

**MidCoast Watersheds Council Meeting**  
**January 3, 2008**

**Meeting called, greetings, introductions:**

The 28 people in attendance introduced themselves. Handout : Procedural Notification provided about Cindy Ashy's removal from membership/ restriction of participation

**Recorder's report:** Fran Recht gave the report. There was 1 official action taken in December. The group voted unanimously to donate \$250 to the Oregon Network of Oregon Watersheds Councils.

**Treasurer's Report:** A handout was provided of the total profit and loss statement to date that also showed totals for previous years, the administrative fund profit and loss statement as of December 21, 2007, and the previous month's check register. Jan Christensen summarized the report and made note that a hardcopy of the complete report was available for viewing. The report shows a balance at the end of December of about \$52,000. We have about \$2000 in outstanding bills and about \$24,000 in accounts receivable. Jan noted that though we're only 6 months through the fiscal year, we have already received more than \$1M in income.

**Education Presentation:** A presentation was made by Matt Fehrenbacher of Pacific Forest Trust entitled Protecting Working Forests with Global Climate Change Credits. [mfehrenbacher@pacificforest.org](mailto:mfehrenbacher@pacificforest.org) 2380 NW Kings Blvd. Suite 103 Corvallis, OR 97330 541-754-6868 [www.pacificforest.org](http://www.pacificforest.org)

Pacific Forest Trust manages Van Eck trust land about 2000 acres in Humboldt County California and 7200 acres in Lincoln County. He'll talk about management of their lands and emissions and registration of carbon credits and where Oregon is in terms of carbon emission reduction programs for forests.

The mission and work of the forest trust/sustaining forests for public benefit. Aligning ecology and economy of forest ownership/collaborate with landowners/ agencies/communities/ incentives.

Conservation easement is the strategy used as an incentives. Landowner can sell some rights to their property. Protects as a working forest and keeps it from other uses. Over 40,000 acres of working forest conservation easements (WFCE). They own lands in Oregon and Northern California VanEck Forests are redwood in CA (Humbolt County) and Douglas fir in OR. Van Eck's long term vision was high quality habitat and wood product production. Wanted the restoration and maintenance of a late seral to mature native forest. The conservation easement states a management value and harvest volume (often expressed in % growth, or % inventory), easement also sets limits on opening size, specifies species diversity and other things and prohibits property being developed. The conservation easement is often expressed

VanEck gave lands to Purdue University; they hired PFT. 70% of forest in Lincoln County is 30 years or younger; lots of value. Lands are in the Wright Creek area and Burnt Woods areas. Early thinning, group selection so age groups result, retain certain trees. Roads, harvest schedule, active areas have to be shown in easement. (PFT has also done, in cooperation with MCWC, ODFW fish passage work, wood placement).

Pacific Forest Trust advocating Climate Benefits of Forest Lands. Since 1994, forest carbon program, emission reduction registered 2 main sources of CO<sub>2</sub> come from forest loss and emissions. 1.5 million acres of private forest is lost annually, losing more forest than in 100 years. They want to avoid conversion of forest lands to other uses and to change forest practices to increase total carbon stocks stored on the landscape and don't want to depend on reforestation.

They have worked to create a standardized accounting framework for carbon emissions: the CA Climate Action Registry. CCAR Forest Protocols (SB812) quantifies forest-based CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and reductions based on conservation, restoration, and management of native forests. Developed over a 4 year time period involving a wide range of stakeholders; all the agencies were very supportive. Assembly Bill 32 also recognizes role of forests and adopts forest protocols. CER Projects: baselines, permanence (Legal conservation easement), avoid leakage, verified by 3<sup>rd</sup> party (licensed), benefits to the environment (native forests, habitat, improved water quality, timber economy); The expense of the annual monitoring requirements and 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification goes to the landowner—so these emission reduction sales have to generate enough income to pay for costs and still make it worthwhile.

The protocols require “additionality” —savings in addition to the baseline set by the existing, mandatory forest practice rules (which in CA are pretty restrictive). “GAAP” Forest Protocols (generally acceptable accounting procedures) are rigorous standards for quantifying and assessing emissions and reductions  
Stock change accounting (this is purely an accounting function)  
Carbon pools are inventoried, annual monitoring and reporting  
Chart indicate large growth of Carbon storage and reduction of emissions  
The Van Eck property management is expected to store 500,000 additional tons Co<sub>2</sub> over 100 years, with a harvest of 950 MBF annually.  
CA Climate Action registry also requires that every 10 years a new growth and yield projection be made

California is selling their carbon credits. Cap and trade system allows the sale of carbon storage to emitters from storers. Oregon forests are well suited to support a carbon market, fast growing, viable species, 1997 Oregon began regulating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; In 2003-OR, WA, CA signed the global warming initiative (West Coast Governor's Global Warming Initiative). This included recommendations for a market based carbon allowance program. Governor's Advisory Group on Global Warming was appointed in 2003. They came up with 60 recommendations, 6 relate to biological sequestration strategies; 3 of which are related to forests: woody biomass markets, consider greenhouse effects of farm and forest land use decisions, and increase forestation on underproducing lands. Recommendations did not mention market for carbon.

Global market for CO2 is huge, was \$10 B in 2005; currently about \$40 B dollars and growing.

The Climate Trust based in Oregon is the largest institutional buyer of CO2 offset projects in US. It's a non-profit group. Created following regulation of CO2 emitters and plays a role in implementation of regulations.

Chicago Climate Exchange is another buyer—eligible emission offsets for them include biomass fuels and forestation.

Climate Registry: Has collaborated to develop a common accounting system; a common system for state, province and tribal greenhouse gas (GHG) emission **reporting**. This is so far only for reporting, not currently for emissions reduction.

Oregon needs to be engaged, the carbon needs to be verified as real and we need to find a market and sell it. The 2003 legislation in OR allows for selling carbon. I.e. What we're lacking in OR is not the cap and trade system but a forest certification protocol—so we have very firm mechanisms to know that the carbon 'saved' is real. CA's program is 8 endorsed methods for measuring carbon; this seems to be what's missing in Oregon. Oregon needs to get such a program on the ground to promote stewardship through forestry and take advantage of the \$40B carbon market.

Scale issues will need to be addressed if small forestry lot owners want a credit; 50 acres is probably not worth the trouble of the process. But perhaps cooperative agreements between landowners could help make this work. If there was a carbon market in Oregon, perhaps there would be a way to maintain carbon in certain designated areas of landscape (e.g. on areas which have landslide topography that could deliver mature trees to streams)

The OR Board of Forestry owns 900,000 acres of state forest lands in Oregon. BOF has 7 strategies related to climate and can be engaged. Carbon offsets on federal lands have been talked about too.

Remote sensing for biomass and forest inventory has been talked about and is in early research phase

Safe Harbor agreements allow for endangered species habitat benefits and limits landowner liability and further regulation. E.g. one spotted owl on Van Eck property now; anticipate will become more because of management through terms of the easement. This security (about creating good habitat over time) resulted in very favorable terms in the HCP for PFT.

\*\*\*Meeting all day on Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at U of O on Climate Change and Carbon Sequestration. <http://www.forestclimate.org/index.htm>

\*\*\* Oregon Forest Research Institute (OFRI) website has a booklet what was a result of a climate change workshop held in Feb 2007 –it contains info on carbon markets, ecostrust’s work etc.

38 page summary: **Forests, Carbon and Climate Change: Executive Summary**  
<http://www.oregonforests.org/media/pdf/CarbnExecSum.pdf>

182 page report of the **Forests, Carbon and Climate Change: A Synthesis of Scientific Findings:** <http://www.oregonforests.org/media/pdf/CarbonRptFinal.pdf>

The reports are free and can also be ordered by contacting: **Oregon Forest Resources Institute**, 317 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 400, Portland OR 97204  
Fax order to: (971) 673-2946

### **TECH Team Report**

John Spangler reported on the items from the last tech team meeting. These included:

- a landowner wanting help with off channel watering for cattle in Fruitvale. The Lincoln SWCD can help and Ken Hobson has money in hand for some projects.
- In Toledo, potential for 25 acre tidal restoration mitigation project near skate park area, restoration, but this may have to start over as the contact is not in Toledo any more
- Discussed the culvert replacement project proposed by Jason Kirchner along Long Tom Creek which involves work by Lincoln County, Green Diamond to replace a culvert and remove 2 others. The stream side road culverts are going to be pulled by Green Diamond and they will also provide large wood and place it. Need about \$17000 for pipe, rock and excavator rental; County will pitch in labor and technical assistance. It was recommended for funding. **Fran moved that we recommend submittal of grant to USFWS; Rennie seconded, motion passed.**
- Discussed a culvert fix on 35<sup>th</sup> St in South Beach and recommended a technical assistance grant.
- Discussed the use and priorities for \$1.5 of lottery money that DOGAMI has to do LIDAR survey work on the coast. They want work to go as far inland as possible and are looking for partners. No specific priorities were recommended as the group needs to learn more about what the technology can do. We’ve asked to have them come here and present to the MCWC.
- Discussed the need to update the action plan, discussed the need to review and reprioritize subbasin priorities; perhaps revisit some 6<sup>th</sup> fields. This discussion will continue.
- Discussed the DSL wetland mitigation fund that has \$200,000 in it to improve or restore wetland habitat. Money is for N. Coast area. They prefer restoration to enhancement.
- Discussed PFMC’s Amendment 13 regarding harvest guidelines versus recovery of coho stocks. There was a fishery on coho this year and despite the fact the coho numbers were real low and the quota wasn’t met, there may have been impacts for recovery. The uncertainty of fishery management and some other

- factors—uncertainty re BLM forest management, M37 status etc. may lead to a relisting of the coho. More discussion next meeting.
- Lower Yachats dead zone issue, creating some questions about fish survival, have done some macroinvertebrate surveys, will launch new study to look more closely at this, Paul and Yachats group will work on water quality sampling, ODFW will do fish sampling.

### **Nominations for officers, at-large members**

The following nominations were made. Wayne will keep the nominations open another 7 days. Chair: Sam Adams, Vice Chair: Rennie Ferris, Recorder:

Fran Recht; Treasurer: Jan Christensen. Fran encouraged others to come forward to help diversify tasks—officers are required to attend administrative meetings.

At large nominations: Anne Sigleo, Wayne Demoray, Robert VanCreveld.

### **Basin Planning Team Reports: Siletz and Yaquina**

Siletz report: Siletz talked about the steps to take to develop a City Park, funding and planning; they'll work with the City Parks Department. Working on marine board presentation to ban gas motors on a portion of the upper Siletz. Hydrology of the river is a future topic of a meeting.

Yaquina: The first meeting of the group under Debra Spoelstra's leadership will be Wed. January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6L30 at the Eddyville Church; the program is to be announced.

### **Salmon Drift Watershed Council**

Written reports from November and December were handed out and summarized by Corrina Chase. Their next meeting will be January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the hospital. Conrad from U of Puget Sound will discuss the work he has done to study Drift Creek, including spawning survey work. They got a grant approved for Hire the Fishermen for planting work to begin in February and weed control work in May. They have about 5-6 weeks of work scheduled. They are asking the MCWC to help with payroll tasks. The MOU between the Salmon Drift Watershed Council and the MCWC is being finalized and details will be available once that is complete. No word yet on the grant to replace the tide gate under Hwy 101 near the Salmon River. A big cedar fell across the fish ladder during the severe weather in December; part of tree in stream.

### **Administrative Committee Report**

Jan Christensen gave the report. Group reviewed and approved the financial report, agreed on the need to have a way of tracking field versus office work due to SAIF insurance cost differentials (SAIF went back 4 years and assessed us \$6000 because they charged all of Virginia's time to field work). Learned about an additional \$12,000 of funds made available by OWEB for the salvage log fund (to also include logs for Salmon-Drift and Siuslaw) due to December's storm events. Annual report is done. There will be an addenda when the final audit is done (expected next week). The report will also be posted on the website and the website version will have colored pictures. Million dollars is a great mile post for MCWC.

**Education Committee Report:** Virginia Tardaewether gave the report, noting that her work has lately been writing grants. One grant is an environmental education grant being submitted to the EPA and will involve multiple collaborators. They are looking for money for a natural resource crew for next summer work and project as the existing funding source has dried up. She announced that she is only going to be working one job now and that this is an appropriate time to refocus efforts, decide what work we need done, how to prioritize goals. IF you have some goals for MCWC education that you'd like to see addressed this year, please let her know.

She and Corrina Chase described a pilot program with Career Tech that is funded through a MCWC grant and done in collaboration with Community Service Consortium. Corrina was hired to teach high school students about watershed matters. She had 6 students last year and has been able to acquire a nice microscope that is available to the watershed council.

### **Coordinator's Report**

Wayne Hoffman had reported on the extra \$12,000 available for the salvage log fund earlier in the meeting. He also mentioned a special pocket of OWEB money \$1M that is available in smallish grants to improve habitat for specific organisms to celebrate Oregon's centennial—this includes beaver, chinook salmon, the meadow lark and other organisms. Applications are due in late February.

### **Announcements**

None

Adjourn: 8:50