

Marys Peak Group Executive Committee Agenda
Last meeting of the 2022 ExCom
First meeting of the 2023 ExCom

January 9, 2023
Via Zoom

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

Present : Robert White

Absent: Jules Moritz, Leslie Hogan

Recorder: Karl McCreary

Last meeting of the 2022 ExCom begun at

I. Welcome and announcements

Thank you, everyone, for everything that you did for Marys Peak Group last year. You are amazing!

This will be the last meeting of the 2022 ExCom. We will wrap up old business and then adjourn. After adjourning, the newly elected board will be installed and will begin its first 2023 meeting.

II. Additions or changes to the agenda?

Preview of P&L / Treasurer's report of 2023.(Robert)

Dave moved to approve the treasurer's report and Mike seconded.
Passed.

III. Motions passed by email:

Motion: Approve minutes from 9/1/22 meeting. Email vote ended 9/18/22. Motion passed.

Motion: The Marys Peak Group will support our Champinefu Series for the 6th year by funding one presenter honorarium of \$400. Dave moved. Julie seconded. Passed unanimously. Voting finished 10/29/22.

Motion: The Marys Peak Group Executive Committee approves "*Our Precious Wetlands*" as the theme for the 2023 Liz and Bob Frenkel Hiking and Environment Spring Webinar Series. In addition, the Committee authorizes the Program Chair to select three different wetlands to each be a subject for three successive webinars in the series and to select appropriate presenters. The goal is to hold webinars in March, April and May. The Committee also encourages the Outing Chair to consider having the MPG offer accompanying hikes to be held in coordination with the webinars.

Dave moved, Mike seconded. Passed unanimously. Voting ended 11/10/22

Motion: MPG will publish the following hike in *The Peak View*:
Waterfront Stroll - Come join Robert White and Mary Beth Downes on a downtown hike on Tuesday, December 13th at 10 am. We will start at Super 8 Parking Lot and proceed down the waterfront path. We will then take the underpass to Pioneer Park and continue on to Avery Park. We will hike the loop around Avery Park and then go back to Pioneer Park. From there we will take the underpass up to Second Street and end our hike at New Morning Bakery for some hot cocoa, coffee, tea and/or dessert. This will be a chance to socialize with all the members you may have missed these past couple of years. If you don't want to stop at New Morning Bakery, you can go back to the waterfront path and walk back to your car. This hike is 4 miles long with an additional .5 miles back to your car. The pace will be leisurely.

Sierra Club's current policy is that the leaders cannot ask if you have been vaccinated. We also cannot require you to wear a mask. But, you are certainly welcome to wear one. Because we will be walking and talking, we will not be social distancing.

For this hike please park behind the Super 8 in Corvallis and arrive at 9:50am.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for this hike, please contact Mary Beth Downes at mbcdownes@gmail.com. The number of hikers will be limited and sign-up will end after December 11th at 8 pm. We look forward to seeing you!

Mary Beth Downes moved, Karl seconded. Passed unanimously. Voting ended 11/25/22

Motion: MPG will send a short email to the city council about the NW Natural franchise agreement extension. Dave moved. Seconded by Julie. Six voted in favor. No abstentions or objections. Voting ended 11/29/22. We did this using emergency voting rules.

To Mayor Biff Traber, the members of the Corvallis City Council and the Public Works Department:
The Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club, which serves over 2200 members in Benton, Marion, Polk, Linn and Lincoln County, recommends that The City of Corvallis change two commitments in the proposed Northwest Natural Gas Franchise Agreement:

Term of the Agreement – Reduce the term of the agreement from 10 years to 3 years with up to two, three-year extensions that are automatic unless the City decides there is a need to re-negotiate.

Right to Expand – Eliminate or at least limit the right of NW Natural to expand the natural gas system in Corvallis.

Natural gas is a dangerous methane-emitting fossil fuel that is a significant contributor to our current climate emergency. Ten years is an extremely long time frame to allow business as usual to continue using a process that contributes to the demise of our health, our lives and the environment that supports our lives. These two minor changes in the Franchise Agreement will help the City to be more flexible in adapting to the energy changes we WILL experience over the next ten years. The current proposed Franchise Agreement will lock the City and its residents into an out-of-date, inefficient and dangerous energy system that will cause far more harm to the City and its residents than it helps. Please use rational, business-like judgment. Reduce the term of the agreement and the right to expand the service for the sustainability of the City and the sustainability of all of our lives.

IV. Treasurer's report (Robert)

Final report and submission to Chapter of our records
Request to Foundation for reimbursement

V. Elections

Thank you to Mike Neeley-Brown for running the elections for us once again. He was assisted by Marcia Shapiro who verified the votes.

Thank you to our nominating committee of Mike Neeley-Brown, Robert White and Jim Stratton.

Thank you to Mary Beth Downes and Karl McCreary for signing up for another two years. Thank you to Leslie Hogan for joining the ExCom.

Thank you to Jules Moritz for his membership on the ExCom, publishing the Peak View, and for attending meetings held by National to discuss the hiking program.

VI. **Motion:** Adjourn the 2022 Marys Peak Group Executive Committee. Motion made by Mike, seconded by Mary Beth. Passed. Time of adjournment: 6:20.

First meeting of the 2023 Marys Peak Group Executive Committee

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

Present : Robert White

Absent: Leslie Hogan

Recorder: Karl McCreary

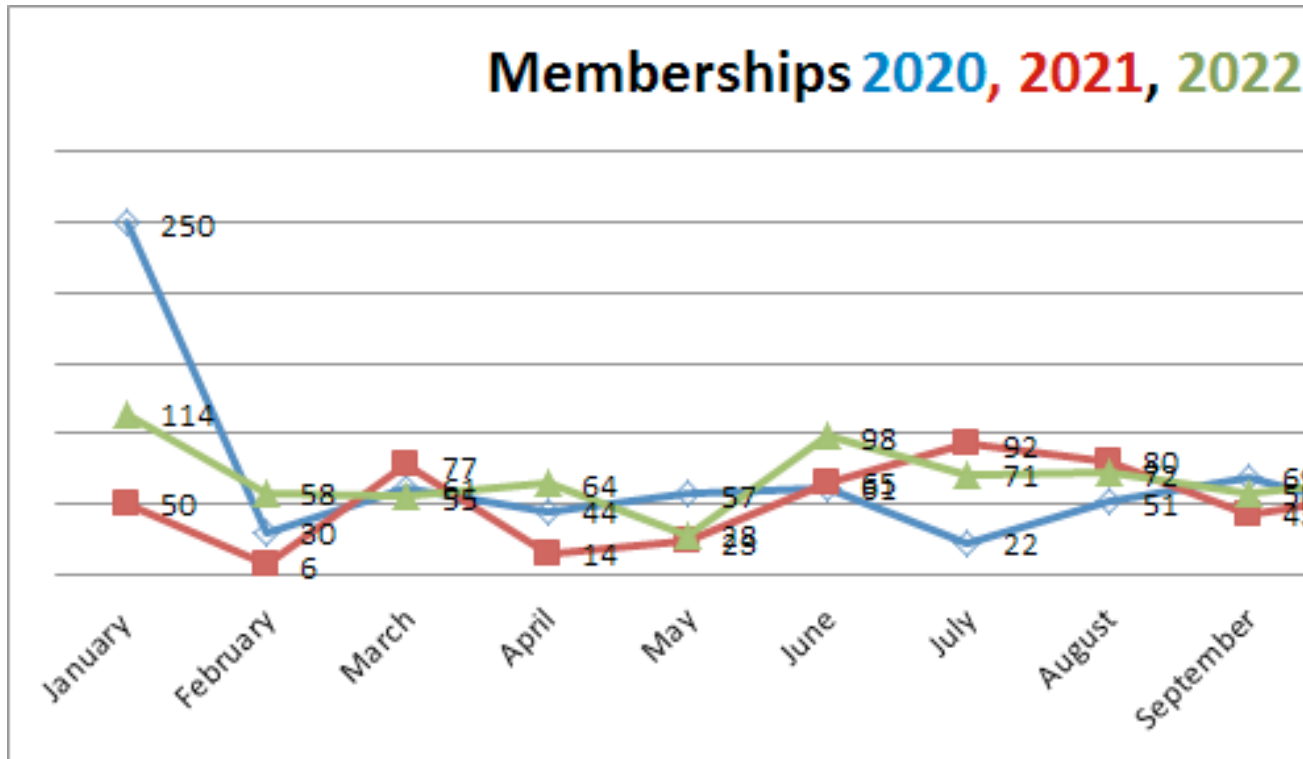
Meeting begun at 6:22.

I. Election of officers

- A. **Motion:** Let Julie Arrington be nominated for MPG ExCom Chair along with the entire slate of officers as listed:
- Vice chair: Mike Neeley-Brown
 - Secretary: Leslie Hogan
 - Treasurer: Robert White
 - Outings: Mary Beth Downes
 - Membership: Melanie Feder
 - Programs: Dave Eckert
 - Representative to chapter ExCom: Julie
 - Alternate representative to chapter ExCom: Mike

Motion by Dave Eckert, seconded Mary Beth. All passed.

III. Membership (Melanie)



IV. Outings (Mary Beth, Dave, Robert)

A. First outing debrief. Over twenty attended the first official post-Covid hike in December. There was a lot of excitement for revival of outings. Many stayed on for New Morning Bakery gathering afterwards. Dave gave a presentation on Shawala Point on the hike.

B. Proposed January 22nd hike to Alan Berg Park and the Orleans area - Outing Leader Robert White. 4.5 mile hike on the east side of the river. 16 signed up without even being advertised. Begins at 1:00 and starts at Super 8 and involves bridge crossing. Boots recommended. Historic site of Orleans townsite. Recommend to hold this same hike during the summer to see the seasonal transformations of the landscape. No cap to hike, but folks need to register.

C. Dave proposed other outings and called for hiking leaders to volunteer to help put these on the calendar.

- o Lamprey Creek beaver dams hike - late February.
- o Herbert Farm Natural Area wetland and riparian hike - March
- o Earth Day Tour - April 22
- o Creek Tour - May during Natural Areas Celebration Week

Robert wants to lead a hike at Crestmont from the west side.

Mary Beth may do some short hikes.

D. Hike leader training (Mary Beth)

Kelly Smith will do a March 11th training for MPG. There will be no charge for the presentation. Leslie will host his stay in the area. \$170 for mileage. Booked the Linden Room at Corvallis Community Center for the training and pizzas. MPG may order T-shirts made for the event. The room is booked from 8:30 to 5:00.

Motion: MPG will allocate up to \$550 for total expenses for the March 11 leadership training by Kelly Smith from Juniper Group. Mary Beth moved. Mike seconded. Passed with all ayes.

E. What is the latest from National regarding hiking during COVID? No new info.

VII. Peak View and Facebook

Who will take over as editor? Julie and Mary Beth will meet to learn how to edit the Peak View. Robert W. can help with the training if the software is in the same format that he has experience with. Dave would like to include photos into the messages again. Robert will play around with the program to see if this is possible. PV message for Orleans hike? Julie has asked Jules to do this. Leslie has written an article that Julie would like us to publish. She also suggested an article/notice be written on MPG's donation of \$2500 to the Green Belt Land Trust Oak Preserve Campaign.

VIII. Conservation Projects (Dave)

Compost tea application at Bald Hill Natural Area - Information only

- In September, 2022, the MPG ExCom voted to allocate \$750 for compost tea application at the Bald Hill Natural Area site.
- Because of weather conditions, the application was postponed until Spring.
- Application is expected in April or May, determined by weather conditions.

Culvert replacement at Bald Hill Natural Area - Information and motion

- The culvert replacement was postponed until June due to supply chain delays and contractor issues. The installation is w scheduled for May, 2023.
- In the meantime, installation costs increased from \$75,000 to \$95,000.
- The MPG has been a partner in the project since 2016 with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. The Coalition is providing \$75,000 for the installation. The cost now exceeds available funding by \$20,000.
- A \$20,000 fundraising campaign will be initiated in February to raise those funds.

- If the MPG donates \$1,000 toward this campaign, it could be used as matching funds for 4 individuals willing to donate \$250 each to double the value.
 - **MOTION:** The MPG ExCom allocates \$1,000 to be used as matching funds toward the culvert replacement project for the Dunawi Creek Regeneration Project at Bald Hill Natural Area.
- a. Moved by: Dave Eckert
 - b. Seconded by: Mike.
 - c. Vote: Passed with all ayes.

Crescent Valley High School Native Arboretum benches - Information only

- In 2010, the MPG played the initiating role for the Arboretum.
- Benches for students were donated by a separate entity and installed in 2010 and they have deteriorated from weather conditions and need replacement.
- William Simonson of the Oak Creek Conservancy has donated dimensional wood from the Conservancy and the High School Wood Shop has agreed to build and install the four new benches.

“She Rose From the Sea” sculpture donation - Information only

- The locally-crafted Marys Peak sculpture by Dale Donovan includes handcrafted arrowheads by Kalapuya artist Don Day and was co-funded by the MPG (with the Marys Peak Alliance) to be located in the new wing of the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library.
- The sculpture and the accompanying plaque acknowledging the MPG donation was installed in late Fall 2022.
- Dave will write an article for the Peak View and Facebook.

Corvallis home energy score campaign - Information

- The Corvallis City Council voted in December to deny a Home Energy Score policy. The majority of Council ignored the advice of its own advisory board, as well as non-business affiliated organizations. Business organizations countered with misinformation and strong opposition, which held sway over the majority of Council members.
- The policy proposal could be resurrected with the new Council, as there has been one significant Councilor change. There would have to be a convincing public campaign with Councilors in opposition. Those opposition Councilors said that there are more efficient and productive solutions to address climate change, but did not offer any such solutions. They will probably not be convinced with facts, as those facts have already been presented to them. Building positive relationships with those Councilors may be the only way to convince them.

Natural Gas Franchise Agreement with City of Corvallis - Information and Discussion

- Both the MPG and National/Chapter sent testimony to the City Council regarding the City Staff-negotiated 10 year Franchise Agreement with NW Natural.
- The City denied the staff agreement and chose to simply use the three-year extension clause in the current contract.
- Considering the composition of the City Council, this decision was actually a bold and hopeful action. It provides the City three years to enact new ordinances regarding the use of Natural Gas and then build them into a new agreement.
- The above statement means that our work has just begun. The City Council composition is such that with building trust and providing viable options to move forward, a majority of City Council would be willing to pass ordinances and franchise agreements that would significantly limit the future use of natural gas in Corvallis and transition to energy sources less dependent and consumptive on fossil fuels. This process could be tied into the energy shift campaign to be discussed.

Corvallis energy shift campaign - Information and motion

- The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, Seeds for the Sol, Energize Corvallis and a few other groups are developing a Corvallis Community-wide campaign to help individuals, organizations, businesses, institutions and government agencies to take direct action in limiting their negative impacts on climate change and replace them with regenerative and resilient impacts.
- Such efforts could provide a foundation of both thinking and action to make community and personal changes that make a difference.
- The roll out of the campaign is March 9th at the Corvallis Town Hall and they are looking for collaborating organizations. During the formative phase, the only requirement of collaborators is participation in the formative process.
- **MOTION:** The MPG agrees to be a partner of an energy shift campaign in Corvallis to provide participation in the formative process of the campaign to be announced on March 9th. The MPG has the option to withdraw at any time in the process and this partnership does not commit the MPG to anything beyond partnership in the formative phase. As the process develops, the MPG will consider further participation, but that will require a separate motion. Moved by Dave Eckert. Seconded by Mike. Passed with all ayes.

IX. Programs (Dave)

Champinefu Webinar Series - Information only

- In Fall 2022, the MPG produced its sixth annual Champinefu Series of three webinars and was watched by over 1,500 viewers.
- The first webinar recording has recently been closed-captioned and loaded onto YouTube at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsgH3Q7QmoU>.
- The second and third recordings are still being processed by one of our co-sponsors, the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. The second webinar will be available on YouTube in late January and the third webinar sometime in late winter.
- As a result of the webinars, other organizations and agencies are now working with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde to begin the process of placekeeping.
- The MPG placed articles in the chapter newsletter advertising the talks in advance and summarizing the presentations following the webinars.
- The library is promoting the second webinar to schools for their use.

Spring webinar series - Information only

- Efforts are on-going in the planning of the wetlands-themed webinar series to be held in March, April and May.

X. Elections

We should be forming our nominations committee now for the elections at the end of this year.

XI. Kathleen Dean Moore has made this request for MPG to consider:

“Would you be kind enough to connect me with the current leadership of the Marys Peak Sierra Club? I’d like to start a conversation about a possible linkage between the group and an upcoming musical event that calls for the preservation of nature’s wild music – songbirds, frogs, whales. Etc – and the habitats that protect them. Thanks.”

XII. Chapter report (Julie) Chapter/National/Group intra-communications:

The Chapter ExCom met three times for 2-hour sessions with Better Outcomes Consulting as part of an on-boarding process. Our next meeting is January 10th.

The search committee has written a job description for the Chapter Director’s position that has just about finished the approval process at National. The position will be advertised internally to the Sierra Club for 5 days and then externally. Virginia Tarango is heading up the search committee.

XIII. Next meeting (Julie will send out a Doodle poll)

I.Meeting adjourned at 7:49.