

Marys Peak Group Executive Committee
09/01/22
Zoom
Approved Minutes

ExCom: Julie Arrington, Mike Neeley-Brown, Dave Eckert, Jules Moritz, Melanie Feder, Mary Beth Downes

Present : Robert White, Leslie Hogan

Absent: Karl McCreary

Recorder: Leslie Hogan

Meeting begun at 6:04

1. Welcome and announcements

- a. 2023 Sierra Club wall calendars have been ordered and will be delivered to all of you as a thank you for another year of good work in difficult circumstances.

2. Approval of minutes:

- a. MOTION: Dave moved and Melanie seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2022, ExCom meeting.
- b. The email vote ended 7/9/22. The motion passed.

3. Motions passed by email

- a. Dave made the following MOTION: The Marys Peak Group ExCom allocate \$2,500 to be donated to the Greenbelt Land Trust to help purchase the Oak Creek Preserve located off Oak Creek Drive in Corvallis on the Northeast side of Grandview Hill. This property will complete the “string-of-pearls” of hiking trails and protected land to connect the McDonald Forest to Bald Hill Natural Area and Fitton Green and to the Marys River. Second: Mike. Passed unanimously. Voting finished 8/10/22
- b. Julie made the following MOTION: I move that we approve Robert White, Mike Neeley-Brown and Jim Stratton as the nominations committee for the 2022 elections. Second: Dave and Jules. Passed unanimously. The vote ended 8/17/22

4. Treasurer's report (Robert)

- a. What expenses have we approved but not paid?
- b. MOTION: Approve the treasurer's report. David made the motion with thanks to Robert for his work. Mike made the second. The motion passed.

5. Outings (all)

- a. What steps do we need to take to restart the hiking program? Where we stand: One or two people are now qualified to be leaders. Drivers can ask people in their carpool to wear masks and can also expect them to be vaccinated.

Leaders, per National Sierra Club directives, cannot ask for mask-wearing or vaccinations as a prerequisite for the hike.

- b. After a discussion of how to proceed, the board asked Leslie to write an article outlining issues involved in restarting the MPG hiking program.

MOTION: Julie moved that for two years MPG will pay for CPR classes in addition to its existing policy to pay for first aid classes required for leadership certification for members committed to leading hikes. The policy can be reviewed after two years. Mary Beth made the second. The motion passed.

6. Conservation Projects (Dave)

a. Donation for Oak Preserve Land Purchase -

- i. Earlier this year, the MPG ExCom approved the donation of \$2,500 to the Greenbelt Land Trust (GLT) to purchase the Oak Preserve property for conservation and preservation.
- ii. Robert will write a check to Greenbelt Land Trust.
- iii. The GLT would like to set up a photo opportunity at the land site for the passing of the check. They will use the photo as part of their fundraising campaign to purchase the land. Julie will contact Jessica McDonald, executive director for GLT, to set up the photo op.
- iv. We need to determine who will be in the photo and available photo dates to the GLT.
- v. An undetermined MPG member will write an article for our web-site and Peak View.

b. Corvallis Home Energy Score Proposed Ordinance

Background: The Corvallis City Council is considering a Home Energy Score Policy requiring such an inspection and score to be provided for any residence offered for sale in the City ([Corvallis Home Energy Score Proposed Ordinance | Corvallis Oregon](#)). If passed:

- i. **Only Inspection required** - The inspection and score would be required, but the policy requires no other actions to be taken by the buyer or seller. This is how current home inspections work for non-energy issues, such as roof, electrical and foundation issues.
- ii. **Voluntary Inspections already available** - Requirements, rather than optional voluntary inspections, are necessary because the voluntary inspections have been available in Oregon since 2008 and the participants have been close to non-existent. Results in other Oregon cities such as Hillsboro, Milwaukee and Portland have shown that Home Energy Score requirements work.
- iii. **Efficiency, not cost evaluated** - The inspection and score are to provide energy efficiency transparency for the prospective buyers. Home energy efficiency has been a blind spot for buyers who unknowingly buy homes that are very expensive to energize. Most new homeowners today can barely afford the home and rent and are shocked when they receive their first energy bills.
- iv. **House efficiency is more valid than current resident behavior for the future buyer** - The energy score is very different from past energy usage. Past energy usage is primarily a result of resident behavior and changes significantly from one resident to another. An energy score

measures the efficiency of the residence, regardless of the behavior patterns of the resident.

- v. **Upgrades are voluntary, not required** - The goal for the policy is for homeowners to voluntarily upgrade their home energy scores, thus raising the energy sustainability of Corvallis as a community.
- vi. **Payment for Inspection** - Home energy inspections, estimated at \$150-200 each, is paid by the home seller.
- vii. **NEW - Feds pay \$150 of the costs** - The recently passed Inflation Reduction Bill refunds \$150 of a Home Energy Score for those home owners whose income is under 80% of medium income. It's not known how long the offer lasts.

Motion by Dave Eckert: The MPG ExCom endorses the passage of the proposed City of Corvallis Home Energy Score Policy by City Council. Julie Arrington made the second. The motion passed. Julie will look into whether the Chapter Conservation or Legislative Committee needs to make a second endorsement before the motion can be acted on. David will start writing the letter, publication pending Julie's findings. The council meeting is this coming Monday.

- c. October/November Planting Parties - We will be collaborating with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and the Marys River Watershed Council with native planting parties in October and November at the following sites:
 - i. Dunawi Creek Regeneration Site at Bald Hill Natural Area (Nov. 5-6)
 - ii. Lamprey Creek Regeneration at Dr. MLK, Jr. Park (Nov 12-13)
- d. Dunawi Creek culvert replacement and agricultural tile underground pipe disabling -
 - i. **Permits Approved** - The final permit (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) of many was approved to replace the tiny culvert at the Bald Hill Natural Area with an 8' wide culvert and natural creek bed.
 - ii. **Estimated Costs of Permits Exceeded** - Unfortunately, our permitting costs exceed the estimated permitting costs by \$1,500. These funds will be covered by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition.
 - iii. **Cleared to move forward** - We are now cleared to start the culvert replacement by the signal oak tree on the Bald Hill Multimodal Path at the headwaters of the North Branch of Dunawi Creek.
 - iv. **Checking new costs and availability** - The contractor is now checking the building material availability and costs. Once those are established and approved, he then has to find time that he can start and complete culvert replacement by the October 15 federal deadline. If it cannot be done this year, then the replacement will occur in June, 2023. I will keep you informed.
 - v. **Disconnected more underground pipes** - We also disconnected additional underground pipes at four locations in the field.
 - vi. **Mapping Collaboration with City** - Underground pipe cuts are now recorded with GPS coordinates. We are in consultation with the City to map the new vernal above-ground creek flow in winter, the underground pipe cut locations and plant locations, along with plant health conditions and size.

- e. Compost Tea application at Bald Hill Natural Area **Background:** The 7,000 plants we have installed at the Dunawi Creek Regeneration Site at Bald Hill Natural Area have withstood harsh soils and other conditions due to the human treatment of the land for the past 170 years. Unfortunately, most plants have stunted growth and struggle to survive. I have worked with Soilsmith Services ([Soilsmith Services - Improved Soil Biology, Consulting, Compost Products](#)) on two other sites (South Food Co-op rain garden and Starker Arts Park wetland) and they have provided organically-based microbial and fungal amendments that have resulted in exceptionally healthy plants with lush growth. I propose a study of up to 200 plants within the project to receive this injected soils amendment of compost tea to provide us the opportunity to determine if we can improve health and growth of our plants in this harsh regenerating project area. The charge for 200 gallons of compost tea is \$750. This includes materials, production and application. The materials applied by Soilsmith Services include:
1. finished, thermophilic compost produced by Soilsmith
 2. organic fish hydrolysate
 3. a soluble organic liquid kelp.

The application would be applied in late October-early November, depending upon weather conditions.

Motion by Dave Eckert: The MPG ExCom allocates \$750 to be paid to Soilsmith Services to apply compost tea soil amendment for 200 one-year-old plants at Bald Hill Natural Area with the Dunawi Creek Regeneration Project. Julie made the second. The motion passed.

Marys Peak Interpretation Plan update -

- i. **Plan Update** - Matt Ramish, Recreation Officer for the Waldport District, Siuslaw National Forest, is now in charge of development and implementation for the Marys Peak Interpretation Plan. He will not begin working on the plan until the winter season.
 - ii. **Ridgeline Lookout Project** - The Ridgeline Lookout at the 2.6-mile mark of Marys Peak Road has been partially cleared for seral forest ([Complex early seral forest - Wikipedia](#)) regeneration and for a viewshed of the Willamette and Alsea Valleys. The remainder of the project will be completed prior to October 15. This road pull-off site may be the first site targeted for new interpretive displays.
 - iii. In answer to the question whether MPG wants to publish an article on this in the Peak View and on our Facebook page? MPG will wait to publish an article about the Ridgeline Lookout Project until after the project is finished. Julie and Mike have photos to add to such an article.
- f. Marys Peak/West Point meadow restoration update
- i. MPG approved \$2,500 funding earlier this year for the Marys Peak meadow restoration and this commitment was used as part of the proposal package for the Federal grant by AFRANA.
 - ii. We will not know from the Federal government about the funding for the

- West Point application until November at the earliest, with final agreement in early 2023.
- iii. We will hold onto the allocated funds until we get official notice of the grant award and agreement.
 - g. Crescent Valley High School and Cheldelin Middle School Native Arboretums - in addition to regular maintenance of the arboretums, we have been refurbishing the natural Douglas-fir benches. After 12 years of outdoor exposure, portions of the benches are showing rot. We have removed and sanded those areas.
 - h. Marys Peak BPA Communication site formal objection - There has been no further communications following the denial of the objection by the Siuslaw National Forest..
 - i. South Corvallis Greenway proposal - There has been no further movement on this proposal as neither ODOT nor the City of Corvallis staff have expressed interest in moving forward on this proposal.

7. Programs (Dave)

- a. Beavallis Webinar Series -
 - i. The Juniper Group and Many Rivers Group asked to replay our spring lecture series about beavers on the Juniper Group and Portland Sierra Club Meetup sites (with credit to MPG and Dave.) Gretchen Valido, chair of Juniper Group, said that the idea is to broadly inform the public about the necessity and benefits of repopulating beavers throughout Oregon and the West--actually all states can benefit--to reestablish and conserve our water, so many benefits accrue.
 - ii. Dave agreed to let them use our webinars as long as they don't edit them in any way without MPG approval.
- b. She Rose From the Sea -
 - i. The MPG ExCom previously allocated and paid \$300 toward the purchase of Marys Peak themed artwork by Dale Donovan to be placed in the Corvallis-Benton County Library.
 - ii. Ashlee Chavez, Library Director, and Dale Donovan, artist, met this summer and discussed placement of the artwork in the library's new wing.
 - iii. The wording for the plaque has just been approved and the plaque is now ordered. Once the plaque is completed, Dale will affix the plaque to the base of the sculpture and then deliver the artwork to the Library for placement. Following is the text for the plaque:

SHE ROSE FROM THE SEA

Dale Donovan, 2021

Arrow heads knapped by

Don Day, Kalapuyan elder, member of Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

A Gift from Marys Peak Alliance and Marys Peak Group Sierra Club

Starting 35 million years ago, plate tectonic collisions have thrust ocean floor upward as Marys Peak, Oregon Coast Range's highest mountain.

Like Botticelli's Venus, she rose from the sea.

- c. The Fall Champinefu Lecture Series - The theme is ***Kalapuya Placekeeping*** and is focusing on the confluence of the Marys River and the Willamette River. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, the Spring Creek Project and the Corvallis-Benton County Library have agreed once again to co-sponsor the series with the MPG. The Library will again host the webinars. Following are the presentations, presenters and links to register:
1. October 19 - *Shawala: Birthplace of William Hartless*- Jedd Schrock
 - Born at the confluence of the Willamette and Marys River, William Hartless, Kalapuya member of the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation, provided interviews to anthropologists about Kalapuya life, stories, and language.
 - Join Grand Ronde Linguist and Folklorist Jedd Schrock for a conversation about the life of William Hartless and the information about the Ampinefu Kalapuya he shared with the world.
 - Event calendar: <https://corvallisbenton.librarycalendar.com/event/champinefu-series-shawala-birthplace-william-hartless>
 - Registration link: <https://bit.ly/2022champinefuseries1>
 2. November 9 – *The Kalapuya Seasonal Round at the Confluence* – David Lewis
 - The Kalapuya were neither nomadic nor sedentary, they traditionally lived in the seasonal round. Moving throughout their homelands to various locations through the seasons, returning to their villages and storehouses in winter time each year.
 - Join OSU professor and Kalapuya member of the Grand Ronde Dr. David Lewis for a presentation about the Kalapuya and their

way of life with a focus on the ecological communities at the confluence of the Willamette and Marys Rivers.

- Event calendar: <https://corvallisbenton.librarycalendar.com/event/champinefu-series-kalapuya-seasonal-round-confluence>
- Registration link: <https://bit.ly/2022champinefuseries2>

3. December 7 –*Indigenous Placekeeping in Corvallis and at the Confluence*

- A conversation among indigenous artists doing recent work in Corvallis, Oregon providing indigenous placekeeping.
- Join David Harrelson, Cultural Resources Department manager for the Grand Ronde Tribes with artists Travis Stewart, Shirod Younker, Matthew Williams, Stephanie Fogel, and Anthony Hudson/Carla Rossi.
- Event calendar: <https://corvallisbenton.librarycalendar.com/event/champinefu-series-indigenous-placekeeping-corvallis-and-confluence>
- Registration link: <https://bit.ly/2022champinefuseries3>

David noted that now that the schedule has been reviewed, this information can be disseminated on Peak View, MPG's web-site and by word of mouth.

8. **Membership (Melanie)**

- a. Melanie and Leslie were going to possibly edit the letter of welcome in order to more energetically encourage new members to access the Peak View. Leslie read her proposed changes which she will submit to Melanie.
- b. Julie asked if there has been progress on adding the emails of members who are only in the National database to our Peak View list? Mike agrees that though no progress has been made that this is a good project and that MPG needs, then, to make that change.

9. **Electrify Corvallis**

In a discussion about getting Corvallis electrified, Dave suggested that a positive way to move forward on issues of this nature is for MPG to support on-going initiatives such as OSU's sustainability plan striving for carbon neutrality (possibly by asking the City to join forces with OSU). Julie suggests we put an article about OSU's plan in the Peak View. She is waiting for a volunteer!

10. **Elections**

- a. The four ExCom members whose terms expire at the end of 2022 are Mary Beth, Karl, Jules and Julie. Mike reminds them the nominating committee will

- need a statement and photo from each candidate. Mike will contact each member to determine his or her willingness to run again.
- b. We need a nominations committee and an elections committee to be approved by ExCom.
 - i. Elections: Mike, Marcia Shapiro and Leslie Hogan
 - ii. Nominations: Mike Neeley-Brown, Jim Stratton and Robert White
 - iii. There is a chapter and group elections page in Campfire. We can get the member list from Campfire.
 - c. Timeline:
 - i. Advertise the elections in the Peak View and on our website
 - ii. Report nominees to ExCom 5 weeks prior to ballot mailing date: Oct 4
 - iii. Deadline for petitions for nomination are due 3 weeks before the mailing date: Oct 11
 - iv. Paper ballots are prepared by this date: Nov 1
 - v. Mail ballots 4 weeks prior to the closing date of voting. Nov 8
 - vi. Voting closes December 6

11. Chapter report (Julie)

- a. The Chapter has found a group of outstanding candidates for the Chapter Executive Committee. Three have been appointed to fill vacancies on the board beginning now. Their terms will end in January, 2023. Three new people plus current Chair Gregory Monahan will stand for election this fall. The other three candidates have been appointed to an advisory committee to the Chapter ExCom in order to get their advice and help as the Chapter remakes itself. Julie served as one of the interviewers.
- b. The Chapter Political Committee has reconstituted itself in order to endorse candidates for the fall state and national elections.
- c. Virginia Tarango is in the final stages of getting a contract for Mariah Shriner to remain as the Chapter's Communications Coordinator for the next 6 months. She does an excellent job.
- d. We are working on the process to find a new Chapter Director. It's paramount that we not repeat the mistakes of previous years and that we create a welcoming and supportive environment for that person.
- e. Better Outcomes Consulting, which is comprised of two former Sierra Club national staff, will help guide this process. They will talk to the leaders of some successful Chapters to get advice for us. They will help design the onboarding process for new Chapter ExCom members. One of the goals is to establish strong governance practices for the Chapter.

12. New business

Mary Beth requested a December agenda item to discuss reinstating a Jan. Solstice Party or some social event open to all members.

13. **Next meeting** in December to be arranged by Doodle poll. Adjourned at 7:40.