

MidCoast Watersheds Council
January 6, 2011

1. Introductions were made, 17 persons were present
2. Recorder's Report: There were no official actions taken at the December 2010 Council meeting.
3. Treasurer's report- Wayne Hoffman gave the treasurer's report for the month of December. 167,573 income, 175,134 expenses; with a balance in the bank of 28,981
4. MCWC Activity Report – Coordinator Wayne Hoffman provided a written update of his activities in December. Reported on the Regional Review Team site visit for the Upper Yaquina and Ojalla Creek proposals. There were more questions about the Upper Yaquina and Wayne will be providing additional detail and clarifications and modifications to address questions and concerns. A local resident, Boone Ogden has been contracted for outreach work in Beaver Creek and Wayne is working with The Wetlands Conservancy on management concepts for the Beaver Creek wetlands, Natural area and surrounding state lands. He also reported that Chinook salmon numbers seem to be better than the past three years, that coho numbers are good on the best habitat streams, with variable or disappointing numbers elsewhere.
5. Education Program- - Registry of Restoration Projects by Gina LaRocca from Defenders of Wildlife. Office in West Linn, Oregon. There are lots of groups doing a lot of activities. There are many maps and many priority areas, including state wildlife conservation plans, The Nature Conservancy's ecoregional assessments, etc. But we really don't have a good idea of where we all are working; there is no centralized place for this information, that is the purpose of this registry. Ntl Fish and Wildlife Foundation is a partner. Though there have been some efforts to capture this information and there are some existing databases, nothing has been comprehensive and the database is set up to allow and promote incorporation of existing information. OWEB's database for restoration projects has been imported for example. It's an on-line centralized database that is intended to capture Conservation Projects of 3 types: habitat restoration and management, enhanced conservation status, and monitoring, education and research that is tied to a location. It captures proposed, in progress, completed and on-going management responsibility. Benefits: it takes a cross-jurisdictional approach, cost-effective, credibility and transparency, contextual value-- collaboration and partnership, mitigation opportunities, user friendly. May be useful to climate change adaptation. There is peer policing if there are any complaints (like Wikipedia). Administrator would "solve" any issue. The administrator is now Gina. www.conservationregistry.org, Gina 503-697-3222, glarocco@defenders.org

How does it work? Manual data entry, electronic data imports. Anyone can search database, can create account to enter and edit projects, web or presentation. Uses google maps as a platform (not ESRI based so it doesn't need special software). You can browse by maps. Can zoom around an area. Once mapped the computer generates, size, county, congressional district etc. Can identify goals and objectives, contact info, links and partners, species, what actually doing, e.g. acquisition, restoration, funding info. Home page has project assistance and partnership opportunities. There is also a search tool-- search by free text or as specific categories.

An organization can also have a specific portal. Privacy considerations – don't generally share personal information, location, can map but can suppress from public view. It's free except if an organization wants a specific website this would cost.

One of the current places that links to this database is the National Conservation Easement Database.

Periodic updates to happen approx 1 time per year. Working on translations (data crosswalks) between OWEB, OWRI form database and others. State data portals (state filters) ; all 50 states eventually, Oregon Conservatoin Portal-- overview by state, county species, habitat types, top 5 mngmt categories.

Multiple entries-- some "related project" tool; "update current project" if do another action in same area. Are Forest Service restoration activities included? Are the 13 ODFW life history monitoring sites up and down the coast noted? Important Bird Areas?

6. Break-- with thanks to Wayne Hoffman for the snacks.
7. Remembrance of Jan Christensen. OSU Extension Service Master Gardener; did their newsletter for years. Elected member of the Lincoln County Public Library Board and very active with it, very involved in the coordination effort for a new library in Siletz. Active in the American Association of University Women; was working with Wayne on making a plant list and photographing plant material for Camp Westwind; very good recorder player, played recorder music at public functions and events, including parties at the aquarium, at Stacy and Josh's wedding. She catered food for the Recorder seminar held each year at Sitka Center. For the Council she was a treasure for the last few years and was a representative of the Siletz watershed council at the MCWC board. She lead the ADMIN efforts to research changes in laws, legal matters, became an expert at and helped group with bylaws for non-profit groups, has been primary person to bring snacks to MCWC meetings. The MCWC will miss her a lot. She was a valued member of the Siletz watershed Council as well, and a good friend to many.

In recognition of her contributions and in honor of her memory, the following motion was made :

A motion was made to Establish a Jan Christensen outstanding volunteer service award and to charge the ADMIN committee with setting up procedures for the reward. An on-going list of people given the award over the years should be posted and maintained.

Passed unanimously.

8. Nominations for officers and 2 public-at-large slots (with 2 alternates) were held. Nominations will stay open for a week. Contact Wayne with nominations. Officers are votlng members of the ADMIN committee and need to attend one additional meeting a month (ADMIN committee) and an occassional special meeting. Nominations made were: 2. The following people were nominated for the 4 officer positions and 2 public-at-large positions on the Council:
Chairperson: Sam Adams, Rennie Ferris
Vice Chairperson: Sam Adams, Stacy Polkowke, Anne Siglio
Treasurer: Rennie Ferris, Mark Saelens
Recorder: Fran Recht, Marks Saelens, Anne Siglio
Public At Large (2): Elmer Ostling, Mark Saelens, Anne Sigleo, Margaret Tackett, Heather Van Meter
9. Technical Team Report- Wayne brought a written report, outlining the discussion regarding the future of the TECH Team as a function of the MCWC. Attendance at the TECH Team has declined substantially, compared to several years ago. In part this reflects reduced manpower and heavier workloads for participating agencies. In part it reflects the devleopment of additional technical teams and increased needs for technical assistance as other Councils and other entities develop capacity. The TECH team explore the concept of, instead of having a MCWC Technical Team (and a Salmon WC technical team and an Alsea WC technical team, etc.) of having a regional tech team sponsored by an organization

other than the MCWC, and serving multiple entities. Possible “customers” might include the regional Wcs, perhaps also the SWCDs and Forest Stewardship groups, and possibly others.

The group discussed advantages and disadvantages and requirements, potential for rotating meeting sites, Discussion will continue.

10. Siletz Basin Planning Team Report- Don Larsen brought a written report of their December 21 planning meeting where they discussed work items for this year. They also had a remembrance of Jan Christensen who was a valued long time member of the Siletz Watershed Council. Alan Duzic the new Siletz Basin Coordinator introduced himself. He's studying earth sciences at OSU with a focus on hydrology and minor in soil sciences; coastal geomorphology is of great interest. He moved here last year and wants to make roots in this community. He loves fishing. Group meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm, Siletz Library.
11. Yaquina Basin Planning Team-- a written report was provided by Coordinator Lisa Mulcahy. She met with EPA folks and gave an update of restoration efforts and plans in the lower Yaquina. EPA is interested in looking at where they might “plug in”. There could perhaps be tech team involvement if lower Yaquina was topic. Continues to work on the removal of loose, creosoted railroad ties in the Nashville/Blodgett area. Attended the regional review team site visit to the upper Yaquina project. Provided a Rotary club presentation to about 50 people on Dec 30th, included some city government people. Will be on KNPT radio talking about MCWC and restoration on January 13th.
12. Salmon Drift Watershed Council Report-a report was provided by Coordinator Corrina Chase. Her last day is January 14th. A new person was hired, Catherine Pruette and will begin work in February. She has a law background and has done environmental policy work; interested in moving into an 'on-the-ground' approach. Training is happening. Finishing up reports, fisher grant monitoring, Ntl Forest Foundation, etc. Board conducted self-evaluation. Crew finished work on culvert survey and report is being finalized. Work continues at Pixie Land; biggest challenge is 8 acres of reed canary grass. Oregon Field Guide will feature the Pixieland project Thursday Feb 3rd 8 pm and Sunday Feb 5th. At 6:30 pm.
13. Alsea Watershed Council Report- Elmer Ostling brought a written report from Coordinator Linda Johnson. They did not have a December speaker; their speaker for January 20th mtg at Fall Creek Hatchery will be Markus Horning talking about pinnipeds. Will begin planting willows on Trout Creek, a trib. Of South Fork Alsea, from donated Plum Creek stock.
14. Administrative Report-- group approved financial statement; discussed MOU with Alsea Watershed Council for watershed council support grant and made offer, scheduled a separate meeting to discuss MOUs for staff services with new hire for Siletz, Alan Duzic and with Lisa Mulcahy who has been working for the Yaquina. Discussed progress on annual report and sending out request for bids, discussed idea for a annual volunteer service award in memory and recognition of Jan Christensen who died in December.
15. Education Committee Report. No activities to report.
16. Announcements: Goodbye to Corrina Chase and volunteer acknowledgement January 11, Field trip to 5 Mile Bell may be rescheduled for Monday 10th, New USFS Wildlife biologist will be starting Monday after a 7 month position vacancy. Marty Bray.

Adjourn