

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, July 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.

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.

2. Operations

- **Minutes: Resolved: Minutes for June 11, 2021 were unanimously approved.**
- **Finance Report:** Tom reported a \$8,003.38 balance in our account. If Board members wish to see what the funding status is for various projects, please look under "Finance" under year 2021 to find the reports. Every quarter this is updated. Starting in October, a new budget for next year will be drafted for Board review and subsequent approval so we have this clarity before our year ends on December 31st. Our second quarter is concluded at the end of July.
- **Board Hours Tracking: Members encouraged to turn in hours at the end the year for grant matches and reporting.**

3. Staff Reports

Watershed Coordinator--Jack

- **Grant reports completed:** Last month, Jack submitted reports for four separate grants. Two were final and two are ongoing. Wembley and Gans and Park Academy were in the first report; Westlake has two separate grants and these were submitted along with the Wells site. Jack is expecting we should be receiving grant money from the City soon. Jack disclosed the amount as \$46,427.
- **HEP 21-22 Application:** This application went in at the end of June and constitutes multiple projects: Lund, Park Academy; LOMUC. However, the Lund site owner pulled back from participation to implement projects on their own. This was unfortunate since it occurred right before the application was due. The Park Academy and LOMUC projects were combined into one application request for \$43,000 with a \$26,000 match. This will all be presented to Stewardship Committee for a more comprehensive preview.
- **Summer intern work:** Jack is meeting with interns and their coach over Zoom. We have three participants: Elijah Garrett, Lilliana McClain, Tommy Jimenez-Perera

Community Outreach Specialist--Allie

- **Reveal Your Undies:** Allie enthusiastically recapped the "buried undies" event when participants dug and displayed the results of microbial action on a clothesline for viewing. She was impressed by the turnout with families and said an article in *The Lake Oswego Review* should be forthcoming.
- **Luscher Farms:** Allie met with both staff and Stephanie regarding collaboration with an adult and youth soil and water curriculum program for community gardeners and residents. This would be in preparation for the

Winter-Spring catalogue.

- **Urban Forest Committee and Tree Summit in Fall, 2021:** Allie is seeking new collaborative contact with existing Committees so they can explore reative ways to engage with urban forestry. She is scheduling a meeting of Committees' members tentatively in August. Given so many tree related issues that neighborhoods are wrestling with, along with our upcoming Tree Summit, the timing of this cooperative venture has prospective tones.

4. Committee Reports

- **Governance Committee--Dwight:** Dwight followed up from June's Board meeting regarding updating our by-laws regarding membership to let members know he is looking at external sources for guidance on how we can bring others in relationship to our Board. He said he specifically is looking at stakeholder agreements as well as how to be inclusive with particular groups like indigenous communities that we can initiate contact with for inclusivity with us. Stephanie said she will be sending links to pertinent documents.
- **Stewardship Committee Report--Tom Berridge:** Barbara highlighted aspects of this meeting: The Committee will hold no August or December meeting; July is the month for annual photo point updates at each active and transition site and past sites; Interns are helping with maintenance and watershed activities; *Stewardship Coordinator* and *Stewardship Committee* narrative descriptive roles have been drafted and completed; Laurent will be doing herbicide treatment on our sites as weather permits; Gabe will be assuming the leadership role for Park Academy and LOMUC restoration.
- **Education and Outreach Committee--Stephanie:** Stephanie reported that our new Newsletter went out. It had articles on *Reveal your Undies* event and tried to capture moments of family interaction and viewing the 50 pair of decaying cotton fabric. Participants had their eyes opened on what happens so surreptitiously in the soil. Sharon Hawley attended and talked about nematodes. A microscope was available for those gathered to take close up looks on larger soil inhabitants. But microbes that are virtually invisible constitute such a role also. Sarah Asby was charged with weighing and charting the individual pairs before the pinning on the clothesline. Luscher farm undies fared well and manifested good soil organisms. Board members contributed thoughts on how to be expansive with this event as we look toward next year: banner, suggested books (Gabe Brown's *Dirt to Soil*) regenerative approaches to agriculture, video potential, carbon sequestration seminars, Urban Forest Committee tie-in--were some of the suggestions.
- **Equity Action Team--Jack:** Jack said that Dawn Hiyami plans to attend future meetings and Jack was complimentary about her contributions and focus on land acknowledgement--history, propagating first foods, bonds with the land and tradition. Jack spoke briefly about the Committee developing a program on stewardship and outreach which would include a history of this land and its early peoples. He is pursuing conversations with community members and representatives from Grande Rhonde. Next month, the Committee plans to delve into equity action planning as an organization for articulated goals of inclusivity. These will be related to ongoing relational ties to how we address climate change and other environmental justice challenges. Stephanie mentioned a very hands-on potential to local landscapes: native gardens and first foods agriculture incorporated into residential sites.

● 5. Old Business

- **Board Social on July 14th:** Stephanie will send the link and invitation for this event. Please list what culinary delight you will be bringing to help her planning. She will be barbecuing chicken for the main entree.
- **City of Lake Oswego Chapter X Referendum:** A PAC called **FRIENDS OF LO PARKS** has been formed by a Steering Committee to support an alternative to the Citizens' Petition Measure crafted by Scott Handley. The City Council will be entertaining a draft for a competing City Charter, and they will be voting on whether to submit this to the ballot on their August 3rd session. These issues are of vital interest and significance to our Watershed Council since the implications from these measures indicate how our City will manage existing threats as well as access to our natural open spaces: fire prevention, restoration strategies and means, improvements as trails guided by science-based assessments, etc. Stephanie talked with Councilor John

Wendland who communicated that every Councilor he knew was opposed to the Citizens' Petition. Stephanie encouraged Board members to get informed, be familiar with the differences and nuances in both Measures and to be in dialogue with others since we definitely need to be thinking of endorsements were Council to vote for their own charter.

6. New Business

- **Site Update--Barbara Fisher on the Gans Project:** Barbara suggested a book: *The Nature of Oaks*. She shared online a map of the Gans site where restorative work commenced three years ago though is now in "transition" mode. This riparian area is a habitat corridor and owners are assuming responsibility for ongoing care and stewardship. Barbara showed some "before and after" pictures from when Mike and Adra first selected this site for OLWC work--through the planting of 200 native species and the ongoing maintenance. Barbara went into detail about the slope topography, Hallinan Creek conveyance, and invasive removal logistics. She ended with a more passionate understanding and plea for continued education, conferencing, procurement (especially Yates property) and engagement so these kinds of works persist. Jim congratulated Allie on the quality of the Newsletter. In relation to the topic of oaks, Mike reported that he and Allie measured one local oak with a 115 inch circumference (try to beat it!).

7. Public Comments and Announcements: None

8. Meeting Adjourns: 9:37

9. Next Meeting September 10, 2021 8:00am

