

Meeting Notes
MCWC General Meeting
Thursday, December 1, 2011

Meeting called to order at 6:33.

1. **Introductions:** Self introductions were given. There were 19 people present
2. **Recorders report:** There were 30 people at last month's meeting and one action was taken. Rennie Ferris announced a Port Commission vacancy and made a motion for Wayne Hoffman to write a letter of support for Laura Anderson. Mark Saelens seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.
3. **Treasurer's report:** Balance in the account is \$19,010. The total income since 7/1/2011 was \$296,160.89; total expenses \$277,768. A full report was available.
4. **Coordinator's report:** Wayne provided an update on past month's activities. He attended a combined meeting of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils and the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts Nov. 7-11. OWEBs' budget is stretched thinner than in past biennia and is considering skipping the last grant cycle of the biennium –ie, fall 2012. Fundraising includes opportunities from NOAA. Youth leaders in several watershed councils include a board position for a High School student.
5. **Educational Presentation:** Plastic Bag Ban - the Prospects and the Options

Charlie Plybon, Oregon Regional Manager of Surfrider Foundation, discussed Surfrider's and other organizations' efforts to ban the distribution of single-use plastic bags at retail store checkout counters in Newport and elsewhere. This issue is currently being considered by the Newport City Council. Several cities in Oregon, including Newport, considered enacting bag bans in late 2010, but chose to wait to see if the Oregon Legislature would enact a statewide ban. The legislature failed to do so, so now the issue comes back to the municipalities. Portland recently banned single-use plastic bags, but only from larger-volume stores. The proposed ban in Newport might target a broader range of stores than Portland's.

Single-use plastic bags are among the most conspicuous and ubiquitous items of trash collected in beach cleanup, bay cleanup, and Adopt-A-Highway cleanups in the area. 90% of marine debris equals plastic and it continues to wash up on beaches because it is not biodegradable. Mainstreaming of plastics began in the 1970s and plastic bags were introduced in 1977. 100 million plastic bags are used annually. Plastic is lipophyllic and accumulates in tissue. 9% of fish tested contained plastic. The U.S. consumes 100 times the quantity of plastic relative to the rest of the world. What you can do: bring your own bags, water bottles, mugs and other reusable items.

6. **Break-Refreshments**
7. **Technical Team Report:** There was no Tech Team meeting this month. However, the

coordinator discussed funding opportunities from NOAA for outreach to landowners in the Alsea. That community is ready to potentially improve habitat for beavers. The first step requires outreach funding for community education, and a landscape plan for site location. Education includes methods to alleviate potential beaver problems. The coordinator wants to write 2 grants.

Action Item: Fran Recht moved that the council authorize the coordinator to apply for two grants for Five Rivers, 1) to NOAA Restoration Center Ecotrust for \$20,000 and 2) to the National Forest Foundation for restoration planning. The motion was seconded by Rennie Ferris. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

8. **Siletz Watershed Council:** Siletz report was given by Aaron Duzik. The concept plan for Mill Park was accepted by the city. Aaron will write a letter regarding the Valsetz dam project expressing concerns.
9. **Yaquina Basin Planning Team:** Report was given by Lisa Mulcahy – who provided a written report and oral summary for the Yaquina. Main item was that Walter Chuck was appointed to the Port of Newport port commission. She’s also been working on fundraising ideas, particularly the dinner at Local Ocean February 4th. Flyers for the event are now available.
10. **Salmon-Drift Watershed Council:** There was no report.
11. **Alsea Watershed Council:** The Alsea council had student presentations about noxious weeds.
12. **Administrative Committee:** Report was given by Sam Adams. The Admin committee discussed the Budget Report, and the Local Ocean Fundraiser. The Annual Report will be available at the Annual Meeting February 2nd. Wayne discussed the two grants discussed above. The Executive Session will get an expert for creating a template for employment. All employees will need to fill in and sign the template before beginning work. The session also dealt with a personnel issue.
13. **Education Report:** There was no education report.

Upcoming meetings were announced.

Nominations for officers will occur in the January meeting.

A native plant sale will take place in the parking lot near JC Market December 2nd and 3rd.

14. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45