

# OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

## MEETING MINUTES

Friday, January 8, 2021

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: (Online attendance)** Stephanie Wagner, Larry Zurcher, Mike Buck, Mary Ratcliff, Jim Fisher, Barbara Fisher, Mark Rosenkranz, Tom Bland, Thomas Benson, Tom Berridge, Mary Ratcliff, Denny Barnes with Jack Halsey, Watershed Coordinator and Kat Maloney, Community Outreach Specialist.

### 2. Operations

- **Minutes: Resolved: Minutes for December 11, 2020 were unanimously approved.**
- **Finance Report:** Tom thanked the Board donors and community members' generosity. He also reported a \$12,000 check from OWEB which gives us a current flush cash balance of \$27,478.97. Tom was elated over the financial assessment of this past year and what it means moving forward into the new year. At the end of Tom's report on the upcoming final budget amount, Jack talked to Board members about the importance of their tracking hours for 2020. He said members can use the on-line option to fill in their volunteer time for the whole year; or members can email Jack if anyone prefers that avenue to track hourly contributions.

### 3. Staff Reports

#### Watershed Coordinator--Jack

- **Fundraising Updates:** At the start of Jack's report, he expanded comments regarding the fundraising levels for the year: \$11,900 was contributed by individuals and corporate matches for the year. And the month of December saw \$4,000 given! This means we can do even more expansive work. Jack applied for a Clackamas County Covid-19 Relief Grant and so the OLWC received \$4,999.00 that can be used for expenses in 2020--another supplemental help. Jack related that the Wells Project HEP2021 payment from the City was received, and he was in the last phase of obtaining owner agreement signatures on the Twin Fir/Springbrook Creek project site.
- **Project Updates:** Jack's update began with the **Park Academy** site where he and Stewardship Coordinator, Mark, are collaborating on what it will take financially to continue the restorative work. Noted neighbors' encroachments on the north side of the project area make native vegetation implementation more problematic. Other challenges are potential in-stream project work needed that may require additional funding support from the County. Persistent invasives like spurge laurel, garlic mustard, and Japanese knotweed also require removal and monitoring. Mark expressed his desire for continued maintenance on what has been accomplished while pursuing feasible options for continued levels of restoration. Jack thinks we can continue eradication needs through herbicide treatment and volunteer recruitment especially with students. And these work parties could be funded from grants. However, we await post Covid-19 conditions.

Regarding **Westlake** project, Jack said that tree removal and cutting will begin and a Zoom session is being planned for informing the neighborhood. On-line and printed materials will be available to explain the rationale and purpose of this oak woodland enhancement strategy. Stephanie reiterated the need for accurate

information by OLWC and the HOA to help ameliorate cares and concerns. Factual information should also be placed on our website. Emails have gone out to neighbors alerting them of this impending change to the woodland as has a letter to homeowners in Westlake. Mary mentioned the possibility of a sign being posted on Kruse Way so help let passers-by understand the situational context with this tree removal. Jack said he would put up additional signage with notification of what is transpiring. Stephanie said that the Education and Outreach Committee can also address this. Tree removal work will begin in February and then recess until September and October due to bird nesting considerations. About half the targeted trees will be removed in each time period.

- **Clackamas Community College Internships:** In a further outcome of the Tree Summit, Jack is pursuing an idea with an instructor at the College to host an internship program for willing students who desire field work experience. This is in nascent stages of conceptual development.

#### **Outreach Specialist--Kat**

- **Green Teams and iTree:** Kat reported working with the Lakeridge High School Green Team yesterday to assist their iTree registration and in-field measurement tasks. She said that tree data collection would begin next week and more expansively in Lake Oswego in the following weeks. When asked how many students were participating, Kat said that six had attended this last preparatory meeting but she hopes for more involvement.
- **Urban Forest Committees Update:** Admittedly, committee formation is slow due in large part to Covid-19 impacts. But more interest was generated by the Tree Summit, and Kat said she has a meeting scheduled this same day with those that expressed willingness during the holidays. Tom Bland heard from an individual donor who really valued the Tree Summit and was now interested, and he will share the name with Kat. She said that two neighborhoods without a committee in the past are now interested. Each neighborhood can determine its own mission with prioritized objectives. Kat sees her own role as providing educational support and mechanics like tools. A quarterly meeting with various committee members would also seem a good idea once committees are formed for tree health.
- **Newsletters:** Kat said the late December newsletter update was popular and received good feedback. Articles were submitted by the Education and Outreach Committee. This may be one factor that encouraged donations to the OLWC. Kat encouraged other Board members to contribute content in the way of short articles, pictures, and events. Mary suggested that the newsletter could also be a venue for an NA's urban forest committee work to be highlighted. Stephanie mentioned that Nate Foster's update from the Green Team at Lake Oswego High School was well-received. Kat motivated members to send in photos to Google Drive so that we have a small pictorial library for future marketing endeavors. She offered assistance to members if they wanted help in doing this. She offered to create a Springbrook Park folder for Tom. Denny thought highlighting wildlife would catch peoples' attention. The next newsletter release will be in February and feature the connection between plants and wildlife, possibly even focusing on a specific insect or bug! Barb was very interested in Hallinan having an urban forest committee but wanted information sent to the NA Board chair. Stephanie said she would handle this and keep Kat in the loop.

#### **4. Committee Reports**

- **Stewardship Committee Report--Tom Berridge:** Tom reported the Committee's work on the strategic plan and declared it now ready to comprise or enfold it with the whole plan. The next Committee meeting is on January 28th. One decision emanating from our December meeting was to highlight an individual work project site at each monthly Board meeting.
- **Education and Outreach Committee--Stephanie:** Stephanie said the Committee focused on strategic plan goal writing and newsletter content. Currently, educational outreach is focused on our high schools right now and attention on the kick off for *Soil Your Undies* event.

#### **5. Old Business**

- **Strategic Planning Meeting Scheduling:** Jack has a date set for finalizing individual committee work:

January 27th, Wednesday, 3:00pm-5:00pm. He will send out a calendar link. A week before, Jack will send out the agenda and preparatory materials. Stephanie appreciates all the work put into this and believes our annual review will be so much easier with this in place.

## **6. New Business**

- **Annual Report:** In this new year, Jack would like to write an annual report looking back at last year and recognizing donors, partners and our work accomplished. He would like collaborative help on this in the way of stories or articles as well as design and format creativity. Tom could do a financial page, Stephanie might have words “From the President.” This report would be published in a PDF on-line at our website and through social media connections.
- **Goal Recommendations to City Council:** Stephanie said that we have a recommendation submission deadline on January 15th. Do we want a recommendation from Watershed Council? Members gave ideas stemming from the outcomes from the Tree Summit, and Stephanie said she would get a drafted goal letter out by this Sunday for members’ critique and input.
- **Todd Prager Response:** Jack received an email from Todd wanting our advocacy on the issue of Lake access. Jack said our position was to stay uninvolved pending resolution of this issue in the juridical forum. He did mention our reading an article about a San Jose park opening that might be analogous to here. Though we are not going to take any specific stance on this issue, Mike encouraged fellow members to investigate and share historical background and understandings regarding how we arrived at the situational context we find ourselves in today. Our concern as a watershed certainly includes the quality concerns and care of this natural resource especially as we work hard for stream and riparian integrity. Stephanie thought having a baseline measurement within which to compare and assess the health would be good. Mike will follow-up with Rob Amsberry for this data.

**7. Public Comments and Announcements:** The Sustainability Network meeting will be next Thursday, January 14th and Jack will be giving an update from the OLWC. Members can register for the event at their website. Joe Buck, the new Mayor, will also be speaking.

**8. Meet Adjourns: 9:37am**

**Next Meeting February 12, 2021; 8:00am**