



South Santiam Watershed Council
Meeting Notes
April 21, 2010
Lebanon Public Library 6-8pm

Board Members in Attendance: Sean Larsen, Katie Kohl, Nancy Gilmore, Nancy MacHugh, KC Briggs, Norm and Diane Kaldahl.

Community Members in Attendance: Roberta Swift, Barbara Story, Mitchell Garcia, Bonnie Bonham, Karen Owen, Roy and Bettie Martin, Rod and Raylene Sell, Frank Garcia, Len and Linda Rummel

Staff: Eric Hartstein, Krista Farris Lopez

Council Meeting:

Dr. Raylene Gordin, “Western Bluebirds in the Mid-Willamette Valley: The decline and recovery of a sensitive species.”

Board Meeting:

February Meeting Minutes: Approved.

Monitoring Coordinator Position Description/Hiring Schedule: The job announcement went out April 16, the closing date is May 3, selected applicant interviews is the week of May 10, and the position will be filled by the end of May. Monitoring McDowell and Hamilton Creeks begins in June. Field support and instruction for landowners and monitors will come from ABR, Inc. (contracted through the model watershed program to develop the plan and protocol) to provide consistency across the watersheds. The sites for monitoring will be randomly selected. Funding is secured for the first year of monitoring and will likely continue.

Model Watershed Program Update: The Calapooia-Santiam partnership has been awarded funding for a second year to continue the landowner outreach efforts and to develop the monitoring program. A memorandum of understanding is being developed that will outline our responsibilities and include a 10 year Action Plan. High interest (including monetary investments) is expected from a variety of groups.

Ames Creek Update: Consulting the project stakeholders and conducting more research on the National Marine Fisheries Service’s idea of constructing a fishway at the mouth of Ames Creek with concrete weirs resulted in a reconsideration of the original pursuit of a more natural fishway made of rock. Our stakeholders do not support a concrete structure.

We are concerned about the cost, maintenance and liability of a concrete structure. Fishing near the concrete structure could be prohibited and a popular boat ramp closed. These concerns have been discussed with the SSWC engineering consultant (Inter-fluve, Inc.) which has agreed to prepare a response from an engineering perspective as to how the original proposed design (rock ramp) will function at a level that meets the requirements of the federal permitting agencies. This report, along with our social/aesthetic concerns and a note of appreciation for the National Marine Fisheries Service's suggestions, will be delivered to the Army Corps of Engineers and the NMFS. We are hoping to pursue a project more closely aligned to what had been originally proposed. The Board supported Eric's plan to get the proposal out next week.

STEWARDS Natural Resource Education Update:

Krista Lopez, USFS advisor, reported that the STEWARDS have received a 12,500 OWEB grant, are planning outdoor schools for 5th and 6th grades, are preparing for a field trip to the Calapooia River, are helping with botany and riparian projects at Central Linn schools, are assisting the Foster after-school program's Interpretive Trail, are planning a Santiam watershed tour in May, have invited various speakers to their meetings, are curriculum planning a field trip to Ames Creek with the alternative school in Sweet Home, are working with Dustin Nichols at SHHS who is developing a natural resource course, are partnering with the SHHS Forestry Club, and are looking forward to a volunteer AmeriCorp leader next year.

Mitchell Garcia, student leader of STEWARDS, reported on their field trip to the Moose Creek project where they rebuilt fences and cleaned up the damage. They planted trees with the Foster students for an Arbor Day project. They've made posters, taken a field trip to McDowell Creek Park, and helped with the Foster Lake Interpretive Trail. Between 15 and 22 student participants have been involved in each activity.

Eric reported that OWEB thinks very highly of this youth program.

Watershed Tours: A tour of Hamilton, McDowell and Ames Creeks sub-watersheds will be scheduled on June 5 for residents, land managers and interested board members. Restoration activities will be shown and opportunities provided for questions and concerns. Another general public tour will be offered in summer or early fall.

Fundraiser: The regional fundraiser is Friday, June 11th at the Calapooia Brewery. Food (\$10/check or cash) will be by Gotcha Covered Catering of Albany and music by Cassandra Robertson, a guitarist from Corvallis.