

Ecola Creek Watershed Council Meeting Minutes May 15, 2017

Present were: Mark Morgans, Brooke Stanley, Lisa Kerr, Bob Lundy, Ed Johnson, Jan Siebert-Wahrmund, Scott Rekate, Mark Barnes, Rich Bertellotti

1 Introductions & Announcements

Jan—Barb Knop’s husband died in a traffic accident, perhaps caused by a heart attack, near their place in Sisters. Barb was not seriously injured.

Brooke—Les Wierson sent an email expressing concern about the clear-cut north of the city. Concerns for Logan Creek were expressed.

Rich—The creek is running clear today, but N Hemlock St. has slumped about 18 in.

Jan—ODOT will build a culvert, and other improvements along Ecola Creek Rd.

Mark M—He went up and took a look at the cut. The logger had notified ODF and the tax authorities. The cutting did not look wrong to him.

Jan—Some trees on Dr. Wayne’s property were tagged for cutting, but he intervened. She favors setting up something like the Arch Cape Design Review Board for the area.

Mark M—The area is regulated under the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

Mark B—Expanding the City’s Urban Growth Boundary would have the effect of increasing the permitted density, along with greatly increasing the City’s obligations for infrastructure.

Jan—The property owner from Alaska is Tom Manning, and the other new property owner is John Hyde.

Brooke will forward Les’ email following the request of council members and will invite Les to our next meeting.

2 Additions to Agenda—none

3 Approval of Minutes—approved as corrected

4 Updates & Reports

- Earth Day Fair and Broombuster recap—Brooke—Earth Day was rainy and windy. They took down the table after about an hour, but did manage to give away a few of Greenwood’s donated trees. Broombuster attracted two new healthy volunteers. They

cleared all of Les Shirley Park and most of NeCus. She suggests a bit of follow-up to get what's left. Jan suggests applying for a small grant to clean up the North Entrance and replant with wild roses. Brooke will look into it. Rich says the City should clear the broom around N Spruce at Ecola Park Rd., or get property owners to do so.

- NCWA update—Brooke—Brooke and Scott scouted where to install data loggers, and installed 2. Mark M says there are roads through Greenwood property to near the North Fork. Burn Rd. is close but decommissioned. Mark M recommended the Avenza Map app, which would enable us to always have pdf maps in hand when in the woods. Ed requested that we always have a good detailed map of the watershed at all meetings. Mark B said the City has some, and he can make one available. Brooke wants to have at least one logger in each fork but fewer than Jerome has historically maintained, and at more accessible sites. Rich pointed out that the City has a sophisticated monitor just downstream from the bridge in the Reserve, and suggested we coordinate with Public Works. Mark M reminded us that Greenwood has had loggers, and he is keeping an eye out for the notebooks of data from them.

- NOAA [strategies & actions for north coast stratum](#) / + beaver projects—Brooke—Tim Hill is studying beaver projects throughout Oregon, and will set up a meeting on the subject. Mark M suggests setting up to coordinate bringing beavers into the Reserve when Greenwood needs to remove them from their property. Mark B pointed out that we would first need to plant food plants to support them. Ed reminded us that supporting beavers is in the NOAA recommendations for our area and recommended we add it to our action plan. It was unanimously approved that we prioritize this, so Brooke will put it in her work plan for the next couple of years, and coordinate it with Tim Hill and Mark B. The Ecola council will coordinate with the city's efforts in the ECFR and state-wide efforts led by Tim Hill and find where gaps and overlap exist.

*Amended (per Ed) to add: “Mark stated that funds had been established in this year's City budget to upgrade the habitat by appropriate plantings that would insure beaver population stability. He noted that based on the shortness of the remaining budgetary cycle it is doubtful that a contract could be implemented though it could happen in 17-18 budgetary cycle.”

- City of Cannon Beach update—Mark B
 - ECFR current projects/actions—The City got the OWEB grant to support acquisition of the Swigart property, and is moving ahead.
 - Possible purchase of source water area from Greenwood—This is in the Water Master Plan. Rich says there has been no substantive discussion so far, but he expects funding solutions should be explored aside from raising water rates. Mark M says Greenwood would be happy to discuss this acquisition. Jan reports that Mike Morgan would be willing to participate, and Rich says Rainmar is also looking into it.
 - Jim Arndt will start as the new Director of Public Works on or about May 22.

- Tolovana wayside ownership—ongoing
- Sanitary and water plan—Since the 70's, the City has had a water right to protect its sand filter facility. The City needs to “perfect” its water right, and it was suggested that the council request some language be added during this process to include endangered species protection. This was approved unanimously. Rich says Mike Manzulli has done some work on this, and can perhaps propose some language. Rich will talk to him about it. Ed says we need to balance the needs of people and fish.

- NCWA update—Brooke—A 25 hour/week sub for her has been hired. OWEB funding is TBD, and may be cut, which would further limit staff time. The Council work plan in the form required by OWEB was offered as a hard copy, it has already been distributed by email. She will add items for beaver and North Entrance Scotch broom abatement to her 2017-19 work plan.

- Greater Ecola Natural Area (GENA) update
GENA will meet tomorrow.

- Community Forest update
Nothing to report

- Water conservation group update
Note Jan's article on the back page of the ECAP newsletter.

- Friends of Trees Update—Jan
Cannon Beach's Tree City USA status has been renewed. From 2nd to Sunset, trees have been pruned on the W side [of 101?]. The City has budgeted \$5k/year, of which \$1-1/2k is left. We want to prevent avoidable cutting, and are working with ODOT; Jan is happy with how that is going. Jeff Gerhardt of Treescapes Northwest is doing the trimming, and came in under budget

Good of the Order

Mark M reports that new SSBT stream protection rules, which go into effect on July 1, are available on the ODF Web site.