

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 14, 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.

1. Welcome and Introductions: (Online attendance) Stephanie Wagner, Dwight Sangrey, Mike Buck, Mary Ratcliff, Jim Fisher, Barbara Fisher, Tom Berridge, Tom Bland, Larry Zucher, Mark Rosenkranz, Gabe Winfrey, Thomas Benson, with Jack Halsey, Watershed Coordinator and Vanessa Green, Executive Director, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils. NOWC provides a place for training employees and board members, a meeting place to learn and collaborate. Board introduced themselves--giving their longevity with the Watershed Council and their respective roles and committee involvement. This will be Mark's last meeting; Gabe will be the LOC representative.

2. Operations

- **Minutes: Resolved: Minutes for April 9, 2021 were unanimously approved.**
- **Finance Quarter 1 Report:** Tom reviewed finances and gave the bank balance at: \$20,615.02. Year-to-day income is \$23,800. Some monies for designated uses we received last year were carried over into available funds this year. This would include the PPP loan which will be forgiven. Tom noted, for instance, the substantial contractor expenses for the forested conversion of Westlake.
- **Board Hours Tracking: Members encouraged to turn in hours.**
- **Board Turnover, Recruitment (bylaws):** Denny has resigned along with Mark. Stephanie, after revisiting our bylaws, probed and informed the Board regarding governance and trying to follow what is prescribed--like electing "directors" every two years. In "cleaning up" our process, she advises we elect in November as dictated by our bylaws and we define "stakeholders" as opposed to "at large" members. With our outreach to HOA's, we have new Board members as well as new stakeholders. Stephanie challenged our Board to find ways to formalize these relationships and partnerships which would include the City, School District and Lake Corps. Possibly, NOWC might have a procedural or formal document. Stephanie will try to find a document to bring before the Board for agreement.

According to Dwight speaking tautologically, "stakeholders" have financially "put in a stake." Westlake, VOL, and Lake Corps do support us financially. Some help with our grant procurement. Stephanie said that our bylaws call for between 6 and 15 Board members. Stakeholders are voting members. The OLWC has been officially recognized by the City. Tom said our having to sign "conflict of interest" forms attests to this official structure and organization. Our inquiry regarding needs should include these groups and how we recruit and serve should address stakeholder needs. Tom Bland, Dwight and Stephanie volunteered to work on more formalized procedures. This would help new Board members have clear expectations of the positions they would be accepting. This group will also help define transition, delineate between "partners" and "stakeholders" (for example, Sustainability Network?). To reiterate, Stephanie said that a "stakeholder" on the Board is a voting member.

To conclude this agenda section, Gabe introduced himself and shared his professional background with

the Lake Corps as operations manager. He does have a commercial applicators license for herbicides. With his familiarity with natural areas in proximity to the Lake and canal, he offered to give Board members a site visit to show areas receiving restorative attention.

3. Staff Reports

Watershed Coordinator--Jack

- **Recruitment for Community Outreach Specialist Position:** Jack said we received 15 applicants for this job offer and from these five were selected for interviews. All five could have fulfilled the responsibilities but the person who rose to the top of the selection was Allie Molen. She has accepted and will be beginning her Outreach Specialist job with us on Monday, May 17th. She has led many educational excursions through the auspices of the Portland Water Bureau and has been involved with non-profits in the Portland area which include environment and writing dimensions. She comes with a rich background of talents and resources.
- **Arbor Month Success:** Jack reported on the various initiatives which included signing up 20 new trainees for the LO tree survey where data can be retrieved on the City website. The LO "tree hero" challenge brought out individuals and families to cut ivy from trees. The Lake Grove Urban Forest Committee got 62 trees done and in total by all groups, 200 trees were saved. An article on our website highlights that success.
- **HEP Reports and application due June 15:** Jack will be submitting applications for three new project grants. Some of our Council projects are continuing and some are transitioning and ending.

5. Committee Reports:

- **Stewardship Committee Report:** Tom Berridge talked about visiting six potential project sites. The next Committee meeting will prioritize them. Stephanie thanked the group which also included Jack, Mark, Jim, Barbara, Dwight and Mike. Jack is working on landowner agreements.
- **Education and Outreach Committee:** This Committee reports that 105 undies were buried in yards for future soil assessment insight! Larry says he has pictures of kids burying undies in their yards; and Mary shared an article with the same activity being done in Australia. This was a good home activity during Covid-19 for kids according to Mark. Parental involvement with kids was noted with the excitement inducing one child to sign up six different times! Luscher Farm was also brought in as a partner on this. Some undies were buried in community garden plots and also at the 47th CSA farm and Clematis garden plot. Stephanie contemplates this as an annual event given the holistic need for soil productivity and hydration challenges for forest health.
- **Equity Action Team:** Jack said the Committee focus this year is to create a plan with recommendations. They hope to explore one need: looking at land acknowledgment and how we perceive those who lived here before us--effectively telling the story of the land from these eyes. This would affect our management approaches. Mary mentioned that the Sustainability Network would be hosting an event on land and tribal connections.

6. Old Business

- **NOWC: Vanessa Green** says the Council has existed since 2004. Vanessa has been there for over a year. She assumed her Executive Director position quite suddenly and immediately focused on organizational "scaffolding up." Formation of board members and committees, reaching out to disconnected watershed councils, State government and legislators, and becoming more intimately familiar with all the six watershed regions--each with numerous councils-- engulfed her. Vanessa shared with us the dimensions of her work: like investigating the 3000 bills from the State legislature and identifying which ones would have an impact on watersheds. NOWC helps decide which ones need to be tracked and weighed in on. The organization desires to proceed with a unified voice. Funding is jeopardized with COVID-19 constraints. NOWC is opposed to cutting the ODA budget which would really affect invasive weed management as well as other programs. She delineated what resources NOWC has to offer councils like ours: programs, library, speaker series, etc. And then she described the process for joining and how Jack, our Watershed Coordinator, could be logged in to resource sites available. Our Board looked approvingly at this increased partnership with other watershed councils. The annual fee is \$200.

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Resolution: (After motion by Tom Bland and a second by Dwight) **Board voted to become members of the NOWC.**

7. New Business

- **Summer Social Event:** Stephanie would like to hold a barbecue at her house. She is looking at an evening mid-week and will send a Google poll for best date looking at early July. This would be a good time to honor passing board members,

8. Public Comments and Announcements: Dwight may have an indigenous board member recommendation.

Mark will transition off and participate in what decision-making still needs to happen. Mark is one of the first members along with Stephanie.

Meeting adjourns: 9:30am

Next Meeting June 11, 2021 at 8:00am