

# Lower Nehalem Watershed Council

## Administration/Outreach OWEB Project #98-375

1-1999 – 3-31-2001

### Final Report

**1). A description of the project including background on the problem which generated the project...**

The Lower Nehalem Watershed Council formed in mid-1996 in response to the Governor's Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative. The Tillamook Co. Board of Commissioners recognized the council in Feb. 1997 under the authority of HB 3441. As per HB 3441 the council representation is composed of individuals that represent a diversity of local stakeholder groups. Funding was needed to support volunteer efforts to: continue organization of council affairs; maintain council operations; conduct outreach activities; accurately identify issues; facilitate action plan development; prioritize projects; and promote cooperative efforts to effectively recover watershed health and native salmon populations with the citizens, agencies and governments concerned.

**2). A list of Volunteers who participated in the project including the work accomplished and total hours worked... see attached...**

**3). A list of other participants who assisted with the project... see attached contact list of technical advisors...**

**4). The materials and methods used in the project...**

The Lower Nehalem Watershed Council has relied on group participation and group consensus to build up a successful organization. Consultations with other councils and guidance/incentives provided by OWEB have also been valuable components in building up the organization. The council action plan was developed using other council action plans as examples, by the input of knowledgeable volunteers/coordinator/RARE and ultimately through a facilitated council prioritization/consensus process.

**5). The results shown or expected from the completed project...**

The Lower Nehalem Watershed Council is... a functional council building stakeholder cooperation and making informed decisions to adequately address to the point of resolution issues relating to watershed health and salmon population decline/recovery...

### Leadership

- Council officers = Chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer.
- Council stakeholder groups = Agriculture, Timber, ODF, City of Nehalem, environmental community, educational community, Port of Nehalem, small landowners and citizens at large...
- Steering committee = Chair, vice chair, treasurer, timber and agriculture representatives, coordinator and RARE participant.
- Community watershed health advocates = serve as advisors to the council and identify key issues often controversial...

- Facilitator = community member volunteered to facilitate council meetings during critical times. RARE, coordinator and chair have taken the role of facilitator/s.
- Coordinator = provides over-all guidance, knowledge of watershed health issues, grant writing skills, project development experience and valuable contacts.

### **Technical Advisors**

- Council Advisors = OWEB, ODFW, DEQ, ODA, ODF, BLM, Till. SWCD, UNWC, Xerces Society, NMFS, Till. NEP, Coast Range Assoc., DSL, City of Nehalem, City of Manzanita – public works, etc... Advice is sought on an as needed basis depending on the situation and need... Plans are under way to create/ appoint a formal technical advisory team for the Nehalem watershed councils. The team would meet monthly to provide review/input of project proposals and other matters of concern/interest.

### **Education Outreach**

- Public meetings = council meetings were held monthly with out exception in order to conduct business and host presentations on a wide range of subjects related to watershed issues.
- Public Forums = were organized as issues and interest arose = storm water run-off, state of the watershed, assessment updates, action plan development, sustainable forestry, pesticides and watershed health...
- Media contacts = were maintained for the purpose of informing the general public of council meeting agendas. Other information was released, as needed announcing volunteer events and covering issues of interest.
- Newsletter = volunteers produced 2 newsletters.
- Mailings = RARE/coordinator executed monthly mailing of meeting agenda, minutes and other information of interest.
- Web site = was developed by chair/RARE and includes Nehalem watershed information, grants, coordinator reports, minutes, other reports as provided, assessment data and links to other sites of interest.
- Pamphlet = RARE participant created a LNWC informational pamphlet as a handout for meetings.
- Volunteer training = Water Quality biological monitoring lab/field training were conducted for volunteers as new protocols and volunteers became available, a GIS workshop was developed by the RARE program in order to provide council participants with basic Arc View training to enable them to make better use of the Nehalem Watershed Assessment GIS database.
- Tillamook Bay Community College = Coordinator/council member consulted with community college staff in order to provide them with ideas and contacts for developing watershed health related courses that fit community needs.
- Tours = council/ODF/ODFW/Timber Co. were conducted on an as needed basis to project sites and sites where watershed health was compromised by land-use activities.

### **Partnership Development**

- Joint Steering Committee = Coordinator/council leaders formed a partnership with the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council to conduct the Nehalem Watershed Assessment, support basin wide monitoring and promote/coordinate watershed health and salmon recovery basin-wide.
- City of Nehalem = provides the LNWC with an office facility free of rent.
- Tillamook SWCD = acted a fiscal manager for the council until the spring of 2000.
- Pine Grove Community Center = donates the use of the facility for council meetings and public forums.

- University of Oregon RARE program = supports council development through their program which provides cost share for an intern, intern training, volunteer training and access to resources/people of value to meet a wide range of needs.
- Natural resource agencies = provide technical support when applicable.

### **Assessment**

- Nehalem Watershed Assessment = councils contracted with OWEB/PSU to conduct a watershed assessment according to OWEB assessment guidelines

### **Action Plan Development**

- Interim Action Plan = Facilitator/coordinator/council/advisors/public developed an interim action plan based on local knowledge of issues affecting watershed health and salmon population decline.
- Action plan = RARE/council/chair/coordinator/advisors facilitated the development of the LNBC Action Plan based on assessment findings, interim action plan and local knowledge.

### **Restoration**

- Estuary clean up = 100+ volunteers/haulers/recyclers/tire co./cooks/musicians removed approx. 60 cubic yards of trash from the estuary, fed and entertained the volunteers.
- Streamside reforestation = 20+ RARE/Till. SWCD/ landowner/volunteers and high school/4H students planted at 3 private property sites.
- Stream nutrient = ODFW/coordinator/10+ volunteers/high school students placed 400+ salmon carcass in Cook Creek.
- Reflection Creek Fish Passage Improvement = ODF&W/NRCS/coordinator/landowner/council volunteers/contractor restored access to 1+ miles of salmonid/trout habitat.

### **Monitoring**

- Temperature = Volunteers/RARE/coordinator deployed continuous monitoring devices at 13 sites along critical stream reaches during the summer months
- Macro invertebrate = volunteers/coordinator conducted fall sampling at 15 sites for 3 years running.
- Water Quality monitoring = volunteers collect WQ samples (turbidity, pH, ecoli, conductivity, temp. & total coliform) monthly from 14 sites (+ 2 QA samples) for four years running.

### **Office**

- Maintain regular office hours = RARE participant/coordinator on site for 2+ years.
- Office building = improvements were made by volunteers to accommodate staff (coordinator and RARE participant) and house computer equipment.
- WQ monitoring lab = established in council office building for use by volunteers.
- Reference library = established in council office building for all to use.

### **Database management**

- Assessment = coordinator/chair/RARE maintained and updated GIS database.
- Water Quality monitoring = volunteers have entered monthly sampling results since the summer of 1997 and submitted database to DEQ.
- Volunteer hours = RARE/coordinator maintain volunteer contribution database and update monthly.
- Contacts =RARE maintains database of members, volunteers, advisors, government agencies.

### **Administration**

- Fiscal management/Grant expense accounting = council accountant has all financial affairs in order, final grant reports have been submitted, grant amendments filed as needed, all expenses

tracked and categorized according to outlines of grant agreements, bank account balanced and filing protocols established.

- Steering committee = meets monthly to build accountability and increase the effectiveness of the organization.
- 501 C 3 status = established by volunteer efforts.

### **Project support**

- OWEB = Coordinator/RARE/volunteers secured funding for water quality monitoring project (3), NWC coordinator (3), NW Assessment (1+), Reflection Creek Fish Passage Improvement (1), RARE Intern cost share (2).
- U of O RARE = Coordinator/volunteers secured cost share for LNWC participant 2 years running.

**6). An accounting of expenditures of board and other moneys, in-kind services and donated materials...** See attached expenditure report...

**7). Such other information as would be helpful in evaluating the strength and weaknesses of project...**

Currently the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council is working on:

1. An update of the council action plan.
2. An assessment of the estuary based on work done by DEMIS.
3. Establishing an estuary study group.
4. Strategies for replacement of the most critical culverts identified in our culvert field surveys.
5. A proposal to protect/acquire a large spruce swamp on the lower reaches of the North Fork of the Nehalem.
6. A proposal to use CREP funds to protect and enhance the Gallagher slough.
7. A proposal to conduct a habitat survey of 150 miles of low gradient stream.
8. A controlled study of how adequate current Forest Practices Act riparian widths are in protecting stream temperatures.
9. A proposal to use DNA markers to determine the source of bacterial contamination in the estuary.
10. Determining the ownership of land boarding the estuary and the lower reaches of the main stem and North Fork of the Nehalem.
11. Building closer ties with ODF&W by sharing our office space with ODF&W field crews involved the Nehalem Chinook study.
12. Building closer ties with ODF through the participation of the council chair in the development of the 10-year plan for management of the Tillamook forest.

*In conclusion I would like to point out that all the good work of the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council could not have reached this state of fruition without the drive of dedicated volunteers and the support of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board... that combination is our underlying strength...*

Respectfully submitted by: *Maggie Peyton* – NWC Coordinator 4-11-2001