

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 11, 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, Denny Barnes, Larry Zucher, Gabe Winfrey, Thomas Benson, Mary Ratcliff, with Jack Halsey, Watershed Coordinator and Allie Molen, Community Outreach Specialist. Allie introduced herself focusing mainly on her educational and professional background: Santa Cruz graduate in environmental studies; involved in non-profit work including writing; currently also working for the Portland Water Bureau and hosts educational tours and excursions mostly for youth. She is excited to be here with our Council and Jack is “getting her up to speed.” She is fascinated with the projects Jack has shown her and she is already contemplating ways to expand on them. Her desires for outreach wish to include those with less access; and she values collaboration and connection. She invited members to reach out to her and even gave her phone number (661 817 4150) as an expression of her sincerity to be engaged.

2. Operations

- **Minutes: Resolved: Minutes for May 14, 2021 were unanimously approved.**
- **Finance Report:** Tom will be giving a full report after the quarter ends in July which is also the end of our grant year under the City calendar. Our current cash update stands at \$14,442.23. Hopefully, disbursements will be coming from the City in July. Regarding our outstanding PPP loan, Stephanie received the form to fill out for requesting forgiveness. Tom said that Banner Bank is very fast in getting back with responses, and he says that in his experience we are most assured that the monies will be forgiven.
- **Board Hours Tracking: Members encouraged to turn in hours at the end the year for grant matches and reporting.**
- **Board Turnover, Recruitment (bylaws):** Stephanie reported that the Finance Committee met this month regarding formalizing our organization’s by-laws and procedures. Dwight serves on this Committee and recognizes that our organization is evolving and maturing and it just is time for more structure and discipline. The Committee went through the by-laws and now wish to carefully implement what they call for. One noted particular is an annual vote by the membership classes: stakeholder and at-large members. We currently stand as twelve voting members (the Fishers combine their vote). Given the contributing role of stakeholders, who often have made financial commitments, an agreement document is being developed. Leadership succession on the Board needs to be dealt with since the age of our membership is readily apparent. Yes, the alternative with new and younger members joining is a recognized need. Dwight mentioned his current attempts to link an indigenous member with us for a variety of values. Others recognized how committee membership could also serve as an entry level participation with possible elevation Board level coming with increased commitment. Our annual vote on membership will be scheduled for November of this year.

3. Staff Reports

Watershed Coordinator--Jack

- **HEP reports and application:** Jack covered reports for projects extending over three years that he will submit in June to the City. Final reports are for three years out and now being transitioned. Others are for their respective first or second years and depict expenditures and metrics regarding restorative activity. Though the Park Academy project site is currently ending, work will be extended on the adjacent United Methodist Church site nearest Lost Dog Creek. He is also looking at the Lund site in Hallinan neighborhood. The Twin Fir site was not approved by the City last year but has received an OWEB small grant of \$15,000. The City does require signed landowner agreements as part of the application. Mike mentioned the need for more scrutiny on landowner agreements given observations like the new fence erected by a newer homeowner over the riparian area of Boutwell Creek which impacts wildlife permeability and negatively impacts our goals. Barbara felt that the contracts were too general, and she desired more long term maintenance commitments.
- **PCC Mapping projects:** Jack has been working with a Capstone Project affiliated student at the Sylvania Campus of PCC who has GIS experience to help develop a watershed map. Jack screenshared and displayed an interactive map that can display types of data. The map is a great tool for those wanting to explore "layers" in the watershed. New data can be added which could include our project sites. This map can be built upon and also display links for trail networks, parks, natural areas, waterbodies, and even features like heritage trees. Jack hopes that continued connection with the Capstone Project will enhance this initiative.

Community Outreach Specialist--Allie

- **Newsletter:** Allie related that she is trying to get a grasp on newsletter potential by reviewing past newsletters. Her current focus is set on ecological connections with event promotions. Sharon Hawley is hoping to submit an article on nematodes. Allie requests that members who wish to submit content do so soon so the newsletter can be sent out by June 24th. Tom Bland thought articles with a focus on employees or volunteers would be interesting to readers. Mike mentioned the summer drought as an interest point. The OLWC Education and Outreach Committee continues to work on content.
- **Green Team updates:** Allie loves working with students at LO High School and admires the care they manifest for campus green spaces and for sustainability goals. She is impressed with Nate Foster being a strong student voice, and she is reaching out to other students. Allie has connected with students at Lakeridge High School also and is getting familiar with LO Tree Survey, our Board members, interfaith connections and our indigenous community.

4. Committee Reports:

- **Stewardship Committee Report--Tom Berridge:** The featured project site for this month is Wembley Park Road and Tom invited Tom Bland, the Stewardship Coordinator, to give a presentation. Tom did a screen sharing and gave everyone a familiarity of this residential, geographical area adjacent to Springbrook Park. It has different ecologies: wetland and upland forested areas and close proximity to a tributary that flows through the Park. The primary invasive removal targets were ivy and blackberry, and a bit of property line unknowns led to increased invasive removal, kindly appreciated by the southern neighbor. Joint work parties with Friends of Springbrook Park (SP) have occurred. He showed pictures of cleared areas that have allowed the return of native vegetation which included the skunk cabbage and red flowering currant. He also noted an astroturf sport court implemented nearby. Sadly, Tom noted that a precious hemlock did not survive. In closing, Tom hoped that a management plan would be created for SP that has suffered so much winter storm damage--much of the fall-down due to invasive trees. Mike mentioned that this area constitutes a connective link, and these corridors are significant environmental lands worthy of protection. Jim noted the park's numerous and problematic cherry trees and seedlings which are common in many of our natural areas. Members commented on how our lens needs to be holistic and contemplated how we could be part of undertaking a management plan. Mary reiterated the need for care during drought conditions and echoed the concerns LOSN has on landscape maintenance equipment.
- **Education and Outreach Committee--Stephanie:** *Soil Your Undies* is a hit with the School District

according to Stephanie! 105 pairs of underwear were buried and on July 7th at West Waluga Park, students and parents and participants will reveal what remains of the cloth which will signify or indicate conditions of soil health. The underwear will be weighed and then hung by clothespins for viewing so the contrast can be more apparent or visible. A table with resources about soil health will be available. Denny hopes to be present and talk about mycorrhizal fungi. Information on fertilizers could be a future topic as well as information on pesticides and herbicides. Stephanie envisions this as an annual event and Earth Day seems to work as the point of departure or burial.

Equity Action Team: Jack said the Team was discussing “land acknowledgement” in a broader sense than merely issuing a statement. They are attempting to engage with tribal connections and give context to our work through an historical way that would elicit partnership--possibly manifested in education but also on the ground projects together.

5. Old Business

- **Board Social:** Stephanie will pick a date from the three offered and let members know when we gather!

6. New Business

- **Site Update (not covered)**

7. Public Comments and Announcements: Iron Mountain Park work party 10:00am, June 12th.

8. Meeting Adjourns: 9:34am