

Ecola Creek Watershed Council meeting minutes 11/21/16 (draft)

Present were: Brooke Stanley, Scott ReKate, Bob Lundy, Mark Morgans, Jan Siebert-Wahrmund, Mark Barnes, Lisa Kerr, Barb Knop, and Lyra Fontaine.

Announcements included a wonderful Return of the Salmon potluck and the acquisition by the North Coast Land Conservancy of a large area of forest land 5000 acres reaching from near Onion Peak toward the coast behind the Forest Reserve and south.

Also a riparian buffer stream article assessing the effects of state and federal forest practice rules. Mention was made of a piece in the Daily Astorian by Edward Stratton. [Mark M said that] the logging companies often leave wider margins uncut than they are required to.

The minutes were approved.

The grant application that Brooke has submitted for expanded monitoring is pending. It includes Ecola Creek, and could help finish preparation of Jerome Arnold's stream temperature datasets. DEQ suggests limiting further data collection to about two to four sites that are easily accessible, to serve as a baseline for other watersheds. Mark M will look at the company's well-maintained ~five year dataset and send it to Brooke.

The Greater Ecola Natural Area committee has not met since Katie Voelke gave birth.

Jan reported that the water conservation group has been working with Vonne Whitney, who has had another stroke. They are assembling data, including on water use by the new brewpubs, to give to the City of Cannon Beach. Barb says water use is decreasing. The group plans to work with hotels to decrease water use.

Mark B reported that City-funded smoke testing has found no unexpected cross-connections. Some broken lateral clean-outs on private property are sending rain water into the sanitary sewer system, which increases cost but not danger. This initial report is based on raw data. A plan is expected around February to April.

Jan and Barb report that the Friends of Trees are submitting their application for annual renewal of our Tree City designation. The sign at the south entrance is now up. The program is administered through the Parks committee. Kirstin Ramstead will give a Brown Bag Lunch class as part of a statewide program, hosted by the City.

The Friends are picking up litter along Highway 101 between Sunset and 2nd Street, for an hour once a month on alternating sides.

For the RV Park (on City property) Phase II utility upgrade, Joe Baldin is marking trees to be cut, but this is not satisfactory to some members.

Mark M will help locate sites in CB for tree planting on November 30; meet near Ed Johnson's place.

For acquisition of the Swigart property between the tertiary treatment area and the Forest Reserve, a grant has been awarded by USFW and an OWEB grant will be announced one way or the other this winter, to be effective in FY17 or 18.

Mark B will report to the Parks committee on City projects and actions in the Forest Reserve. The road system update will be completed this winter of spring. A multi-year beaver restoration project has begun, under contract to (probably) Trout Mountain. The Oregon Forest Resources Institute has issued a new report on beaver.

Brooke reported that the North Coast Watershed Association has moved into offices above Lazerquick, next to CREST, at 818 Commercial Street, Suite 308. They have received \$10k in fine money to work in Alderbrook. Brooke is pregnant (!) and will take maternity leave this summer.

The ECAP mushroom walk in the Forest Reserve was a great success, with a manageable number of participants (Dane Osis had about 150 on one walk at Ft. Stevens).

The ecotourism meeting at the Chamber raised some concerns, seeming to suggest the possibility of commercial tours in the Forest Reserve. A presentation was given at the Chamber by Stephen Grace of Tide & Trails, www.TidesandTrails.org, (720) 938S 8289. Lisa observed that "ecotourism" is simply tourism—a commercial venture. Scott is concerned that there is already too much effect of foot and bicycle traffic on the loop trail before the foot bridge, needing repair. Mark M reminded us that Greenwood allows recreation on their land, but not commercial activity.

On December 8, Richard Rowland will give a Nature Matters talk at Ft. George Brewery on Nature and the Natural Landscape, sponsored by NCWA and Ft. Clatsop.

Valerie Grant is now the OSU Extension Forester for about three counties. Mark M says that for Forest activities on Greenwood land questions we can call Greenwood (i.e., him) at their Gearhart office.