

# OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

## MEETING MINUTES

Friday, December 10, 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, Mary Ratcliff, Jim Fisher, Barbara Fisher, Thomas Benson, Gabe Winfrey, Tod Blackenship, Tom Berridge, Larry Zucher, Tom Bland, Mike Buck with staff members and consultant partners, Jack Halsey, Allie Molen and Kirsten Wright.

### 2. Operations

- **Minutes: Resolution: Minutes for October 10, 2021 were unanimously approved.**
- **Finance Report:** Tom said the Finance Committee met regarding the proposed budget. Stewardship Coordinators will be able to look at their component parts for their respective projects. OLWC Bank balance stands at \$20,251.22. This includes an insurance company's overbilling and subsequent refunding of \$747. Tom also highlighted a wonderful donation from Jack's grandparents! We are in the final stretch for donations with the end of the year approaching. Mike reported that the LGNA would be dispersing their funds to the OLWC in the new year as the Board decides to change its status to avoid incurring annual expenses and fees.
- **Board Hours Tracking:** Board members are encouraged to report hours for the end of the year! Jack has provided an option to report for the full year at one time.
- **Job Review Update:** Stephanie recognized Jack's significant role in our growing as an organization. She said it was a joy to work with him and Allie. We are lucky and fortunate to have them! One aspect evolving from their internal discussion is the importance of Jack taking on fundraising responsibilities. An outgrowth of this strategy will include the formation of a "development committee." Stephanie emphasized the critical balancing of grant funding and donations. They are also exploring with Allie possible "fee for service" projects like summer camp for children. These new programs will really help our financial stability and staff retention. Tom Bland inquired about a possible sponsorship role from businesses: a development role could work on dimensions like this. Some Board members cautioned that though a good idea, we have to be careful on reciprocity: what would a business entity be expecting in exchange? This led to a discerning step on our need to have a policy regarding whom we would accept gifts from. The need to recruit new Stewardship Coordinators was also mentioned especially in light of our current demographics on the Board. Opportunities for involvement in meaningful ways where volunteers felt benefits from participation was also noted. Kirsten is presently working on identifying HOA contacts in the Lake Oswego area. And Stephanie had met with City Manager, Martha Bennett, where the level of qualitative citizen involvement—like we are manifesting—was directly and appreciably recognized.
- **OCR Grant Application:** Stephanie wrote this grant application for \$20,000 from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund. The Oregon Legislature formed it out of ODF&W to support conservation and recreation in Oregon. The Legislature passed a bill to give out up to \$1million. \$700,000 has been raised which will be matched. Stephanie looked at the criteria and, with Jack and Allie, decided to expand the project in our

Westlake oak release. The relationship of oak savannahs with the plentitude of habitat species for indigenous populations was mentioned. With the small percentage of larger oak woodlands remaining in the State and our region, this protected project area assumes greater significance. Signage to this effect and perspective might be a future addition. Stephanie said there were 137 applications and our proposal rated number 6! The next offering is for \$50,000 maximum funding amount. It makes sense to skip a round given our current selection. But this correlates with our DEI goals and can be utilized as an educational, interpretive ecological footprint in our outreach conservation efforts.

### 3. Committee Reports

- **Stewardship Committee Report:** Tom Berridge noted planting plans for this winter on various sites; Jack is putting in native plant orders. Tom also commented on this time of year as excellent for ivy root extraction. In terms of future project sites, these areas are currently under review by the Committee: Westlake, Springbrook Creek, Uplands Condo HOA, Mountain Park, and Canal Acres. In looking at work plans and planning approaches, the thought of monitoring water temperatures to track improvements on one critical dimension of restoration was mentioned. Stephanie said this would be easy to do with “hobos.” And it might be one other way to get student interaction with our project environments.
- **Education and Outreach:** Allie said our OLWC Newsletter will be published soon. An “intern spotlight” for Kirsten will be featured. Jack will also give project updates in this collaborative endeavor. The Committee is also doing a website review and updating pages. Allie would like to include a Board folder for suggestions. Other topics include the Urban Forest Committees, *Tree Summit*, and upcoming *State of the Watershed* event.
- **Equity Action Team:** Mary had sent out an article she found fascinating on botanical collector, David Douglas, and his interactions with native indigenous people in Oregon. She led a discussion with salient and in-depth questions among the Board to ferret out their own reactions and to hear their own perspectives on particular aspects—especially how the indigenous population burned in the Willamette Valley in order for food source sustenance. After quite an eclectic sharing on these forms of perennial agriculture and diet particulars, Mary gave other resources to members in terms of books and native contacts if they wished to learn more about this past land management. Some tribal members are also presently trying to restore some natural areas with these favored edible species where they had grown in the past. Dwight said he would bring a friend, Cirese Palmentier, to our next meeting. She lives in Portland and could provide us with a personal perspective.

### 4. Staff Reports

#### Watershed Coordinator--Jack

- **Six month job review for Allie:** Jack met with her and shared this summary: An acknowledged, good job through her involvement in education and outreach programs. Her taking on the nascent beginnings with UFC, her successful outreach on our *Tree Summit II* and *Soil Your Undies* campaign, the Newsletter and social media presence—were all specifically noted. One challenge Jack shared with us was Allie’s limited capacity for fuller engagement due to her half-time work status. With grant writing and donor relationship development, he hopes her employment could evolve to full time which would lead to more opportunities on many events: marketing, stewardship, education. Jack would like the Board to pursue this objective and help build her capacity especially since we all recognize her talents. He recommends moving her to 30 hours presently and then full time by Spring with a hourly wage of \$20. Larry positively commented on the School District’s evolving relationship with volunteers and the potential for increased involvement with the Watershed Council projects. Stephanie closed this discussion by highlighting how our public outreach events showed not only good urban forest management knowledge and skills but also our own organization’s internal strengths.
- **HEP 21-22 Grant Update:** Jack said we are still waiting on the City’s response to our applications. Jack also clarified aspects of our watershed budget and finances.
- **Winter Field Work:** Planting season has commenced with VOL mitigation planting completed. Twin Fir, Wells, and Westlake are next and planting will be spread out over the winter months.

### **Community Outreach Specialist--Allie**

- **Website suggestion folder:** Allie will take care of this.
- **Tree Summit successes:** Allie said 132 people registered with 82 actually in attendance.. On the website are next steps as a result. She said 70 have viewed the recording of the *Tree Summit* presentation on youtube. website.
- **LO Tree:** Four workshops, virtual and in-person, helped train 30 more people. Unfortunately, the pandemic slowed down further ability to expand. And Allie also has to fit in workshops with arborist Morgan Holen's schedule. Her goal is to share an annual report to the City regarding the tree census.
- **Clackamas SWCD grant report:** This application will be going in after mid-November. We received \$7000 last year and will hear about this application in January.
- **UFC:** Allie said the first meeting of the new year will be on January 7th.

### **5. Old Business**

- **Review Draft 2022 Budget:** A draft awaits final numbers for the year but will be up for review in January.
- **City Charter Amendment-Measure 3-575:** Mike provided his own perspective on the campaign and what was learned by the *Friends of LO Parks* in the process. He also commented on recent Park development decisions as a result of Measure 3-568 winning. Stephanie lamented the challenge to disability impaired people and how this new charter will certainly face critique and possible ADA action. The residual, positive takeaway is that campaign people were able to establish new relationships in the City and build an understanding of the importance of our natural open spaces.

### **6. New Business**

- **City Council Goals--Natural Resources:** This topic was mentioned but time had elapsed and had actually gone past so the meeting was closed by the Chair but she will send out information.

### **8. No Announcements beyond "Happy Holidays!"**

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:46am**

**Next Meeting: January 14, 2022 at 8:00am**

