

MidCoast Watersheds Council
Thursday July 7, 2011
Meeting notes

1. Meeting was convened at 6:45. Eighteen people were present. The group was greeted and self-introductions were made;
2. Recorder's Report - There were 2 official actions taken at June's meeting: one was to form an adhoc committee to deal with promoting alternatives to lead sinkers; the other was to send a letter to the Port of Newport regarding marine debris problems associated with business at McLean Point (the terminal area).
3. Treasurer's report - Mark Saelens gave the treasurer's report for the month ending June 30, 2011, the end of the fiscal year; He reviewed the following pages of the report: the asset and liabilities page, profit and loss statement, monthly comparison of income and expenditures, the check register and accounts payable/receivable, and the profit and loss statement for the Administrative Fund. The whole report was available for review. The total income fiscal year to date (since 7/1/2010) was 287,082; total expenses 322,287. There is a balance in the bank of 2,336. He noted that this was the next to lowest income year in 13 years, but that this upcoming year looks more normal.
4. MCWC Activity Report - Coordinator Wayne Hoffman provided a written update of his activities in June and provided an oral summary. He reported on OWEB's decisions about Council support, upcoming summer projects, Beaver Creek State Natural Area and Park planning and inventorying, and the Five Rivers, Alsea Outreach meeting (see below). In regards to Council support grants, OWEB funded at a lower level with supplemental funds hopefully expected in September. Though MCWC is again ranked in the excellent category and its award one of the highest in the state, the award is significantly less than in the past. The initial 2 year award is \$108,560; if there is more added in September it may bring the support amount up to \$125,965 for the biennium. This would be about \$4500 less than last biennium. If we don't get those funds, we'll have \$21,000 less than we did the last two years.
5. Guest Announcement - Paris Edwards volunteer coordinator for Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition made a brief presentation about their work to form 'core teams' of citizens in Newport, Yachats and Lincoln County to explore information about climate change issues, assist with public education on climate change and draft action plans. Each group meets once per month, with the Lincoln County group alternating north and south meeting places. For more information, contact her at 541-414-9371.
6. Educational Presentation - Anne Walker, USFWS, presented on the Biology and Conservation of Oregon Silverspot Butterflies. The Oregon Silverspot is a brown and orange butterfly that lives in humid coastal salt-spray meadows and fields from northern California to Washington. The population has been on the endangered species act list since 1980. The butterfly is a threatened species due to loss of habitat and the decline of its host plant, early blue violet (*Viola adunca*). Adult Silverspot butterflies get nectar from asters, early everlasting, yarrow and goldenrod. They lay eggs on violets and the eggs hatch into caterpillars, the caterpillars eat the only the leaves of the violet.

Anne provided a presentation outlining the goals of Silverspot butterfly restoration, <http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/Species/Data/OregonSilverspotButterfly/Documents/OSB.WatershedCouncil2011.pdf>, the current status and areas of occupation, the attempts to "bridge" distances between habitats and populations, the husbandry efforts (and friendly competition) between zoos in Washington and Oregon to raise larvae to caterpillar stage for release (they collect adults from the

wild from the stable Hebo population and raise the larvae from eggs). The Oregon Coast Aquarium is assisting with providing native plants for nectar sources.

USFWS and their partners are trying to restore Silverspot habitat between Rock Creek and Bray Point (South of Yachats). They are asking landowners to help with the project there and are helping them participate in the Safe Harbor Agreement, which allows landowners to do habitat restoration on their property without fear of future regulation if the butterflies show up. Landowners can do things such as planting native species, removing invasive species, mowing on a high blade setting, not mowing around the properties edge, minimizing herbicide use and being very careful when hiking in preserve areas.

7. Break-refreshments
8. Technical Team Report - A written report was presented. It included information from the Hatchery Research Center meeting, giving a short summarizing the topics and findings of studies by Mark Chilcote about lower productivity for many different populations of salmon and steelhead when hatchery fish are present on spawning grounds, thought the mechanism isn't known. Also a study by Lori Weitkamp re at sea distribution, growth and diet of hatchery versus wild spring Chinook. Wayne is still exploring the possibility of getting a strategic investment partnership for the Siletz. The tech team also discussed whether it should modify its stance or adopt a policy about herbicide use. The tech team didn't recommend doing either, but recommended a series of presentations at Council meetings on a variety of contaminants and practices that affect water quality and watershed health. The series could include metals, pharmaceuticals, flame retardants, urban storm water management, and rural road run-off management.
9. Yaquina watershed council report - Coordinator Lisa Mulcahy, 541-264-0572, provided a written report. She drafted a letter regarding marine debris to the Port of Newport asking for them to speak to tenants about doing a better job of controlling fishing gear (mostly net twines and crab line) that has been turning up in beach clean-ups in that area for the past two years. She reported on the June 18th ivy pull at Toledo Library Park where volunteers learned removal techniques and collected 2000 lbs of ivy. They had a good deal of support from diverse sources: The Oregon Coast Community Forest Association, Lincoln SWCD, Lincoln Solid Water District, Dahl's Disposal, City of Toledo, MidCoast Watersheds Council, SOLV and Pizza Me. Lincoln County Fair coming up this weekend (July 8-10th).
10. Siletz watershed council report - Coordinator Aaron Duzik, 503-621-2433, provided an oral report. He said the group had heard from local river guide Silas Stardance (Riverhawk Guide Service) about the guide profession and their interest in optimizing angler opportunities and conserving salmon. Silas also discussed different steelhead hatchery programs. Aaron has drafted a flyer regarding the Siletz watershed council group that will be printed soon and distributed around the area to get more awareness of the group. There is an upcoming kid's fishing day event sponsored by the Siletz Tribe and ODFW, on a stocked, tribally owned pond about one mile out of town. There is potential interest by the tribe in increasing the size of the pond into a small lake. No July meeting is planned.
11. The Alsea Watershed Council - No written report was available. Elmer Ostling reported on the first meeting for the 5 Rivers Outreach project. It was a well-attended meeting on June 23rd; about 25 people were in attendance at a kiosk on Prindle Creek Farms. This meeting will kick off the limiting factors analysis. Steve Trask, Karen Fleck Harding and Linda Johnston will follow up with individual discussions with interested land owners. Despite Wayne's outlining of some conflicts with beavers (plugged culverts, apple trees eaten etc.), the landowners present wanted to see beavers restored to the Five Rivers landscape and felt they could deal with any problems.

12. Salmon- Drift Watershed Council - Catherine Pruett, 541-996-3161 Executive Director provided a written update on activities. 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. Work will continue until late September. Work includes spruce tree removal, dike removal, re-routing Fraser Creek, ditch filling. Newspaper notices regarding the work have been or will be printed in Statesman Journal, Newport News Times, Lincoln City News Guard and Oregon Coast Today and a public information meeting will be held July 12th from 6-8 pm at the Driftwood Public Library. Two big "Wetland Restoration" signs will be installed – one on Hwy 101, one on Hwy 18. These may be able to be made available to others. She also reported on a public input meetings that will be held between August and November 2011 to gather information on whether or not an information/educational kiosk should be place in the Salmon River estuary and if so where.
13. ADMIN Committee report - Approved financial report; the annual administrative budget was approved, noting concerns from our fiscal specialist about the budgetary unknowns that were used to balance the budget: i.e. counting on the supplemental OWEB funds and additional funds coming in from members and other small grant sources; Admin committee reviewed the council self evaluation; in most areas is was positive, around a 4 rating on a scale of 1-5, with especially high ratings for fiscal management quality and the scientific basis of the restoration work. The areas that needed work were discussed and 6 improvements suggested: to upgrade the quality of our presentations; improve the publicity about our presentations to attract more people; to do better public outreach to the media; to follow up with filling out the board and getting new people/groups to be involved; to increase awareness of the members in aspects of the council processes that were less than clear to people; and outreach to visitors to get them to continuing coming back to the meetings.
14. Education report - A written education report was provided by Virginia Tardaewether, 541-265-5438. She has been invited to attend the Toledo Wooden Boat Show Aug 20/21st –and is looking for volunteers to help out at the booth. Two full time summer Natural Resource Restoration and Research crews have been put together. Crew members are youth considered 'at risk'. One crew will work for 33 weeks, the other for 30 weeks. 10-11 full time youth ages 16-24 have been hired as have two project instructors. A list of the diverse projects the students will work on was included. There will also be a year round natural resource crew that will begin work in September and who will work during the school year. They will primarily be planting trees and doing nursery work and brushing. Support for the program is from diverse funding sources including OR State Parks, OR Youth Conservation Corps, OWEB, Trust Management, and Lincoln County School District.
15. Announcements - Attending the meeting was Bill Mahr is a stewardship forester from Oregon Department of Forestry working on the Private Forest Program. The DOF is currently hiring 12 new stewardship foresters, one of whom will work out of the Dallas Forestry Department and help him with his workload (he currently has 55+ forest operations in Lincoln County). With these hires the DOF will be back to its 2007 capacity after years of cuts. The new state forester is Doug Decker. Bill will try to attend MCWC meetings.

In response to a question Heather Van Meter reported that King Salvage waste dump goes to trial in August. None of the needed clean-up can occur until after the legal issues are settled.

16. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.