



## Adopted Minutes

Meeting of May 1, 2013

### Stakeholders Present:

Nicole Ahr	SWCD Primary Representative, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
Bob Baumgartner	Sewer Districts Primary Representative, Clean Water Services
John Driscoll	Environmental Alternate Representative, Tualatin Riverkeepers
Kristel Fesler	Water Districts Primary Representative, City of Hillsboro Water Department
Ron Garst	Environmental Primary Representative, Tualatin Riverkeepers
Michael McMahan	Nurseries Primary Representative, Blooming Nursery
Jan Miller	Citizen at Large Primary Representative
Tom Nygren	Washington County Small Woodlands Association, Primary Representative
Ahne Oosterhof	Chamber Primary Representative, Hillsboro Chamber
Carla Staedter	Parks Alternative Representative, City of Tigard
Rich VanBuskirk	Education Primary Representative, Pacific University
Ross Van Loo	County Primary Representative, Washington County
Dave Waffle	City Primary Representative, City of Beaverton

### Staff Present:

April Olbrich                      Coordinator

### Guests Present:

Michael Ahr	West Multnomah SWCD
Kathryn Harrington	METRO Councilor
J.L. Liddane	Greater Yamhill Basin Watershed Council Chair
Luke Westphal	Great Yamhill Basin Watershed Council Director

**Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting commenced at 7:05 p.m. with introductions and an icebreaker: “Tell us a recent fundraiser that you were involved in.” Some examples: Tickets to hear speaker, Tualatin Riverkeepers banquet, dessert auction, car wash, cake walk, direct mail/email, haunted Halloween tour of historical buildings, plant sales, tree seedling sales, pancake breakfast, auction for donated items such as vacation housing, t-shirt sales (Othello Sandhill Crane fest).

**Approval of April 2013 TRWC minutes:** The April Council meeting minutes were approved with a few edits noted: 1) add Nicole Ahr to the list of attendees and 2) Ron noted “plant sale” is correct language, and on page 3 the phrase “should first” to be struck. Jan Miller moved to adopt the minutes; Ron Garst seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted by consensus.

## Public Comment/Updates:

- Nicole Ahr provided a handout with info on Weed Watchers workshops in Tualatin Basin. Will pass out copies to post.
- Luke Westphal: Yamhill Council is finishing a strategic planning effort that should be done by the end of May. Would like to explore opportunities to work together that may come from review of strategic plan.
- Last Friday was annual Spring Summit for the Intertwine Alliance (<http://theintertwine.org/summits>). One presentation of note: Ray Tretheway from Sacramento Tree Foundation, "Weaving Trees into foundation of urban framework". Great talk of long history of tree planting efforts in Sacramento.

## Agenda Items

### 1. **Presentation: Information on METRO 2013 Parks and natural areas levy: Measure 26-152.** *TRWC Action Plan Item 2: Conserve and improve fish and wildlife habitat.* Kathryn Harrington, [kathryn.harrington@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:kathryn.harrington@oregonmetro.gov) ; 503-797-1553

Kathryn shared a handout that summarizes the key issues with this levy. Levy is a 5-year local option that will add 9.6 cents per \$1,000.00 of assessed home value. Levy would raise ~\$10 million per year, costing the average homeowner ~\$19.20/yr. Metro has a large park portfolio (16,000 acres) that includes natural areas along with several city and county parks that they maintain. In 1995 and 2006, voters approved bond measures to secure additional lands. This money cannot be used for operating expenses. Maintenance has come out of Metro general fund. Metro's budget does have a spending cap, so they are limited on what they can spend. After 17 years and this growing portfolio, Metro needs help to care for these properties.

An independent advisory committee was formed that recommended 1) Get on the problem or property maintenance right away. A short-term levy (Measure 26-152) would generate maintenance revenue quickly and 2) Work with regional partners on a long-term solution. This discussion remains to happen.

Where would the money go? Three kinds of projects envisioned: 1) visitor improvements - facilities in many of the parks are quite old (up to 50 years). Bathrooms need to be replaced. 2) Restoration efforts at all of the Metro properties and 3) Regional Parks Projects (e.g. west-side trail corridor, Dairy/McKay Creek confluence, Killin Wetlands, Gales Creek, etc.).

Committee recommended that Metro keep in mind original goals of bond measures: restoration is primary target (40-50%), regional park operations (20-30%), improving public access (5-15%) at sites such as Chehalem Ridge, conservation education and volunteers (5-15%) who help accomplish many restoration goals and, lastly, community project grants (5-15%) Also would like to increase funding for community project grants (such as Nature and Neighborhood Restoration Enhancement Grant). For every \$1 given, \$8 is requested. Would like to triple that program to better meet demand.

Some of the major sites with need: Chehalem Ridge, Killin Wetlands (only peat soil wetland under public ownership in the region), Johnson Creek, Clear Creek, Oxbow

Regional Park, Blue Lake Regional Park. Levy would support between 300-400 new jobs (source: U of O 2010).

Questions: *Could the users be a source of funding for this work, perhaps through user fees?* Metro doesn't yet know what long-term money solution will involve. There is also potential for developing a regional parks management entity that will have a separate funding source. This was the only option that would raise funds immediately to launch work in the short-term.

*What percentage will translate into additional Metro staff?* No more than 20% of that levy will make up for cut backs to the budget if this doesn't pass. (80% to new work).

*Will funds go to the sites listed or will they benefit all sites? Will partnerships with farmers continue?* Yes, partnerships will continue because the relationship is mutually beneficial. Agricultural use can be just as beneficial as natural area restoration. Twenty-seven target areas were identified through scientific analysis to figure out sites with greatest need.

Metro's capital improvement grant needs to be better utilized in Washington County. There was no viable request from WaCo in this latest round of granting.

- 2. Council Business: Capacity Building:** Meeting minutes identify some of the ideas raised during April meeting. At the June 2013 TRWC meeting there will be a discussion of capacity building as well as the formation of a TRWC Capacity Building committee. Dave would like to now hear comments on the notes from that discussion. Bob: Discussion generated enough core material to start the conversation and identify areas that we can follow through on. Kathryn: Local foundations may be source of grant moneys to help with strategic planning.

Dave: Several champions stepped forward during that meeting. Would be useful to have those people form a committee or nucleus group to get things going. Bob, Carla and Kristel are interested in participating, but not leading. Would Jan Curry be willing to chair such a committee?

- 3. Acknowledgements:** Jan Miller was presented with a thank you and gift certificates in acknowledgment for her work on the Council website.
- 4. TRWC updated website:** Jan Miller shared the new TRWC website (trwc.org) with the group. More and better photos and a new and better organization. Home page has a prominent calendar showing upcoming events. This sidebar is always present no matter what page is selected. There are links at the top to volunteer opportunities, projects, basin information, landowner resources, kid's page and more.

Sites and projects are also available in map view using Google Maps. The home page will always feature two events. They will be events that the public would be interested in.

About us page has general information about the formation of the Council, with hyperlinks for additional information. This keeps the page from becoming too cluttered. The Council History page has a great summary of major events and projects

up to the most recent work. Lots of information on projects in the basin. Link to ArcGIS map of projects in the basin. Great way to learn about Council work.

Members page is accessible only by password: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (redacted).

This was a big item in our strategic plan. It's great to see it nearly completed.

**Coordinator Update:**

April: Working to get activities listed for summer events. Great turnout on April 20 at Rippling Waters

**Committee Updates:**

*Issues committee* (Ron): Oregon's Strategic Watershed Conservation Planning Place-based efforts might be a good way for watershed councils to become involved. Committee is trying to schedule a meeting with state representatives to discuss initiative further. If timing is right and interest is there from the state, TRWC could be involved with the agricultural community around McFee Creek as part of the statewide project.

*Restoration committee* (Nicole): Discussion of continued culvert survey work. April has confirmed funding availability and group is now working on hiring interns.

**Stakeholder Updates:**

No announcements

Dave Waffle announced that the Steering Committee meeting has been moved up a day to Wednesday 15 May.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Van Buskirk  
Co-Secretary

**Refreshments for June 5, meeting:** Bob Baumgartner

**Roving Steering Committee member for May 15:** Carla Staedter  
**Roving Steering Committee member(s) for June 20:** Neil & Ardis Schroeder