

South Santiam Watershed Council
Meeting Notes
October 21st, 2009
Lebanon Library 6-8 pm

In attendance: Krista Lopez, Katie Kohl, Roberta Swift, Kris Richardson, Nancy MacHugh, Chris Bailey, Scott Marlega, Sean Larsen, Diane Kaldahl, Norm Kaldahl, Nancy Gilmore, Eric Hartstein

Council Meeting

Presentation: "Wildfire and Forest Watersheds in Oregon", Paul Adams, Ph.D., Forest Engineering, Resources & Management Dept., Oregon State University

Board Meeting

September Meeting Notes Review: Date of meeting was incorrect, and changed to 9/16.

STEWARDS Coordinator Introduction: Krista Lopez was introduced, and she updated the Council on activities she was already undertaking and plans for the upcoming school year.

Adoption of draft fiscal policies: The Board of Directors unanimously adopted the draft fiscal policies that were tabled at the September meeting.

Bookkeeping Services: At the request of the South Santiam Watershed Council Board of Directors, quotes for bookkeeping services were accepted. The present bookkeeper, Nancy Gilmore, charged rates well under market rates. The Board discussed giving Nancy a raise, and it was unanimously approved.

Fiscal Update: Nancy Gilmore gave financial update to the Board and talked them through the new Quickbooks accounting sheets. It was suggested to look at why payroll taxes are counted twice. Other than that, the financials were approved.

SSWC Project Updates:

Crabtree Creek Japanese Knotweed Control: Treatment wrapped up in September with a total of 26 landowners receiving treatment, 8.4 miles of Crabtree Creek and Roaring River treated on ~45 infested acres. Eric Hartstein showed a map with updated treatment areas for 2005-2009.

Wiley Creek Fish Passage: This project was completed in 2007. About 1/3 mile of forested habitat was opened up above the former culvert on this unnamed tributary to Wiley Creek. In 2008 juvenile and possibly adult salmonids were observed above the culvert. There was a possibility that these fish were in the system before the culvert was replaced, possibly introduced at an upstream road crossing. To investigate this, the stream was surveyed above an impassible natural barrier (30+ ft.

falls) but below the road crossing. No fish were observed in these reaches suggesting the project success at removing an obstacle for migrating fish moving up from Wiley Creek.

Canyon/Owl Creek Large Wood Placement: After some discussion with the USFS, it was decided that a grant proposal to OWEB for this project would wait until private industrial timber landowners had an opportunity to participate in the project could be brought on board.

Early Detection/Rapid Response for Invasive Weeds: This is not a SSWC project, but we are participating with Tania Siemens of Oregon State University and the Santiam Wilderness Academy to introduce the concept of early detection/rapid response to the South Santiam Watershed. This will involve having people in the field become more knowledgeable about new invaders in order to eradicate them quickly, rather than waiting until they become such a problem that the weeds become very difficult and costly to control.

Model Watershed Program and Watershed Tour Update: Progress is being made in obtaining permission to survey Hamilton and McDowell Creeks. A large portion of Hamilton Creek landowners have agreed to allow the SSWC to survey current conditions. We are still working with many McDowell Creek landowners, though the efforts of Erika Lang appear to alleviate many concerns. A new landowner outreach and project management coordinator has been hired with Meyer Memorial Trust funding (Sarah Dyrdaahl, who is now employed through the Calapooia Watershed Council).

As we discussed earlier, the three partnering Watershed Councils will be holding a “group” meeting quarterly to interact with other partner Council members and staff. The first group meeting will be held on November 11th at the Brownsville Library from 7:00-9:00 pm. More information will be coming soon.

Watershed tour had over 50 people attend, with good feedback.

Discussion followed on maintenance issues after project implementation. The goal is to ensure long term success for projects, but who is ultimately responsible for maintenance? It was noted that the Ames Creek Project at Sankey Park has well established vegetation, and this is likely due to the efforts in the first few years after implementation to maintain the project. This drives home the message that landowners need to be not only supportive of restoration, but committed to learn term success. Ideas were discussed to help with plant survival including adding mulch, and using “tree bags” to water. It was also discussed how model watershed funding will help with long term maintenance and monitoring.