

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 14, 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: Stephanie Wagner, Mike Buck, Mary Ratcliff, Jim Fisher, Barbara Fisher, Tom Bland, with Jack Halsey, Watershed Coordinator. On-line Directors participating were Tom Berridge, Tom Benson, Mark Rosenkranz with Kat Maloney, Community Outreach Specialist.

2. Operations

• Minutes:

Resolved: Minutes for July 10, 2020 were unanimously accepted.

• Finance Report: Stephanie said that the quarterly financials were reviewed at the Finance Committee Meeting. Tom provided a few details: At the end of June, our account was low yet in July, OLWC received a \$38,000 check from the City. Tom could then issue checks to Wisdom of the Elders, our website host, and to Laurent, our Herbicide Specialist. Stephanie said she appreciated the staff's (Jack and Kat) timely reporting of their hours.

• Volunteer Hour Tracking: Jack will send out this reporting link as usual.

3. Staff Reports

• Watershed Coordinator—Jack

- IRCO internship:** Jack said this process delayed by virus. One intern is ready to go. and will be training virtually this afternoon. Two other candidates are completing hiring forms. Obviously, we are looking at a fall program more than a summer one.
- New Project Map (map link given in Agenda):** Having a map of our sites was listed in our Strategic Plan (Goal 2) so Jack has aptly fulfilled this objective which helps depict where we have past and present restoration activities across our City. This is one more tool for marketing our work to watershed partners.
- Westlake Project Permit update:** City Planner, Evan Fransted gave Jack feedback regarding certain trees in the wetland in response to the submitted tree removal management plan. Evan interfaces with contract the City's contract arborist, Morgan Holen. The time-line for this oak habitat restoration through tree removal and conversion to snags will be later fall. Brian French is the lead consulting arborist for us. For our two new projected work sites, Jack turned in the grant applications for review two months ago so we expects to hear back from Megan Big John soon. The garlic mustard removal partnership endeavor was also included. Stephanie thanked Jack for his good work

collecting data and drafting all of these grant applications. Board coordinators for these new projects will be worked out by Jack and the Stewardship Committee. It is important that other grant potentials be explored for flexibility on other projects. In conclusion, Jack responded to Barbara's query regarding Laurent's availability and monthly contract expectations with our Council.

- **Jack is Out of Office August 18-24**

- **Outreach Specialist—Kat**

- **iTree Progress:** Kat met with the iTree data group last week and received good feedback to help her edit as she also transitions account accessibility for individuals. She talked with a Portland based resource that helped provide training resources. In September, she will work with Morgan Holen and also continue contact with the ten people who have signed up and are giving direction for better login possibilities.

- **Soil Your Undies:** During the preceding week, Stephanie had dug up her buried—for two months-- three pair of undies and showed the differences dependent upon soil structure and health. Of course, the cotton was virtually non-existent where the better soil conditions existed. More cloth remained where soil had less moisture and compost and therefore not as hospitable to beneficial micro-organisms. This program is a learning tool to gain derivatives and data from comparisons. Stephanie related that this focus on soil is tied to climate change behavior since carbon sequestration is amplified in soil with more microbes. Adapted to school curricula, programs like this could not only add to educational goals but reach policy and behavior changes that effect soil health in our city, county and state. LOSN and Watershed newsletters will be used to publicize this learning activity. Kat said she is working with an AP environmental teacher in response to her request for help in setting up a lab with multiple experiments. Stephanie recommended a book, *Growing A Revolution*, for us on what needs to change in terms of present conventional use of our earth—especially soil—in terms of horticulture. Soil needs to be recognized for its integral role in our ecosystem. Practices like mulching and going organic will be part of our ongoing agenda for urban landscapes.

- **Tree Summit:** Kat will be reaching out to past Committee members to plan this next event which of necessity will have to be through Zoom. Of course, the Summit will be all about trees but members will decide what direction to go. Having data from iTree surveys will help give us a snapshot. Mike will find out from the City where they are with LiDAR analysis. Again, the Summit will manifest how we as a community offer vital stewardship to our urban forest: what we are doing and what we still need to do.

- **Urban Watershed Outreach Meeting:** Kat is part of a group of urban watershed councils who meet quarterly on issues and shared resources. She also met last Thursday on DEI and racial justice concerns. Some focuses continue to be how best to interact during this ongoing viral threat and gathering resources on environmental justice as it is linked to racial justice. Kat said our own OLWC statement was widely praised and actually used by the County for their own press release. Kat will continue to attend monthly meetings to strategize over DEI goals.

4. Committee Reports

- **Stewardship Committee Report:** This month the featured project site is Yates, and Jim had a map of the City to locate this visually for us. Actually, he admitted this project is outside of our true watershed geography since Hallinan Creek flows directly into the Willamette not into the lake. Jim related the history of our involvement beginning in 2015 with Mike's meeting with the owners for permission to work on the riparian/sensitive lands area—about one-quarter of the

two acre site. It is a beautiful, forested riparian woodland but neglected with an old house needing demolition—which the owners have calendared. Work parties were scheduled and neighborhood volunteers participated with watershed coordination. Jim now is the Board Coordinator and works there once or twice a week on this original part of our grant but also on the western drainage area that was added later to our permitted restoration work. With development pending, delineation of wetland and stream corridors have been undertaken. Jim went over some of the native vegetation that exists and what has been attempted at replanting efforts to supplement it. He also has utilized Laurent for selective invasive removal on invasives that could not be manually eliminated. Currently, a push by concerned neighbors and many residents in Lake Oswego to have City Council purchase the property for fair market value is underway. Letters to the *Lake Oswego Review*, to Council members and through partnering groups are all efforts to try and beat the loss to development. OLWC Stewardship Committee meets on the 4th Thursday of the month which is August 27th at 9:00am.

- **Education and Outreach Committee Meeting:** Stephanie has formed a Committee and Mary has volunteered to be part of it. They also have Sharon Hawley and Nate Foster joining them. Their focus is on working with schools, and now with Covid-19 upon us, with parents helping them get their kids outside to learn about the environment. *Soil Your Undies* will be part of this outreach programming. Larry has been apprised and cooperating with the Committee.

5. Old Business:

- **DEI approach:** Jack continues looking for the right tool to use for our own organizational self-assessment. He inquired about who do we want involved with the assessment: a subgroup or committee? Community member involvement? He seeks an action plan around equity work and training materials. Jack is benefitting from his own inclusion planning work done by Johnson Creek Watershed and he is staying attuned to what is evolving in our City and other watershed councils. Everyone was encouraged to continue doing their own education on how to be anti-racist. Members gave book titles and reflection process ideas to one another. What we decide on has to be linked to our Strategic Plan and our mission role. How we reflect and project values is important since we want to change perceptions—by changing ourselves, with each other and others in meaningful engagement

- **Lake Access:** Jack talked with Jeff Ward from the Oswego Lake Corporation to receive the recent history of what has transpired regarding the lawsuit and the on-going discussion of relevant policy and legal issues. A decision is forthcoming regarding access from City property to Lakewood Bay. Todd Praeger, a plaintiff in the lawsuit, reached out to OLWC as he continues to lobby and build partnerships for public access to the lake. He has cast his perspective in the new light of dialogue regarding white privilege and our admittedly historical exclusionary practices that extend back to territorial and statehood days yet cast a shadow on our own local community formation. The role of the lake and its maintenance as a healthy recreational body of water demand attention to many focal areas since residential ownership and easements currently determine the economic viability of these qualitative efforts. Mark said his energies also extend into treating the lake and riparian area as a natural resource—as a place to re-create habitat areas. Keeping pesticides and herbicides and fertilizer use out of streams, creeks and the lake itself is an ongoing educational effort. Stephanie spoke to our task: our work as watershed stewards causes us to see where change is needed and to embrace the means that contributes to health, sustainability, and equity. We pursue the challenge.

6. New Business:

- **Strategic Plan:** It would seem Stephanie sized up the clock and said it's time to look at our Plan's vision and mission. She encouraged us to look at the goals and how to move forward together. Hence, all of us need to be involved in this exercise that could be accomplished by dividing the goals up and working on them in groups. Stephanie will send out materials for a formal meeting. Tom Bland offered his back yard for a safe-distanced meeting space. Tom reiterated that the structure is about vision and objectives but formalizing it in a shareable schema with understandable metrics.

- **Job Review for Jack:** The form will be sent out to members and Jack will do his own self-evaluation also. Stephanie wants this done by the end of September.

7. Public Comments and Announcements: Barb's new email address was sent to members only

Meeting Adjourns: 9:45am

Next Meeting: September 11, 2020

