

Ecola Creek Watershed Council meeting minutes 7/18/2016 (draft)

Present were: Scott Rekate, Barb Knop, Jan Siebert-Wahrmund, Leslie Ryan, Lisa Kerr, Bob Lundy, Richard Bertellotti, Mike Manzulli, Jon Wickersham, Dan Grassick, Mark Barnes, Bruce Francis, Leslie Ryan, and Jerome Arnold.

Leslie is moving back to Idaho. Her contributions have been appreciated. Scott was elected vice president, unopposed.

The agenda was approved as amended, and the minutes were approved.

Jon presented the North Coast Land Conservancy's recent and current activities, spanning about 5k acres from Astoria to Lincoln City. The Coastal Edge,, is one of their five initiatives. He distributed a few copies of a map (attached), and invited additions and corrections. Jerome pointed out that the streams in Ecola Park were not correct, and Mike suggested that marbled murrelet habitat be added. Jon will look into these. Bruce asked whether there is a Goal 19 layer, and Jon said there presumably is one. The map prioritizes geology such as rocky outcroppings. NCLC plans to show it to many other stakeholders, including Greenwood.

John passed around a copy of the Columbia Quiet Waters Conservation Plan (also attached), and one of the 12.5 MB Necanicum Wildlife Corridor Conservation Plan, http://nclctrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/NecanicumPlan_1-16-151.pdf.

The tansy pull was on a glorious day, with Brooke Stanley, Bob, Jan, and Barb removing nearly all of the tansy from the Sweigert island, leaving those plants on which they could see cinnabar moth caterpillars.

Jerome and Scott deployed ten temperature loggers, and another day Jerome deployed three more. The water temperatures were in the 50s. Jerome reported "staggering" cooling, three or four degrees, in a culvert near the Fir Street bridge. The culvert now has weirs that he asked ODOT to install, and these are functioning as a fish ladder. The NCLC now has copies of all his files as of last fall.

On July 1 there was a small ceremony celebrating the installation of a welcoming pole carved by Quinault tribe member Guy Capoeman and installed at the edge of the beach in Necus Park. Public Works supplied the base and installed the pole.

The "burrito" structure, and alternative to rip rap, was installed at the end of Larch Street. The hooker willow branches, sourced from upstream, are growing, and no further erosion has been observed so far. Next winter will tell whether they hold.

The Friends of Trees will meet again this week, and work toward a September celebration. They are contributing to the current amendments of the City tree ordinance, and are picking up litter monthly between 2nd and Sunset.

Enterococcus readings at the Gower Street outfall have been good, but Chisana Creek has been as high as 278, well above the safe limit for children playing in it. Brooke will meet with Surfrider in August. Bob will look into whether Tolovana Inn stores any imagery of the creek from their Web cam, potentially showing how many kids are playing there.

The City has budgeted for an evaluation of roads in the Forest Reserve, looking to forest thinning and/or road retirement. The thinning would be largely on a cost-recovery basis, for forest health rather than revenue. Mike has a mobile mill contact, which he will give to Mark. Beaver restoration is also being evaluated.

Scott reports that about 24 trees in the Forest Reserve still need to have fences removed from around them. It was tentatively agreed to meet at the Reserve gate at 9:30 on August 24. We can leave the posts and mesh by the water plant and Public Works will dispose of them.

Bruce is vice-chair of the Skipanon Water Control Board. He described their difficulties getting an old damaged dam in Warrenton decommissioned. They have all necessary permits from the Department of State Lands and the Army Corps of Engineers, but the City of Warrenton has not agreed. The Watershed Council was asked to support the Control Board when needed.

Jerome will be salvaging coho fingerlings next week, and would welcome participation.