral urgency of this issue and the humility it takes to self-evaluate based on another's perspective. Jack appreciated the feedback on wanting notification but especially was grateful for the passion and interest manifested by the Board. Stephanie desired that we continue this conversation. Jack echoed what Mike said that this was about a personal process where we were all speaking from the heart. Our board felt we had taken a first big step together. We left one another in a reflective state, a manifestation of our not ever being "done" with this and recognizing it will take us all to effect transformation and meaningful change.

5. Public Comments and Announcements: None

6. Meeting Adjourns at 9:39am

Next Meeting: July 10, 2020

