

# OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

## MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 9, 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, Dwight Sangrey, Mike Buck, Mary Ratcliff, Jim Fisher, Barbara Fisher, Tom Bland, Denny Barnes, Mark Rosenkranz, Mary Ratcliff, Zsolt Lehoczky with Jack Halsey, Watershed Coordinator.

### **2. Operations**

- **Minutes: Resolved: Minutes for March 12, 2021 were unanimously approved.**
- **Finance Report:** Tom says our account is at a “comfortable cushion” of \$18,628.86.
- **Board Hours Tracking: Members encouraged to turn in hours.**

**3. Strategic Plan--Clarifications and Adoption:** After a brief discussion on “Board Recruitment” as both a Staff and Board responsibility, members felt comfortable with the text of our Strategic Plan. Stephanie moved to adopt with Mary seconding.

**Resolution: Strategic Plan is unanimously approved.**

### **4. Staff Reports**

#### **Watershed Coordinator--Jack**

- **Recruitment for Community Outreach Specialist Position:** Jack had the descriptive link posted in the agenda and said that it was also on our website. Tom, Stephanie, Mike and Jack met over the position to discuss any changes. The Equity team looked at it also. Active recruitment has been initiated through marketing to usual professional networks. Jack said no specific person comes to mind that he could reach out to. Mike and Jim volunteered to help review and interview applications and applicants. Though the value for diverse inclusion was expressed by the Board and Denny said that he would get the word out to the Asian-American community, what transpires will be a consequence of our existing relational partnerships. Though the position could be considered an “entry level” job, Board recognized the need for a good communicator and consensus builder. Dwight cautioned that we have a tight budget without a lot of wiggle room. A half-time position is not ideal to attract applicants, but Jack said there was the opportunity to grow the position in the future with grants and other resources activated.
- **Arbor Month Activities:** The meeting agenda has highlighted this link on our website with various activities associated with ongoing enhancement of our community forest. Jack said that iTree training was occurring tomorrow (April 10th) and next Wednesday (April 14th). Data from these “Survey 123’s” will be instrumental in our larger effort of monitoring the urban forest. Two ivy pulls are also already scheduled: one at Westlake and another at the new Twin Fir site. Stephanie mentioned the scheduled Urban Forest Committee meeting of various neighborhood association members happening this day, April 9th, at 3:00pm.
- **Network of Oregon Watershed Council Councils membership:** Jack brought up membership with this watershed agency that advocates for Councils in Oregon. He thought the resources they offer would be

a benefit for our Board. About a hundred watershed councils operate in our state. Board would like to learn more and a representative from this group will be invited to address us at our next Board meeting. Jack would like members to review the information on their website and come ready with questions.

## 5. Committee Reports

- **Stewardship Committee Report--Tom Berridge:** Tom was not in attendance. Jack reported that stewardship coordinators went through their respective annual work plans for the sites. Mike cited the significance and critical need of thoughtful property owner agreements for ongoing maintenance. Barbara expressed how our documentation has so methodically evolved. Stephanie attended this meeting and remarked on how impressed she was with the work already accomplished.
- **Education and Outreach Committee--Stephanie:** Utilizing screen sharing, Stephanie concentrated on the issue of soil health and focused first on Kristin Ohlson's presentation based on her book, *The Soil Will Save Us*, at LOSN's April 8th meeting. On April 22nd, Stephanie mentioned a planned workshop on soil; and on April 24th, people can pick up undies at our two high schools to bury now and dig up in July to evaluate soil organism activity. Denny continues his own exploration into mycorrhizal fungi and also inquired about biochar benefits. Stephanie recommended another book: David Montgomery's *Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations*. Jim mentioned another urban forest focus: *Our Big Backyard* project and oak mapping. Barb commented that oaks were mapped and inventoried in our local area through aerial photo researching.
- **Equity Action Team:** Mary talked about this specific goal in our Strategic Plan and said final edits were made for clarity. She also reiterated the goal for a broad outreach as we recruit for the Community Outreach Specialist Position.
- **Park Academy--Mark:** Utilizing screen sharing, Mark brought up a map of this project site and versed Board members on the methodical approach undertaken for invasive removal and the introduction of diverse native species. What Mountain Park is doing with seeding under Lec's guidance was commended as a possible implementation. Adjacent church property has also been incorporated into the work area. Mark noted specific issues that he has dealt with: property owner encroachment, knotweed, ice storm damage, landscape cloth, shining geranium, etc. But the partnership of the school and the church offers good enhancement opportunities as this project unfolds along this critical riparian area.

## 6. Old Business (*Note: Our meeting time had already elapsed at this point.*)

- **Annual Report task list**

## 7. New Business

## 8. Public Comments and Announcements

## 9. Meeting Adjourns: 9:43am

Next Meeting: May 14, 2021 8:00am--9:30am