MidCoast Watersheds Council
March 3, 2011—Annual meeting Notes

Introductions were made, 28 persons were present

1. Recorder's Report: There was one action taken at the February 3, 2011 Council meeting: The following candidates were nominated for positions on the Council's Board and officers: Chairperson: Sam Adams and Rennie Ferris, Vice Chairperson: Sam Adams, Stacy Polkowske and Anne Sigleo, Treasurer: Rennie Ferris and Mark Saalens, Recorder: Fran Recht, Mark Saelens, Anne Sigleo, Public At Large: Elmer Ostling, mark Saelens, Anne Sigleo, Margaret Taackett, Heather VanMeter. Nominations to stay open for a week.

2. Treasurer's report - Wayne Hoffman gave the treasurer's report for the month ending February 28, 2011. Year to date income of $220,356 YTD and expenses of $222,971 with a balance in the bank of 33,711. Full report circulated

3. MCWC Activity Report – Coordinator Wayne Hoffman provided a written update of his activities in February and an oral summary. He attended the first organizing meeting of the Hebo Forest Stewardship group to describe advantages he saw in the Stewardship Program. He helped organize and conduct the Beaver Creek Community Meeting to discuss conservation activities in the basin and to participate in the Oregon Parks planning process. He's also working with OPRD on use of volunteers for resource surveys. He was involved in work to plan for forest management activities on a portion of property on Starr Creek, with thinning and habitat diversification the key. He announced that 4 out of 5 of the OWEB applications submitted this fall were recommended for funding. Upper Yaquina Phase I restoration, the Ojalla Creek large wood proposal, the Fruitvale Technical Assistance proposal, and the Education proposal for NRC crews. The upper Fiver Rivers fish way proposal was not recommended. Final decisions will be made at OWEB's March 15th meeting

4. 1. MCWC Activity Report – Coordinator Wayne Hoffman provided a written update of his activities in February and an oral summary. He attended the first organizing meeting of the Hebo Forest Stewardship group to describe advantages he saw in the Stewardship Program. He helped organize and conduct the Beaver Creek Community Meeting to discuss conservation activities in the basin and to participate in the Oregon Parks planning process. He's also working with OPRD on use of volunteers for resource surveys. He was involved in work to plan for forest management activities on a portion of property on Starr Creek, with thinning and habitat diversification the key. He announced that 4 out of 5 of the OWEB applications submitted this fall were recommended for funding. Upper Yaquina Phase I restoration, the Ojalla Creek large wood proposal, the Fruitvale Technical Assistance proposal, and the Education proposal for NRC crews. The upper Fiver Rivers fish way proposal was not recommended. Final decisions will be made at OWEB's March 15th meeting.

5. Education Program: Coastal hazards: landslides, flooding, sea level rise by Ian Madin, Chief Scientist, DOGAMI (Dept of Geological and Mineral Industries). Dr. Madin provided a copy of his power point presentation. A tool used for "seeing" the landscape, elevations, landslide faults etc. is LIDAR (light imaging detection and ranging) technology. It provides a cloud of data points with the resolution depending how closely spaced the measurements are. Oregon has the highest density of data points in the nation with 8 points/square meter, providing very detailed maps and models. About one out of 8 points makes it to the ground. Providing coverage of 1/square meter.

This technology can “see” through the vegetation to the soil, providing a bare ground earth image (virtual deforestation). Map images can be made which are colored by elevation. Water looks like a mirror usually (unless turbid or rough)

LIDAR can also do the “highest hit model” – first think the laser detected—seeing the “upper part” – power lines, tree tops etc.—can distinguish nursery stock, e.g. from tree tops. The intensity of the image is the strength of the reflection, providing an accurate infrared view of area. Can map a lot of vegetation, can sometimes map i.d. species. This canopy map can classify vegetation based on height.

Dr. Madin—explained and showed various LIDAR imagery and explained its applications. LIDAR can see better than photographs where roads are, how high road cut was, if there is a trench on the other side, how deep, etc.

Dr. Madin compared an “orthophoto” of irrigation versus LIDAR. Unlike a photo, LIDAR shows elevation by color at 10’ intervals, shows diversion dams, how deep the ditch is, can find landslides, old cuts and grades, find stream channels, measure gradients. It can accurately locate gradients. It can locate and measure every tree in the forest, see wetlands and impervious surfaces, and allow one to do watershed and view shed planning.

The entire Oregon coast has been flown. Over Siletz Bay saw a landslide that had not been recognized before. The elevations were shown by color gradient. Can change color gradient to resolve very small elevation changes. Could see remnants of breached dikes. It is hard to define “ground” in a tidal surface.

In this area—the Highway 20 project used LIDAR for its geology analysis, saw lidar image of Warnicke Creek Tepui, Oregon’s “Angel Falls” 60’ high near Avenue of the Giants. Tall trees in western Oregon were identified (320’ tall), looked at landslides, and identified that 30% of the coast range has landslides; these are big sediment sources. They are “meta-stable” incrementally moving, until creek takes away toe and then they go. 90% of turbidity in the N. Fork Santiam came from area with high landslide background. Certainly don’t want to activate it; don’t want to put water onto top if it; i.e. it is crucial to manage forest roads well and know where extra care needs to be taken.

In Coos Bay looked at an 1100 acre block, of old and second growth trees; found 82,750 trees, average height 90’, tallest 312 feet. Can calculate the amount of fuel, carbon, and timber. How much shade on creeks is also able to be calculated—areas getting too hot, areas need to plant trees.

Being used for Hazards—flood modeling; FEMA flood maps. Accurate $1/10^{th}$ of a foot, projected onto 40’ contour maps. In Coos County now using a visualization tool to study depth of flooding in Myrtle Creek, see which building would be impacted in a flood.

New Coastal Flood zones are being developed for Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln. 100 year wave flood zone. LIDAR determines where waves of a certain height would come to--- a probabilistic model. Looked at lower portions of rivers in Lincoln County.

New tsunami inundation models. Looked at Bandon. LIDAR—where tsunami falls on landslide, spring tide, assuming 3-4’ ground subsidence. Lincoln City maps within 3-4 years.
Flood mapping – where FEMA insurance needed.

Change analysis—long term monitoring : the Sandy River below Marmot Dam—use as a baseline before dam removed – document riffle, pools, steepness, gravels, boulder, sand and then afterward.

Most LIDAR flights are funded by broad partnerships. North Coast Flight covered 1542 square miles and cost $925,299. It's always a community effort. FEMA provided 250,000 for coastal flooding data.

In last biennium, M 66 money thru OWEB was obtained for use as seed money – for work in Deschutes, Willamette Valley. Need to obtain anchor funding. Proposed priorities include south I-5 corridor, and interstate 84.

FEMA has funded most of Benton County, right to edge of boundary with Lincoln.
Forest Service bought coverage of whole Hebo Ranger District; DEQ has asked for EPA $ for some coverage.

Need to plug holes for this area, fill in where FS, BLM, ODOT (Hwy 20) info lacks—would cost between $180,000-$200,000 to fill the baps—Benton-Alsea, Polk County, Lincoln County.
For this money will get Digital Elevation Model, get points intensity for feature extraction, highest hit model, streams, roads and disturbed grounds

From this could re-delineate hazard maps—would need source of money to pay for analysis; agency not supported by state at all. Lincoln County would cost $50,000 for coastline hazard analysis, not floodplains; coastal rivers—this might be $250,000. (Coos County cost $750,000).

Bathymetric LIDAR (under water)
Corps of Engineers/NOAA flew bathymetric LIDAR (much less high resolution, measurement every 15'; can't see thru surf, spray, suspended sand around rocks). Blue Green laser penetrates water.
Swedes have better Bathymetric LIDAR; trying to get them to test in estuaries and in Willamette.

Applications for restoration and planning:

- Springfield wetlands restoration project—lots of $savings since didn't have to go into field except to verify.
- ODOT rockfall landslide analysis, 2 years ahead with LIDAR, 4400 man-hours estimated to have been saved.
- BLM—stand level forest analysis in S. Coast Lands
- Siuslaw NF (Kami Ellingson planned, Barb Ellis-Sugai) wetland restoration for Salmon River
- 5 mile bell (Siuslaw NF restoration project) also planned using LIDAR.
- Deschutes NF (Tami Kerr) -- finding old growth, look at streams, fuel load analysis
- Fault id with NF (no faults in Lincoln County), but also looked at Mt. Hood, Klamath Falls, Bend, Coos Bay, Bandon.

(After the meeting Dr. Madin supplied names of additional people doing applied work using LIDAR These include: Frank Price at the Coos District BLM, Mark Johnson at EPA in Corvallis and George McFadden at BLM.)

6. Break-refreshments

7. Installation of New Officers. Ballots were counted and the following officers were elected: Sam Adams, chair, Rennie Ferris, vice-chair, Mark Saelens, Treasurer, Anne Sigleo, Recorder. Public at large: Anne Sigleo, Margaret Tackett

8. Special Awards. A special award was given to now retired State Trooper, Fish and Game Officer, Greg Torland from Oregon State Police for his excellent work in protecting the environment and going the extra distance for environmental clean-up and protection. The intensive work it required to clean-up and coordinate the derelict oyster gear clean-up from environmentally valuable McCaffery was noted. Recognition was also given to those who have been on the board or participating with the MCWC for long periods of time and attending many of its meetings (see the attached press release). Among others, of the 17 founding members of the group (in 1994), 8 are still actively involved with the MCWC in 2011. These include Wayne DeMoray, Paul Engelmeyer, Rennie Ferris , Fran Recht, Tom Shafer, Joe Steere, Mark Stone, and Kip Wood. Wayne Hoffman was also recognized for his excellent work, with this his 12 years. Of the 57 total MCWC Board meetings held since May of 2006, when closer records started being kept of attendance, Sam Adams has attended 54 of these, Elmer Ostling has attended 50, Fran Recht 45, and Rennie Ferris 42. Paul Engelmeyer, Joe Steere, Mark Stone, Kip Wood Tom Shafer, and Corrina Chase have all been involved in at least 30-35 meetings. This attendance and their other contributions have allowed the group to survive.

9. Josh Lambert, of the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District provided an update on the invasive weeds work he has been doing and its status. Things are moving along well and includes and impressive amount of area treated for knotweed. About 18 acres of knotweed have been treated and about 50% control (up to 64%) has been achieved to date and in-control. A handout was presented on this information. Some upcoming pilot projects for yellow flag iris and policemen's helmet are in the works and the third year of a community ivy control project is in the planning.

10. Siletz watershed team report—Coordinator Aaron Duzic presented information for his group (written report provided). Newport City Council endorsed the "gas motors discouraged" signs placed above Mill Park; with a March vote expected by the Lincoln County commissioners, in the hopes of reducing volatile organic compounds in the drinking water source; the group continues to work with the City of Siletz to help find funds for the Mill Park development. The annual Siletz River clean-up is scheduled for April 2nd.

11. Yaquina watershed team report was presented by Coordinator Lisa Mulcahy and a written report provided. Items of interest include appearances on the KBCH Radio Show to announce and ask for participation in the King Tide Photo Project and Photo Viewing Event scheduled for February 22nd; the Upper Yaquina community meeting scheduled for February 21 to relay information on planned restoration work by their neighbors and future opportunities for their own participation; an educational presentation on the benefits of large wood in creeks was presented by Steve Trask. An update on efforts to get the railroad to speed up their removal of creosote railroad logs was also discussed. The next community Ivy pull will be planned for May and/or September 2011. Possible sites include ones on a part of the trail connecting with Mike Miller Park near Idaho Point and one near the Toledo Library.

12. Alsea Watershed Council. Elmer Ostling brought written copies of the Alsea WC update on

activities. At their Feb 17th meeting they heard an interesting presentation from Charley Dewberry speaking on stream restoration entitled: "What Is It Really Going to Take To Recover Trout and Salmon in the Oregon Coast Range?"

13. Salmon Drift Watershed Council. Updates were provided on next phase of work at Pixieland; the removal of trees along the dike next to Hwy 101 may cause some public concern so they are doing outreach. Finished up culvert survey report which will lead to some projects. Another “fun” fund raiser is being planned at Camp Westwind for April 3rd. Boat over from Knight Park, hikes in woods or on beach, gourmet food, and a silent auction.

14. ADMIN Committee report. Approved financial report, a MOU between the MCWC and the Alsea WC was discussed to guide the on-going relationship, even though AWC declined to be a part of the MCWC OWEB application. Arranged for new signatories on checking account; received proposed fiscal policy procedures to review. Discussed and helped plan annual meeting.

15. TECH Team Committee report. Anne Sigleo provided written tech team notes. Items discussed included potential restoration projects for the Yaquina that would possibly be funded by fines, received an update on Beaver Creek landowner meeting, and information about the coast as a potential strategic investment fund location (like the Willamette).

16. Education report. There was no education work done this month.

17. Announcements: March 8th SDWC meeting will feature Kim Jones of ODFW, April 2nd Siletz River Cleanup. Reminder to register for the April 3 Fun Raiser on the Siletz Drift.

18. Adjourn