

MidCoast Watersheds Council
June 2, 2011—meeting notes

1. Introductions were made
2. Recorder's Report: There were no official actions taken at either the April or May Council meetings.
3. Treasurer's report- Wayne Hoffman gave the treasurer's report for the month ending May 31, 2011; total income fiscal year to date (since 7/1/2010) was 258,122; total expenses 292,401. There is a balance in the bank of 2727. The full financial report was made available for anyone wanting to review.
4. MCWC Activity Report – Coordinator Wayne Hoffman provided a written update of his activities in May and an oral summary. He has been working on natural resource information gathering for Beaver Creek, attended Siletz & Salmon-Drift watershed council meetings, the admin and tech team meetins, did an interview with Tom Tuchmann regarding Community Forestry, and attended a meeting regarding beach nourishment. He also was interviewed for a Ntl Resources Conservation Service program review. He'll be at the OWEB meeting in Bend on June 14-15. Special investment area for Siletz will be discussed; as are cutbacks to watershed council funding.
5. Beaver Creek Hydrology Study, Glen Hess of US Geological Survey (USGS) presented information about the hydrology study they are conducting on the new State Parks property. Katie Archangelsky from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) was also there and answered questions. The goals of the study are to identify the source of water to the Beaver creek estuary, study water level fluctuations based on season, storm periods, and determine the salinity component. This information will help OPRD understand the site and its influences and start thinking about wetlands hydrology so that appropriate restoration activities can be designed as needed. USGS is monitoring at least some of the following parameters at 5 sites along the Beaver Creek system: water level, flow, temperature and specific conductance (as a proxy for salinity; fresh water is 30-100 conductance units; full salt water is 50,000 conductance units). Monitoring sites are Beaver Creek at NW Beaver Valley Drive (Ona grange), at the S. Beaver Creek site, one mile upstream from the mouth (there is an old shop there), Beaver Creek below S. Beaver Creek, about 2 river miles upstream, Beaver Creek at Hwy 101, 0.2. river miles up from mouth at bridge and at the Arch Bridge (in the park, 1 river mile upstream). Results: distribution of flows from upland segments; 2/3rds of the basin area flows into the Ona grange site drainage/testing area; ¼ of the basin is monitored at the S. Beaver Creek site; 90% of the water in the basin accounted for by these two sites; Simpson and Bunnell Creeks are not sampled by these sites.

During the dry period of the year, there are no salinity changes observed at the monitoring sites; water levels fluctuate based on weather the bar is open or closed (open in Sept, closed in January, which backs up water).

Glen reported that in Sept to November see evidence of salinity changes responding to tidal fluctuations. In Late Sept observed a couple spikes in conductance at the monitoring station about 2 miles upstream from the mouth (25,000 level); in October there are higher tides and more tidal water enters. In late October even higher tides; a period of extended high conductance for 4-5 days. Early on in November there are high tides and high rainfall and the salinity spike is muted (high

river flows keeps tidal water out). There was no spike in conductance (salinity influence) from the March Tsunami event.

There were members of the public who have long lived in Beaver Creek at the meeting who provided interesting historical insights and mentioned pictures they had to share. They reported that before 1918 Beaver Creek flowed straight out to the ocean and that a saw mill located in the basin used to keep the mouth of the creek open until 1970. First mile of natural area used to be a hay field; a railroad grade served as a dike, ran along Hwy 101.

6. Break-refreshments
9. Technical Team Report: The technical team discussed and recommended a non-lead sinker campaign be launched in the MCWC basin. Existing programs in other places in the country could provide some information and promotional materials we could borrow. ODFW uses non-lead materials for their free kids fishing days.
10. Siletz watershed council report—Coordinator Aaron Duzic, 503-621-2433, provided a written report. He noted that the group heard from Jon Sanfilippo, an OSU student studying fluvial geomorphology. He has been studying the changes in an Alsea Basin stream after placement of large woody debris restoration projects. The group continues to work on restricting gas motors between Mill and Moonshine parks to protect drinking water quality; in the meantime they have been discouraging the use of gas motors and have placed signs “Gas Motors Discouraged” in Moonshine and Twin Bridges parks on May 26th. The watershed council submitted comments to ODFW on the fall Chinook and coho harvest—both Wayne and Aaron went to the meeting. They testified in support of 1/day and 5 per season Chinook and moving the deadline down to Ojalla Bridge.
11. Yaquina watershed council report-- Coordinator Lisa Mulcahy, 541-264-0572, provided a written report. MCWC participated in the Yaquina River Cleanup May 14th. We went to McLean Point along the water where there was a fair amount of marine debris: ropes and Styrofoam floats. We recovered two full bags of trash and two car tires. There were 102 volunteers for the event. Volunteers collected 2,380 pounds of trash from the mouth of the Yaquina to Toledo and 11 tires. An Ivy pull is scheduled for June 18th at the Toledo Library, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Come support community forests and healthy watersheds and help beautify the neighborhood by removing invasive ivy. Learn to control ivy on your own property from Josh Lambert of the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District. We will have snacks and some tools. Bring loppers, pruners, and a tarp if you have them. MidCoast Watersheds Council, Oregon Coast Community Forest Association, Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District, Dahl’s Disposal, and Lincoln County Solid Waste District are sponsoring this event. Plans are underway for participation in the Lincoln County Fair July 8th- 10th.
12. The Alsea Watershed Council, Linda Johnston, 541-528-3221, provided a written report of their activities. The group did not have a May meeting. The June meeting will be held at Fall Creek on June 16th; the speaker will be Dan Avery, who will speak about the ODFW Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan. The Fiver Rivers Outreach grant is currently in the landowner outreach stage. A community meeting is planned for June 23rd and door to door landowner contacts will start the 2nd week in June. Work is still being pursued on Benner Creek road/culvert restoration, working to get an exemption from the Benton County riparian regulatory process, and exploring a few projects with wood placement and meadow restoration Buck Creek with Rocky Mountain Elk and others.

13. Salmon- Drift Watershed Council. Catherine Pruett, 541-996-3161 Executive Director provided an update on activities. Still working on conducting a pilot project to control reed canary grass—after cutting the grass back, landscaping fabric will cover the grass. Major work will begin the week of July 18th to remove trees along the dike along E side of Hwy 101 just N of Hwy 18. Educational outreach is planned to tell the community what is going on and why.
14. ADMIN Committee report. Approved financial report, a contract between the MCWC and Linda Johnson was signed for the 5 Rivers Outreach project, an update on their activities (see above was summarized); proposed program to promote alternatives to lead sinkers, may involve ADMIN actions such as approving BPT involvement and setting up an adhoc committee. Fiscal policies for MCWC continued to be discussed; annual administrative budget outlook isn't positive; we'll have to reduce budget from last year at a level of between \$4500-\$13,000. A special administrative meeting is being held on Thursday 16th at 3 pm.
15. EDUCATION report: there will be 2-3 youth crews (natural resource crews) this summer, so people should contact Virginia Tardaewether with projects that have an educational component—541-265-5438. Outdoor schools were conducted successfully, using adults for closer nighttime supervision of the kids in their cabins.
16. Adjourn