

MidCoast Watersheds Council
Thursday August 4, 2011
Meeting notes

1. Meeting was convened at 6:35. Thirty one people were present. The group was greeted and self-introductions were made;
2. Recorder's Report: There were no official actions taken at July's meeting.
3. Treasurer's report - Mark Saelens gave the treasurer's report for the month ending July 31, 2011. He provided copies of the group's asset and liabilities, 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 and made the whole report available for review. Total income of \$35,121 for the fiscal year to date (since 7/01/2011), total expenses of \$16,903, and a balance of \$20,682.
4. MCWC Activity Report – Coordinator Wayne Hoffman provided a written update of his activities in July and an oral summary.
5. Educational Presentation: Viva Worthington, the Acting District Ranger for Siuslaw National Forest's Central Coast Ranger District, gave a presentation on the planning process for the Beaver Creek (Ona Beach), Wright Creek and Mill Creek drainages (near Newport and Toledo). Much of the upland in the Drift Creek basin is on National Forest land, and backs up to the Drift Creek Wilderness. Forest Service's Mill Creek acreage is upstream of Toledo's municipal watershed, and Wright Creek drains to Poole Slough on Yaquina Bay.

The Forest Service planning effort for the Beaver Wright Mill unit will consider commercial thinning of plantation areas and other management for wildlife habitat and forest diversity, habitat restoration projects, and road management options, among other things. The first step is a scoping process, which allows the public to raise topics they want considered and make comments. She will keep the MCWC and others who are interested aware of time lines and meetings.

Wayne Hoffman, coordinator noted that the Siuslaw National Forest has opportunities for management partnerships and cooperative planning with neighboring lands. Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is currently working on management plans for the Beaver Creek State Natural Area and the newly expanded Ona Beach State Park, downstream on Beaver Creek. Over on Mill Creek, Toledo is developing forest management plans for its municipal watershed, abutting National Forest Lands, and the Pacific Forest Trust and The Wetlands Conservancy are developing sustainable forest management practices on their lands in Wright Creek drainage.

6. Break-refreshments

7. Technical Team Report: The team met and discussed the “get the lead out campaign” and reviewed and updated an outline of steps and needs. Project funding and options were brainstormed. An outline of steps and needs will also be put together for a ‘living with beaver’ project, taking advantage of existing and proposed projects. The next meeting will be August 18th at noon at the MidCoast Watersheds Council office.
8. Yaquina watershed council report -- Coordinator Lisa Mulcahy, 541-264-0572, provided a written report. Lisa noted the field meeting she and Wayne had with Port of Newport commissioner Joanne Barton and John and Sarah Skamser, tenants at the terminal. They all observed the types and locations of debris and noted that there was a lot of crab line pieces from an unknown source as well as other net and line pieces. A number of ideas were suggested including adding more trash bins, placing erosion barriers, placing grating over nearby drains leading to the bay, installation of a bio-swale to slow water and collect debris, educational signage. Best management practices can be required and JoAnn has planned to introduce language into the Port ordinances mandating the property be kept clean and free of debris. She updated the group on Upper Yaquina restoration efforts on Young Creek and on the graded riffle work along the Eddyville/Blodgett Highway sites. More calls have been made to the railroad about creosote tie clean-up and to DEQ about regulations that apply to disposal. The fall beach clean-up is Sept 17th and the Yaquina Bay clean up is Sept 24th.
9. Siletz watershed council report - Coordinator Aaron Duzic, 503-621-2433, provided an oral report. A copy of a new brochure he designed for the group was provided. There was no July meeting. The next meeting is Tuesday August 16, 7PM Siletz library
10. The Alsea Watershed Council. Work continues on outreach for the limiting factors analyses. Steve Trask, Karen Fleck Harding and Linda Johnston are following up with some interested landowners there. Next meeting is August 18th at 7 PM
11. Salmon-Drift Watershed Council. Catherine Pruett, 541-996-3161, Executive Director, provided a written update on activities. Pixieland work--trees were removed along the dike along the east side of Highway 101 just north of Highway 18. This is in preparation of dike removal and the re-routing of Fraser Creek. There was a lot of outreach and notices placed in newspapers and other public venues and only a few questions or calls were fielded as a result. Work will continue until late September. A public meeting is scheduled for August 16th at the Driftwood Library from 6-8 PM in conjunction with the USFS and ODOT. This meeting is in regards to updating plans for the Cascade Head/Salmon River estuary area— where/if to place a public information/education kiosk, access and interpretation, and other ideas for access, restoration, education.
12. ADMIN Committee report. The financial report was approved. Fund raising was discussed and the need for support from other grant sources and members/supporters. Discussed a fundraising event. Surveyed members about attending a dinner/educational estuary cruise that corresponds to National Estuary Day (Sept 24) and spend about \$75 or more per ticket. Need to have a form available for donations that give the URL for donations available at each meeting. Next meeting will be a week early but at regular time (on Tuesday August 23, from 1-3 pm) to accommodate Admin member availability). The admin committee asked the

Council to appoint Fran Recht as an official member of the committee (she was officially on the committee when she was recorder, but is no longer an official member). A motion was made and passed by the Council to appoint Fran officially to the Admin committee.

13. Education report: A written education report was provided by Virginia Tardaewether, 541-265-5438. She will attend the Toledo Wooden Boat Show Aug 20/21st with Mark Saelens. Two full time summer Natural Resource Restoration and Research crews (11 people total) are now working on projects. The crews have 30 -33 weeks of work scheduled. Planning for a year round natural resource crew that will begin work in September is on-going. 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.

14. Announcements:

15. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.