

Marys Peak Group Executive Committee Agenda
3/20/2023
Via Zoom

Approved minutes

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

Present : Robert White

Absent: all present

Recorder: Leslie Hogan

Meeting begun at 6:05

1. Welcome and announcements

2. Additions or changes to the agenda?
none

3. Motions passed by email
[They are listed at the bottom of the agenda.]

4. Treasurer's report (Robert)

We need a policy whereby the Chair can authorize payment of MPG funds without needing an ExCom vote. Set the amount of money. Require that the Chair inform the ExCom.

What is the future of our funds? The ExCom agreed to make fund-raising ideas an agenda item so that MPG's ability to continue cooperative endeavors on projects remains possible.

MOTION to approve the treasurer's report: Dave made the motion, Mary Beth the second. Motion carried.

5. Outings (Mary Beth)

A. Report on training day for outings leaders:

The quality of the March 11 OLT presentation was excellent. There were 11 attendants. 3 leaders are now completely certified with several more who have since finished mandatory first aid training. There were several people re-upping their certification and two people newly involved with MPG. Mary Beth and Mike will move on to organizing training hikes for newly certified leaders. MB hopes to do OLT training once a year with in-between trainings done via the OLT on-line Campfire course. Julie extended the board's thanks to Mary Beth for her excellent organization of the event and Kelly Smith from Bend for creating curriculum, running the training and offering back-up assistance. Ken Fitchen has offered to help leaders scout trails, etc.

B. National wants us to have a land acknowledgment that we can use at the trail talk on our hikes and at our meetings. Here is a potential acknowledgement from Dave:

*i. We live within **Champinefu**, the traditional homeland of the **Ampinefu** Band of Kalapuya. Following the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855 (Kalapuya ...Treaty), Kalapuya people were taken to Corvallis and concentrated into an encampment along the Marys River for 5 months and then forcibly removed from Corvallis to the Grand Ronde. Today, Kalapuya live within tribal lands or tribally-ceded lands throughout the region. Many Kalapuya are active members of the sovereign nations of the [Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde](#) or the [Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians](#). Kalapuya culture is alive. For more information watch the Champinefu Webinar Series on the Corvallis-Benton County Library YouTube channel.*

ii. Here is another trail-head suggestion borrowed from the Albany Civic Theater acknowledgment specifically for Albany and now edited somewhat: We acknowledge the ancestral lands of the Santiam Kalapuya and Tsankupi people who were forcibly removed to reservations in the 1850's. Many Kalapuya are active members of the sovereign nations of the [Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde](#) or the [Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians](#).

iii. David points out that MPG will need to have various acknowledgements to fit the land we are leading hikes on. We want to avoid this acknowledgement being a bureaucratic check-box and make sure it is given context and meaning. David has resources from which we can compile the names of cultures and the lands that are their ancestral homes.

C. What outings policies do we want to have? Any restrictions? Julie suggested the following basic practices: make it clear that MPG will not be organizing carpools; employ sweeps; limit size to a reasonable number of hikers (as determined by the leader of the hike); announce we have first aid kits (carried by the sweep); allow dogs only on designated dog hikes. The hike leader should make sure there is always a designated leader if the group needs to break up into sub-groups for short periods of time. This list of ideas will be added onto via further email discussions.

D..Up-coming Outings:

i. Bald Hill Natural Area - Past, Present & Future - Sunday, March 26th at 2:00 pm. Outings Leader - Mike Neeley-Brown, Interpretive Guide - Dave Eckert. This site has a geological/hydrological history, an ecological history, an indigenous cultural history, a colonial history as well as a very recent history. That history is written on and in the land. We will see it for what it was, what it is and what it could be. Even if you have hiked this site 100 times, you will see the land in a new way and see things you have never seen before. Co-sponsored by the Corvallis Sustainability

Coalition Water Action Team.

ii. Banzai Trail and Others - 9:30 am on Friday, April 7th. Details to follow.(RW)

iii. Annual Corvallis Earth Day Tour - 1:30 pm on Saturday, April 22nd
“A Journey along an Ancient Stream” - Interpretive Guide - Dave Eckert - Start at the Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture. Participants will learn about lower Oak Creek while walking along this ancient stream. Hikers will stop at five “stations” along the way to learn about the creek history, current conditions and possible futures from five station leaders. Also at each station, participants will participate in 5-10 minutes of maintenance work to tend these sites abused by human behavior. We will learn from the stream and give something back to it on Earth Day. Co-sponsored by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Water Action Team and the OSU Center for Urban Horticulture. If the ExCom wants this to be an MPG outing, then we will need an outings leader. There may be 50 or more attendees that the Outing leader would have to organize. If we let the Coalition lead and the MPG simply co-sponsor, we do not need to do any administrative work.

v. Natural Areas Celebration Week is **May 6th-14th**.

Hikes currently submitted for the Natural Areas Celebration Week are these:

Monday, May 8th, 2023 - Marys Peak - Five Trails Hike. Difficult because of 1525 ft. elevation gain in 6.4 miles. Interpretive Guides trained by the Marys Peak Alliance will accompany us on this trip to answer questions and point out highlights. The top of Marys Peak (4,097 ft.) is the only place in the Coast Range where you can see the Cascade Mountains and the Pacific Ocean from one location. There are five trails on Marys Peak. The hike will be on part of the North Ridge Trail (0.66 mi), all of the Tie Trail (1.2 mi.), part of the East Ridge Trail (1.3 mi.), all of the Meadow Edge Trail loop (1.8 mi.) and all of the Summit Trail loop (1.4 mi.). The hike passes through Douglas-fir and Noble Fir forests, stands of Western Hemlock, Red Alder and Western Red Cedar and open meadows. The understory is comprised of sword ferns, vine maple, oxalis, vanilla leaf and much, much more. We will pass through a Noble Fir blow-down area and by the headwaters of Parker Creek. The start of the hike will be from the upper parking lot on Marys Peak. Restrooms are available there and at the campground halfway around the Meadow Edge Loop. Meet at 8:50 AM for a 9:00 AM departure. We should return by 4:00 PM. Bring plenty of water, snacks, lunch, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, appropriate clothing for possible wind, rain and cool temperatures. More information will be

given out a couple of days before the hike. To register, please contact hike leader Mike Neeley-Brown (541-760-3934), snaebs@gmail.com. Limited registration through April 29, 2023 only. Meeting location will be given when registering. All minors (age 17 and under) must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Thursday, May 11th, 2023 – Marys Peak Meadow Edge Loop & Summit Trails. 1:00-5:30 PM. Moderate. Approx. 3 miles, 650 ft. elevation gain. Have you ever wondered why Marys Peak is the tallest mountain in the Coast Range? Did you know that flowers found in abundance in the high desert east of the Cascades are also found on only a few acres in the Coast Range, near the top of Marys Peak? Take a leisurely hike from the Forest Service Campground along the Meadow Edge & Summit Trails with trained Interpretive Guides from the Marys Peak Alliance who will share geological, ecological and cultural stories of Marys Peak. The weather can be unpredictable and not necessarily the same as in Corvallis. Bring water & snacks & dress in layers for possible rain, wind and cool temperatures. Meet at 12:50 for a 1:00 departure. We should return by 5:30. Meeting place provided upon registration. Register with MPG hike leader Mike Neeley-Brown prior to the event, (541) 760-3934, maryspeakgroupsierraclub@gmail.com.

Herbert Farm Natural Area - From Farmland to Natural Area - Friday, May 12th at 2:00 pm. Outings Co-Leaders - Mike and Julie, Interp. Guide - Dave Eckert.

6. Peak View and Facebook (Mary Beth and Julie)
 - a. People are still contacting us to get the Peak View. They must be using our webpage to find us. Two people who recently signed up went through the outings leader training.
 - b. Shall we include articles in the Peak View and/or MPG Facebook page (noting everytime we post an article that we are a partner in this endeavor with the Sustainability Coalition) on the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition's Shift Together Campaign?
 - c. We need an article on the piece of artwork that we donated to the library that's called "She Rose From the Sea." Dave offered to write one.

7. Conservation Projects (Dave)
 - A. The Annual **Corvallis Earth Day Tour** will be held on Saturday, April 22nd. Since the National Sierra Club is advertising local Sierra Club Earth Day events, I recommend we advertise this program in the National Sierra Club newsletter. **MOTION: I move that the MPG ExCom approves the advertisement of the 2023 Corvallis Earth Day Tour in the National Sierra Club newsletter.** David made the motion, Mike the second. The motion carried.

The Sustainability Coalition will be the lead and MPG will be a co-sponsor of the Earth Day Tour.

 - B. **SHIFT Together** - The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition rolled out their *SHIFT Together*

campaign at their March 9 Town Hall. They announced that the MPG is an initiating partner. Since the City of Corvallis has declined to mandate Home Energy Scores for home sales and deferred any decision on prohibiting new “natural” gas hook-ups, this *SHIFT Together* campaign will address both on the non-governmental level. The Coalition will be sending the MPG a *SHIFT Together* promotional tool kit from which we can choose how we want to move forward on supporting the campaign.

- C. **Compost Tea Application Program** at Bald Hill Natural Area - The Compost Tea application that we voted funding \$750 to will be applied in April.

We may be able to reimburse ourselves from our Foundation account for this expense because it is for conservation. (Julie)

- D. **Dunawi Creek Culvert Replacement** - Since the January MPG meeting, the culvert replacement contractor announced that he found a way to complete the project within the contractual agreement. This was unexpected and received with gratitude. On the other hand a bill was received from the Engineering firm that the extended government permitting process that they managed resulted in an extra \$3,859 invoice. Therefore, the \$1,000 previously funded by vote will be needed to help cover that surprise engineering bill.

We may be able to reimburse ourselves from our Foundation account for this expense because it is for conservation. Julie asked Robert to help determine if the Coalition or the engineering firm should get MPG’s check. David

8. Programs (Dave)

A. ***Liz and Bob Frenkel Spring Environment and Hiking Lecture Series***
Reviving and Hiking Willamette Valley Wetlands

Wetlands include forested wetlands, marshes, ponds and wet prairies. Previous to 1840, much of the Willamette Valley was wetlands. Only about 1% of those wetlands remain, making it critical that we regenerate more wetlands. This series looks at three wetlands at various stages of completion. This annual Spring webinar series is co-sponsored by the Marys Peak Group Sierra Club and the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library.

David reiterates that there are no charges, no costs and encouraged all to register so that they can watch the event live or at their leisure at a later date.

i. **Reviving the Wetlands at Finley National Wildlife Refuge**
Wednesday March 22nd

7:00-8:30 pm

This webinar will entice both those who have never been to Finley and those who have been there many times to visit the Refuge with new eyes and new expectations. A high-level of wetland restoration work has already established the Finley Wildlife National Refuge as a significant wildlife refuge that also attracts thousands of visitors each year. This webinar will show you a mature restoration site and how to best enjoy it.

Presenter: Jarod Jebousek is a wildlife biologist for U.S. Fish and Wildlife currently focusing on the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program for the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex. His office is at the William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge ten miles south of Corvallis. He has planned, designed and maintained wetlands of the Finley Refuge. For the last 20 years, he has also helped private landowners, non-federal agencies and NGOs plan and design voluntary wetland restorations throughout the Willamette Valley. Jarod will show us the many different types of wetlands that exist at Finley, what it took to restore and maintain them, what you see when you visit them and how to access them.

To register, click on this link: <https://bit.ly/2023frenkelseries1>

ii. Reviving the Wetlands at Herbert Farm Natural Area

Wednesday, April 19th

7:00-8:30 pm

Herbert Natural Area is a little-visited, beautiful natural area in the middle of a restoration process. Owned by the City of Corvallis and purchased to be restored as a natural area, the Institute for Applied Ecology has been managing the restoration process, assisted by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. This webinar will show you the areas in the restoration process, how they are accomplishing this complex task and how you can enjoy the area now. The webinar will also help you envision where the restoration process is heading in the future and what you can expect to enjoy there.

Presenters:

Jude Geist, Parks and Natural Resources Manager, City of Corvallis

Tom Kaye, Executive Director, Institute for Applied Ecology

Sarah Alaica, Restoration Ecologist, Institute for Applied Ecology

To register, click on this link: <https://bit.ly/2023frenkelseries2>

iii. Owens Farm/Jackson-Frazier Wetland Complex

Wednesday, May 17th

7:00-8:30 pm

While the Jackson-Frazier Wetland has been a popular hiking area for decades, the wetland extends far beyond the current publicly-accessible area. The wetland extends to the northwest across 99W into an area called Owens Farm. This webinar will present a bold plan to restore the entire wetland and make it publicly accessible through a network of extensive trails. This will not only open up a new wildlife refuge area, but it will open up a whole new hiking experience in the region.

Presenters:

Jessica McDonald, Executive Director, Greenbelt Land Trust

Jesse Ott, Acting Director, Benton County Natural Areas, Parks and Events Dept.

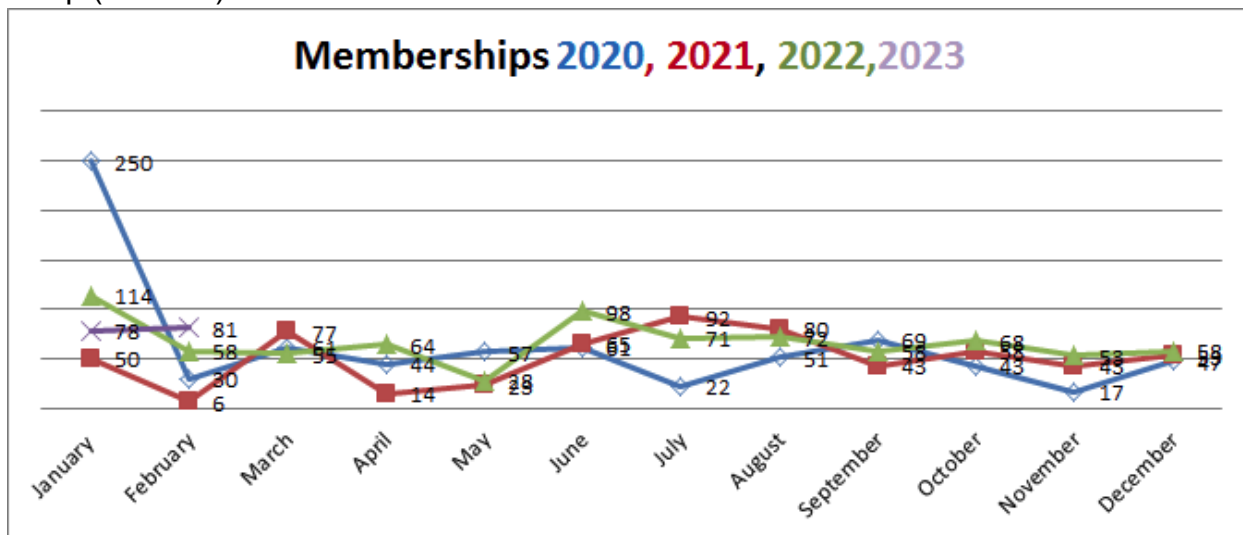
Meredith Petit, Director, Corvallis Parks and Recreation Dept.

Ellen Tappan, President, Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas (AFRANA)

To register, click on this link: <https://bit.ly/2023frenkelseries3>

- B. **2023 Champinefu Series** - Dave received an email recently with confirmation for collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde with the 7th annual Champinefu Series this Fall. There have been initial exciting suggestions for the Fall series which can be shared once they are fully vetted. David noted that two of the evenings will be in webinar and the Dec. presentation he hopes will be live since the presentation is not allowed to be video-taped.

9. Membership (Melanie)



10. Elections

MPG must vote to allow electronic voting for its elections. The vote must happen before MPG appoints a nominations committee.

MOTION: MPG will allow electronic voting for our elections. Paper ballots will also be an option where necessary. Julie made the motion, Leslie the second. Motion carried.

Appoint a nominations committee. Julie and Dave volunteered to be ExCom members on the nominations committee. A non-excom. member is now needed. Leslie noted that she would be happy to help with elections.

Discuss possible inclusion of our ballots in the chapter ballots.

11. Chapter report (Julie)

Several volunteers have taken over the role of communications committee for Chapter. One of their duties is to publish the Chapter newsletter. MPG has announced our Frenkel lecture series there.

The hiring committee is making progress on the search for a new director. Julie is on the nominations / election committee.

Various committees have been created to do the work necessary to build up the Chapter.

12. Motions passed via email vote

Dave Eckert moved to approve the Jan. minutes. Mike Neeley-Brown made the second. Six votes in favor. One didn't vote. Email vote ending 1/26/23

Mary Beth Downes: I make a motion to approve Mike Neeley-Brown as Outings Co-chair. Seconded by Dave. We had 6 votes in favor. Mike recused himself. Email vote ending 2/1/23

Mike moved that Marys Peak Group become a Supporter of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Town Hall by donating \$150. Mary Beth seconded. Unanimous in favor. Email voting ended 2/15/23.

Motion by Dave: I move the MPG ExCom agrees to be a partner in the Shift Together Campaign and to promote the campaign to our constituents. Seconded by Melanie Feder. Passed unanimously. Voting ended 2/26/23.

13. Next meeting in about 3 months.

14. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.