

Meeting of the Steering Committee

Regular May 27, 2003

Present: Vivi Tallman, Mike Whalen, Jim Salisbury, Jay Holland, Maggie Peyton, Georgette Ferdun, Shirley Kalkhoven

Meeting convened at 4 PM

Next agenda – noxious aquatic weeds and invasives. Walt Webber is interested in doing an LWD field presentation or fish counts. Estuarine evaluation presentation by USFW is slated as potential future program. Vivi noted that goat removal of noxious weeds as another possibility. Todd Boswell could potentially make two future presentations: Fish counts and Habitat Assessment. Georgette notes that a State of the Watershed to provide status to the membership on the Action Plan and activities could be considered a program.

Letter from Tillamook SWCD- Discussion of letter stating the LNWC could be out of compliance with the county order establishing watershed councils. Shirley gave a background on the history and noted that the lack of annual reports may be the issue since the letter is unclear as to specific shortfalls or remedies. Shirley advised the SC would be well advised to submit a report to the BOC. Georgette noted that an Action Plan was sent to the BOC and the SWCD. Vivi read the ORS. Georgette reminded the SC that the Action Plan contains progress reports and that this satisfies the intent. Dave added that Tim Josi gets minutes, agendas and reports electronically, signifying that the county has been in receipt of information for the past several years. Georgette is to write a response to TCSWCD stating the information we have provided.

Line of credit- Shirley notes that we now have a \$10,000 line-of-credit at Bank of Astoria at 7.5%, fees are \$175, and will have to draw on it to cover expenses for grants where there is retainage due to the council.

Maggie read feedback from Shafer on amended numbers for the water quality grant. Watershed Planner Grant has been extended to October. Habitat Grant is due to close June 30. Shirley is closing the Little North Fork grant.

Georgette reported that the distribution list for the Action Plan has been updated and noted that Tillamook SWCD is in receipt of a copy. She also noted that the City of Nehalem has petitioned for an extension of their water right to the Coal Creek. Shirley noted that the City has never utilized the right and may never exercise their rights since the regional system could be more economical. She noted that ODFW has notified the City of limits and restrictions attached to Coal Creek use.

Council Support Grant Funding - Shirley notes that the Jim Buxton sent a revised budget and copies were distributed. Shirley noted that about \$5,000 will be left the Planner grant once vacations and comp time has been paid. Maggie estimates that about \$4,000 will be remaining in the Council Support Grant. Shirley noted that Shafer would transfer the carryover to the LNWC but the retainage and administration remains an unknown question. Maggie notes that Columbia SWCD is responsible for the final report.

Maggie made entries in a table showing projects, program management dollars and post-project monitoring dollars. Mike questioned the wisdom of negotiating over an unknown amount. Vivi endorsed the notion of basin-wide political representation versus local activities. Shirley asked how to prioritize basin-wide actions in an environment of shrinking dollars. She noted that the Upper has \$13,000 of DEQ funding for staff expenses. The SC discussed various current and prior expenses for the LNWC.

Shirley agreed to produce an estimated budget tomorrow and email it to the members. Maggie is to talk with Jim Buxton regarding the operating costs for the Upper, and combine it with Shirley's figures for presentation to Tom. Maggie and Dave are to use the same categories to estimate how their time has been spent in the past two years and how they would expect to spend it during the next biennium. They will work on this next Monday. The SC agreed that another meeting needs to take place before another joint meeting with the Upper. The next SC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 3rd.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30. Submitted by Dave Godsey and Georgette Ferdun