

Ecola Creek Watershed Council meeting minutes 1-23-2017

Present were: Mike Manzulli, Brooke Stanley, Vonne Whitney, Lisa Kerr, Jon Wickersham, Scott Rekate, Mark Morgans, Bob Lundy, Mark Barnes, Barb Knop, Charles Dice, Jerome Arnold, Mark McLaughlin, Kevan Ridgway

1. Those present introduced themselves.
2. The agenda was accepted.
3. The minutes were approved as corrected.

4. Updates & Reports

4.a NCLC's rainforest reserve update—Jon

John reported on the NCLC Coastal Edge program.

Onion Peak Holdings has bought 5000 acres (map below) from Stimson Lumber and NCLC is going to fundraise to buy approximately 3,500 of the acres. This is the largest acquisition in NCLC history, and the largest private conservation area in western Oregon. Onion Peak is about 3,000ft high. Angora Peak is a bit lower, and Davy's Ridge a bit higher. NCLC plans to raise the money over the next five years or so.

4.b NCWA update—Brooke

Brooke gave a brief orientation to the NCWA for newcomers. It covers four watersheds. They are looking for a short-term coordinator to take over while Brooke is on maternity leave this summer. The job is 25 hours per week, and pays \$20 per hour. They are looking mainly within the watershed councils first. Peggy is retiring as bookkeeper, and NCWA need to hire a replacement. The chum salmon focused investment partnership met, and is planning to submit another grant application. Last year theirs was the highest-ranked application that was not funded.

NCWA has been clearing invasives and planting trees at Alderbrook, at the east end of Astoria, along the Columbia.

They expect an answer on the data logger grant application in April.

They are partnering with Clatsop County on projects such as repairing culverts.

Jerome says ODFW has reported chum in Ecola Creek. Mark McLaughlin says to check Project OASIS, in cooperation with the Corvallis Research Lab, for fish presence data. <http://odfw.forestry.oregonstate.edu/spawn/datasumm.htm>

4.c GENA update—No update.

4.d Community Forest update—Mike M

The Northwest Community Forest Coalition, headquartered in Portland, is applying for grants to educate communities south of here along the coast about owning and protecting their drinking water source watersheds.

4.e Water conservation group update—Vonne

They want to create a water bill insert, and to work with hotels and restaurants on saving water. They hope to get existing but relevant materials from others.

Mark B says the City Council will be discussing the City's water master plan at their March work session.

Jerome pressed not bringing water to the table [at restaurants] unless requested.

Vonne mentioned low-flow dishwashing sprayers.

4.f Friends of Trees update—Barb

No highway cleanup lately, but there will be one this Thursday, 8:30-9:30, meeting on the east side of the highway north of the Sunset onramp. Brooke will send out a wider announcement.

4.g HRAP/ecotourism update—Kevan, volunteer marketing committee chair with the Chamber of Commerce

Their destination marketing seeks to avoid doing anything bad to residents.

He referred us to Web materials on “conscious travel,” which “doesn’t cost the earth.” For example, they are not trying to attract crowds of fishermen. They want to put heads on beds in the off seasons—for conferences, and retreats of not more than 300 people. He says that 71% of City revenue comes from room taxes. Mike pointed out that if groups come for team building we can put them to work.

4.h City of Cannon Beach update—Mark B

We expect to hear back in April about our application for an OWEB grant to help fund acquisition of the Swigart property.

There will be a Forest Reserve road evaluation this summer.

The construction by Little Pompey is proceeding slowly. Once it was determined that no permits are needed, work restarted with a new contractor.

The burrito bag creek bank retaining materials seem to be holding up okay, but the big test will come in mid-February.

5. DEQ Water Quality Report

There was a story on OPB about ODF quashing a DEQ 12-year study, now in draft, on harm that clear-cutting does to drinking water quality. The draft report can be found on line, but has not been issued. Article from OPB:

<http://kcts9.org/programs/earthfix/after-pushback-oregon-scraps-report-linking-private-forests-water-quality-risks>

6. Oregon Water Resources Department water project grants and loans

Applications are due on April 5. The City might apply. About \$5M is left for this biennium.

7. Scheduling work parties for the year

7.a Unscheduled: Fence removal at Sea Ranch

Mike will look for good potential dates in February.

Does anyone have access to a fence post puller?

7.b March: Ivy Free Tree Day—tentatively March 22, 10-1

7.c April: 12 days of Earth Day—parade and booths on May 13

7.d May: Broombuster—tentatively May 13

7.e June: Tansy removal? TBD

NCLC has a grant to pull policeman's helmet, but there is probably not any in our watershed.

8. Schedule of events—Nature Matters at 7:00 at Ft. George Brewery

February 9 Sarah Kidd, Ft. Clatsop

9. Good of the Order—Mark M

Greenwood has bought 27k acres in Washington. They now own the top of Megler Mountain, which they are clearing of slash and replanting.

They have bought (from Olympic) 6500 acres above Rockaway, stretching from Jetty Creek to Garibaldi. They are getting to know it and doing road management. On other Greenwood properties, ODFW has been placing salmon carcasses in streams, which have been attracting the eagles.

Greenwood is reforesting and has seedlings available if anyone needs some.

