

**North Santiam Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes**

Joint General Member and Steering Committee Meeting

Location: Stayton Community Center; 400 Virginia Ave; Stayton, OR

Date: March 12, 2009

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Attendance:

Role Call for Quorum: John Caruso (Marion County Citizen, Chair), Bill Sanderson (Economic), Bruce Rogers (City of Salem), Suzette Boudreux (Economic), Tom Fencl (Middle Sub-Basin) and Jon Tucker (Lower Sub-Basin). Quorum confirmed.

General: Ronn Bevan, Bob Lusk, Chris Bailey, Roy Basil, Nikki Hendricks and Eric Adams

Contractors: Elizabeth (Liz) Redon

7:00 PM Steering Committee Meeting Called to Order

Public Comment and Announcements:

- Liz Redon announced Erika Lang is coordinating planting events on Stout Creek and Bear Branch for March 14.

Approval of Minutes: Members reviewed December 2008 and February 2009 minutes. Jon Tucker motioned to approve December 2008 minutes, Bruce Rogers seconded. Minutes were approved by consensus. Suzette Boudreux motioned to approve February 2009 minutes with changes to correct language on Cold Creek project approval and attendance, Jon Tucker seconded.

Decision: December 2008 and February 2009 minutes approved by consensus.

7:15 PM Discussion: Meyer Memorial Trust Proposal for the Willamette Model Watershed

Liz Redon reminded committee members of the Meyer Memorial Trust (MMT) Willamette Model Watershed program and the regional submission to this program by the North Santiam, South Santiam and Calapooia Watershed Councils. She explained that MMT expects to select 4 recipients to receive this funding. They have invited 3 applicants to submit full proposals, and our region is one of the selected applicants. The 3 coordinators met and created a strategy for filling out the proposal outline (handouts), which will include a series of meetings with council representatives and technical advisors. She explained that she is looking for volunteers to participate in the 3 planning meetings and/or volunteers to review the proposal as it develops. John Caruso volunteered to participate in the meetings and review proposal materials. Jon Tucker, Suzette Boudreux and Chris Bailey volunteered to review drafts.

7:45 PM Discussion: Steering Positions

Liz Redon explained that Operations Committee had a discussion on how to recruit for the 3 open Steering positions including the Upper Sub-Basin, Natural Resources and Small Cities. Operations wanted to bring the topic to Steering for discussion to brainstorm ideas and/or discuss if the group wanted to alter the Steering positions (e.g. create a new economic position and recruit agriculture and/or timber industry to fill it). Other ideas included changing the natural resource position to “at-large” since it has remained open

for so long. Liz Redon explained that she has tried to send letters inviting participation to potential stakeholder members, however, it is challenging to know who to recruit from, especially for the natural resource position. Members discussed the merits of changing and keeping the positions the same. Generally members agreed that the current positions best reflect the watershed and would rather continue recruiting to fill currently open positions before making changes.

8:15 PM Discussion: ODOT Mitigation/Mad Creek Fiscal Administration

Liz Redon explained that she is working with OR Department of Transportation (ODOT) and NOAA Fisheries to plan using the ODOT mitigation dollars for the Mad Creek culvert replacements. She has been discussing the opportunity with Linn County since both sites are on county roads. Chuck Knoll, Linn County Roads Engineer, provided background on past cooperative relationships with watershed councils and brainstorm ideas for the current project. Liz and Chuck both introduced a cooperative agreement example from Linn County and the Calapooia Watershed Council and discussed how the agreement could be adapted for the Mad Creek project.

There was also discussion that Linn County has offered providing fiscal administration services as part of their partnership free of charge and could ensure to write checks for watershed council project management costs. The mitigation funds is likely to be around one million dollars, therefore, this would provide a substantial cost savings since fiscal administration is a 10% fee. Members discussed merits and logistics of the offer. General discussion confirmed that the Council is not required to use Cascade Pacific for all fiscal administrative services, and that they could consider an alternative fiscal agent if it makes sense for a particular project. Members also discussed alternatives in case funds were required to pass through Cascade Pacific (i.e. ODOT could not send money directly to the county). For example, the Council could try negotiating with Cascade Pacific to waive administration fees if they are able to place the million dollars in an interest bearing account and keep a portion of the interest for administration fees. Members agreed to discuss options more as progress is made in securing the funds and more information is known.

8:30 PM Progress Reports-

Treasurer: Liz Redon provided reports from Cascade Pacific RC&D and Bruce Rogers offered to answer questions.

Risk Management: Liz Redon provided an update on progress made toward securing liability insurance through Cascade Pacific. She explained they did find a carrier willing to provide an umbrella policy, however, they are requiring 10-12 councils, which is beyond Cascade Pacific's current capacity. So Cascade Pacific is working with the statewide Network of Oregon Watershed Councils to see if there is a way to coordinate this opportunity at a statewide level.

Revolving Fund: Liz Redon explained that she is continuing to pursue setting up a revolving fund to assist landowners with CREP enrollment. She is researching with Natural Resource Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency to better understand how best to set this fund up.

Projects: Liz Redon explained that she is working on getting projects on Snake-Deford, Stout Creek and Hatch side channel prepared for Summer 2009 in-water work period. River Design Group is working on budgets and finals designs for each site. She also announced that the draft report for the Spawning Gravel Augmentation project will be arriving soon. She will be distributing the report to technical advisors to review and comment, and she invited members to also review it if they have time and interest.

Pending Proposed Projects:

- Upper and Lower Bennet Dams Fish Passage

8:50 PM Other Business –

- None.

9:00 PM Meeting Adjourned