

Regional Meeting, Stayton Oregon

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

Date: March 11, 2009

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Potluck: 6:30 to 7:15 PM

7:15 Review of Collaboration's Mission: Thinking and collaborating regionally to build capacity for work locally.

Attendance and introductions

- NSWC: Suzette Boudreaux, John Caruso, Tom Fencil, Brent Stevenson, Bill Sanderson, Dani Aleshire, Darren Cross, Ron Bevan
- SSWC: Nancy Gilmore, Nancy MacHugh, Diane Kaldall, Norm Kaldall
- CWC: Mark Running, Connie Burdick, Bud Baumgartner
- Contractors: Erika Lang, Pamela Archer, Sarah Dyrdaahl
- Coordinators: Tara Davis, Eric Hartstein, Liz Redon
- Other: Chuck Knoll (Linn County), Wendy Hudson (OWEB), Kendra Smith (BEF/MMT), Kevin Seifert (Linn SWCD), Debbie Paul (Linn SWCD), Steve Anderson (Contractor, Scio), Keith Gaieau (Portland State University student)

Handout: Agenda, timeline, program expectations

7:25 Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF)/Meyer Memorial Trust (MMT): Background, expectations, and next steps for Meyer Memorial Willamette Model Watershed by Kendra Smith (BEF)

BEF is a non-profit engaged in renewable energy and watershed management work. The watershed management work is done in cooperation with MMT, which came in with the initial program funding. BEF money comes from fundraising and from renewable energy certificates bought by customers. MMT money is based in a trust, and MMT generally works with education and Willamette restoration. MMT prioritized the Willamette basin because about 70% of Oregon's population lives there. Specifically, MMT identified rural communities above Willamette falls as their funding area, because restoration and conservation projects in these areas are underfunded when compared to projects in the greater Portland area. The partnership funds projects with state parks and public lands on the Willamette mainstem, and work with watershed councils on Willamette tributaries. The overall expectation of the program is to increase the pace, scope, and scale of restoration in the Willamette. The goal of the program is to determine if landscape scale changes are detectable if we change where we work and how fast we work, as opposed to the traditional model with opportunistic restoration projects. BEF/MMT is trying to build a strategic 10 year plan with these model watersheds and tributaries. Work is based on projects within the Tualatin River Basin for 12 years. There are 4 other watershed councils participating in the model watershed program: Middle Fork Willamette, Long Tom, Mary's River, and Luckiamute.

Currently, councils are finishing 10-year action plans, which include detailed maps containing results of all stream surveys and community meetings. The package of plans will go to BEF's watershed committee, who will review and approve proposals. Meyer will make a 10 year commitment with an annual grant cycle. During summer 2010, the three councils will be collecting data on baseline ecological conditions, along with social and economic monitoring. The program will be "ramping up" within first two years, but we expect to get a lot of things accomplished in the 10 years as a whole.

Q. Will MMT/BEF people take tours?

A. Kendra has walked all of the model tributaries. BEF staff will take tours over time to show them what they're funding. Some will visit the watershed via "Google Earth tours."

Q. How many years will this program be funded and by whom?

A. MMT has contributed 7 years of funding. BEF will fundraise for the remaining 3 years. Because of this timeline, it is important for the councils to establish detailed, well-thought work plans.

Q. Where are other [watershed] groups in this process?

A. They are in different spaces. Community groups have formed because of different reasons and local drivers. Focus is to build capacity at local level with technical assistance.

Comment from Wendy Hudson (OWEB): This is a big deal and you should be very proud; this is a huge honor. Kendra is right that this is tremendous capacity support for the councils which OWEB hasn't been able to provide at this scale.

Q. Will OWEB become reluctant to provide us with funding because of this project???

A. If councils continue to apply, OWEB won't deny councils funding just because they are getting money from other sources. BEF/MMT is providing the councils with capacity for staff, but the councils will still need money for on-the-ground projects.

Q. Will there be technology and knowledge transfer between groups?

A. Training and education is big component of program. This year, a big focus was to build GIS capacity between councils. In the near future, we will focus on flow restoration, early detection rapid response (EDRR) and regional strategies, and land easements/management agreements.

Comment: We want to share knowledge so other groups don't have to reinvent the wheel

Q. What is the monitoring protocol?

A. All councils are participating in development of a monitoring program. Will look at GIS tracking, reach specific monitoring that's clustered around project activities (non-random sampling), long-term monitoring looking for landscape scale signal with random distribution of sample sites within model watersheds. Final protocol will be peer-reviewed with OSU and EPA, and other partners.

7:50 Outreach and project development report by Erika Lang and Sarah Dyrdaahl

Map: Santiam and Calapooia Watersheds, and tributaries

- Calapooia: Courtney Creek and Reach 3
- South Santiam: Hamilton and McDowell Creeks
- North Santiam: Valentine, Bear Branch and Stout Creeks

Model Watershed Restoration Strategy: assessment, outreach, restoration/conservation, monitoring. The program is mostly focused on assessments and outreach at this time. Progress is basin dependent, as all basins are in different space. Some basins haven't heard about the watershed councils so we're starting with basic outreach.

Community Meetings

All residents with streamside ownership invited to meetings in each tributary. Meeting agendas included learning about the watershed councils, hearing results of stream surveys, receiving landowner input on values, future goals and concerns, and outlining next steps for the basin. All basins were different, but it was good to hear from people what they'd like for their watershed.

Tributary	Mailers	Number attending	Could not attend but interested	Not interested at this time
Hamilton	134	13	15	5
McDowell	55	11	3	2
Bear Branch	93	13	8	5
Valentine	47	10	3	2
Courtney Creek	149	15	8	4

Top 3 watershed concerns

- Hamilton: water quality/pollution, salmon habitat, erosion/soil
- McDowell: water quality/pollution, salmon habitat, erosion/soil
- Valentine: 4 way tie: water quality/pollution, salmon habitat, weeds, regulation at 16%
- Bear branch: water quality/pollution, water flow, (3 way tie salmon habitat, human impact, weeds)
- Courtney creek (most industrial area): water quality/protection, water flow, balance of uses

After the meetings, information was compiled on where people are at in terms of readiness for restoration projects and granting the council permission to survey their properties. We compiled a map of Calapooia Santiam Landowner Willingness to participate.

Next steps in the program for 2010: site visits, restoration tours in late spring, workshops in late spring, strategy development for hard to reach landowners, implement projects with Landowner Recruitment for Restoration funds and grant writing for additional project funds.

8:15 Update on final proposal for March 15 deadline and budget report, watershed council coordinators

Creek	Courtney	Hamilton	McDowell	Valentine	Bear Branch
% basin surveyed	17	44	13	24	27

By creating maps and tables identifying restoration opportunities and prioritizing over 10 years, we are hoping to answer the question if it's possible get over the tipping point for restoration in the watershed so that we can measure ecological uplift resulting from our efforts.

The councils stress that landowner willingness is key component, if landowners lukewarm, we may not work with them. The social component of this project is important. We feel that once start we recruiting neighbors, other neighbors will be interested and projects will start building and snowball.

The next regional meeting is at the Calapooia Brewery—"Wet your Whistle in the Watershed," on June 11th. This year there will be less of a focus on a fundraising but more of a tri-watershed gathering.

Adjourn at 8:25