

**Marys Peak Stewardship Group
Meeting Notes
February 23rd, 2012**

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Amber Reese	City of Corvallis	Jackie Nichols	CPRCD
Mike Totey	ODF	Ken McCall	RMEF
Heath Keirstead	Benton SWCD	Viva Worthington	SNF
Liz Graham	Benton SWCD	Kraig Kidwell	SNF
Steve Trask	Biosurveys	Karen Fleck-Harding	MRWC
Betty Sleight	Private landowner	Art Sleight	Private landowner
Jane Brass Barth	Facilitator	Diana Blakney	Private landowner

Meeting began at 6:00 PM. January notes were approved by consensus.

Updates

Past/ongoing stewardship projects:

Amber Reese shared that the City is finally done with the wildlife enhancement project

Karen Fleck-Harding reported that OWEB will fund the remainder of the Greasy Creek project, which stewardship funded this past cycle. She also reported that the bank that was stabilized with stewardship funding held up well during January floods. The willows planted on the bank have a good survival rate. She, Steve Trask and Diana Blakney plan to hike along Rock Creek to see what impact the flooding had on the large wood project done several years ago. Amber and Viva Worthington added that a couple logs had moved.

Jackie Nichols reported that the Regional Office had approved all of the 2011 Coast Range Stewardship projects in full.

Stewardship sales

Nothing to update on Bridge Thin. Viva share that Rock Thin will be sold as a stewardship sale.

County invasives strategic planning process

Heath reported that the third and final workshop of the process was held on February 13th. They have put together a recommended EDRR (Early Detection Rapid Response) list, created maps to show priority sites and vectors, developed outreach and education strategies, and agreed to create a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA). The Soil and Water Conservation District will house and staff the CWMA with Heath serving as Coordinator. The first step is to convene a steering committee. Two connections between the CWMA and MPSG are that 1) the planning process has identified priority areas that coincide with the MPSG boundary and 2) members of the MPSG who have GIS data on invasives could provide that to the CWMA to help its planning.

Spring Field Trip Planning

The trip will be planned for either April 21 or 28 from 9am until noon. Karen will check with the Greasy Creek neighborhood, target audience for the tour, to determine the best date. We anticipate 35-50 participants. Amber asked if it would make sense to combine the MPSG field trip with the City's annual watershed tour, which is also planned for Spring. The group felt the trips would be best held separately. The basic itinerary for the tour will be an on-the-ground look at the Greasy Creek basin to see the bank stabilization project funded last year, to visit the new culvert project locations before work is done, and to see parts of the City's watershed. Jane, Amber and Karen will work on details and report back to the group.

Outreach Funds Allocation

The group initially discussed whether it would allocate \$250 of its \$1500 outreach funds to the production of a 3-4 page brochure focused on summarizing the four fiscal years worth of monitoring data that now exists. The intent would be to let people, in particular local decision-makers, know the economic impacts of stewardship. Another way of saying this is to let constituents know the value (e.g., jobs, income, tax dollars) of what is happening on the ground through stewardship. The goal would be to create a document that translates the detailed data currently found in the annual multi-party monitoring report into something visually attractive and easy to understand. The following points and questions were raised:

- Could this be part of the multi-party monitoring contract?
- Would a marketing firm be more appropriate to create such a brochure?
- Who are the intended audiences because different products are needed to reach different audiences? What does the public need to know?
- Is a printed brochure the best way to get the information out? Several people doubted the use of print material, fearing copies would sit on the shelf as has been the case with past stewardship brochures. Suggestion was to use a website instead. Websites can have links, visuals, photos to stir up interest. Jackie and Viva will check into rules and regulations for using the existing websites at CPRCD and FS in more of an outreach and information function.
- Another way to raise visibility of stewardship projects would be to put signs up at project locations. The website address can be on the sign.

The group decided not to allocate funds towards the brochure. It recommends that the Roundtable discuss this at its Spring meeting and then form a subcommittee with members from all groups to work on this issue further.

The group decided by consensus to allocate the \$1500 to Karen Fleck-Harding and the MRWC as it has done in the past. This decision acknowledges the positive results that Karen has achieved with past outreach funds, in particular projects being funded in each of the past Coast Range Stewardship Fund cycles. Karen suggested this year's outreach funds can help pull together new riparian planting and large wood projects. They also could serve as match to a National Forest Foundation grant for working with landowners not only in Greasy Creek, but also in Beaver and Tum Tum Creek areas.

Follow up from Annual Review

Jane queried the group about forming a small executive/steering committee to be a sounding board for her on issues like whether to cancel a meeting. The consensus was to keep functioning as is.

Announcements

For the March meeting, Ron Exeter was scheduled to talk about BLM's invasives species treatment program as well as what the BLM has completed on the Peak since the Marys Landscape NEPA was done. MPSG members suggested that Marty Stein, SNF, and someone from the City of Corvallis also present at the same meeting. This would be an opportunity to invite other people to attend the meeting, not only to hear about invasives but also to gain interest in the MPSG. Jane will organize the presenters. Several members unfortunately cannot attend a meeting on March 22nd and the ODF room is not available. Jane will look at alternatives and get back to the group. She also will work on something to send out ahead of time to encourage more people to attend.

Mike Totey announced that the Oregon Board of Forestry is meeting at the Best Western Agate Beach Hotel in Newport on April 27th. The public is invited to attend. They also will hold a field trip on April 26th. Mike will get information to Jane to forward to the group.

Ken reminded everyone that the subcommittee to revise the stewardship application form is meeting on March 9th. He will be representing the MPSG on that committee. Steve would like the committee to discuss ways to get the power of leveraging into the application form and evaluation form. Large projects seemed to cause confusion in the last cycle, but they leverage a lot of resources so should be possible.

Meeting concluded at 8:00pm.