

South Santiam Watershed Council
Meeting Notes
January 20, 2010
Lebanon Public Library 6-8 pm

Board members in attendance: Sean Larsen, Diane Kaldahl, Norm Kaldahl, Katie Kohl, Scott Marlega, Nancy Gilmore, Nancy MacHugh

Community members in attendance: Steve Kohl, Ryan Jennings, Mike Adams, Chris Bailey, Heather Slocum.

Staff and contractors present: Eric Hartstein and Sarah Dyrdaahl

Council Meeting

Presentation: “Woody Biomass: The Triple Win”– Takes a close look at opportunities for the conversion of woody biomass from Oregon’s forests into “green” energy, biofuels and other bioproducts. Joe Holmberg, Oregon State University (retired).

The presentation touched on areas of the state that offer good biomass potential. Converting cellulose (biomass) into ethanol may be an efficient and relatively inexpensive fuel for the future. Compared to corn ethanol, which is 20% efficient, cellulosic based ethanol fuels approach 85% efficiency. Western Oregon has the potential of delivering 256 million gallons of cellulosic ethanol.

Biomass also offers an opportunity for electricity production. Western Oregon is capable of producing 610 megawatts of electricity.

Species to consider using for biomass include poplar which is fast growing, and does not require fertilizer or irrigation. Hardwoods for now have an advantage, as it is more costly to produce biofuels from conifers.

Urged to follow House Bill 3508, which offers tax credits to assist with the cost of transporting material for biofuels.

Project Update: Ames Creek Fish Passage Restoration. Eric updated Council on where project stands on permitting. NOAA Fisheries recommended a more technical approach that involved use of concrete in addition to rock for a fishway at the mouth of Ames Creek. This presents the Council with some difficulties as the cost will likely increase, and the project design will have changed from the approved Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant. Once designs and cost estimates have been refined, Eric will coordinate with stakeholders and funders on the best approach forward.

Board Meeting

November Meeting Minutes Review: Approved with one name correction

Financial Position Update: Nancy Gilmore, Treasurer presented a financial update for the Board. It was requested to see if future updates might include a grant breakdown and how each grant fits into the budget. Nancy and Eric will work on crafting best possible format to update Board on finances in an efficient manner.

Nancy reported that a CPA has reviewed the current South Santiam WSC accounting software system and found the system acceptable. The CPA will be contacted on a regular basis as questions arise and to ensure SSWC is on the right path with fiscal administration.

Financial Discussion: Investment Strategy: Eric reported that the SSWC has ~\$5,000-\$10,000 available for a safe investment vehicle. Eric did preliminary research and found best rates for money markets and CDs through online banking as compared to some local banks and credit unions. The SSWC Board was interested in keeping any investments local, and direction was given to seek out rates at local institutions and report back.

Model Watershed Update: Sarah Dyr Dahl was introduced to Board members as a Calapooia Watershed Council employee who is working for the Calapooia-Santiam regional partnership. A brief update was given on assessment progress and landowner meetings that will be held in February. The Board was reminded that the SSWC will be bringing on a regional monitoring coordinator in the spring, and that a review of the Employee Handbook was likely beneficial.

Spring Activities/Storage Space Discussion: It was agreed that the spring would be a good time to screen OPB's "Silent Invasion" for the public. The documentary touches on invasive species and how they threaten Oregon's environment and economy. A guest will be invited to share examples of some of the local species to watch out for. A discussion of storage space followed, and it was discovered that the City of Sweet Home has space and perhaps a mobile unit might be beneficial. Further investigation of the issue was warranted.