

Marys Peak Group Executive Committee Minutes  
June 13, 2023  
Via Zoom  
[Zoom link](#)

ExCom: Julie Arrington, Mike Neeley-Brown, Dave Eckert, Leslie Hogan, Karl McCreary

Present : Robert White, Peter Hewitt

Absent: Melanie Feder, Mary Beth Downes

Recorder: Leslie Hogan

Meeting begun at 6:08

1. Welcome and announcements--The board welcomed a visitor to our meeting, Peter Hewitt.
2. Additions or changes to the agenda?
3. Motions passed by email  
Dave Eckert moved: I move approval of the March 2023 ExCom minutes with gratitude to Leslie Hogan for her work on them. Mary Beth made the second. Passed with 6 votes. Email vote ended 4/3/2023.
4. Treasurer's report (Robert)
  - a. **Discuss** Robert's report
  - b. Motion to approve made by David and the second by Mike.
  - c. **Policy Motion:** 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.
    - i. **Motion:**The Chair can authorize up to \$250 per request of MPG funds without needing an ExCom vote with an annual limit of \$500. The chair will duly report the expenditure to the treasurer who will include it in the treasurer's report to be read at the subsequent ExCom meeting. Leslie made the motion.
    - ii. Second: David
    - iii. Vote: carried
  - d. **Fundraising ideas.**
    - i. **Plant Funding** - As MPG helps fund local land improvements, offer members the opportunity to buy trees/shrubs/packets of seeds to be planted in honor of someone of the donor's choosing.
    - ii. **Materials Funding** - Are there other materials that go into the many projects that are substantial enough to elicit memorial funds?
    - iii. **Donation jar** at the programs to further the work of MPG? Can we do that?
    - iv. **Reinstitute gatherings** similar to the ones we had at the Dancing Oaks

nursery and ask for a donation to attend and make it clear what the money will be used for e.g. leader training, first aid certification.

- v. Reinstitute the sponsorship of concerts and plays
- vi. Plot out a walk on a course with actors to entertain the walkers with skits or poetry or song. Mixing theater and a walk. The venue might be a park, for example and with a wide path.

## 5. Outings (Mary Beth)

a. **Policies** - At the March 20 meeting, we discussed possible policies to have for our Outings program. Here are the pertinent minutes from 3/20/23 to see what we discussed. How do we finalize this? What outings policies do we want to have? Any restrictions? Julie suggested the following basic practices:

- i. 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);
- ii. announce we have first aid kits (carried by the sweep) - We may need a policy on what constitutes an adequate first aid kit for strictly local hikes.
- iii. allow dogs only on designated dog hikes.
- iv. 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. Leslie suggests other things leaders do and have done is to begin with a land acknowledgement, including, in Albany, adding that the MPG is also acknowledging the cultural homeland by planting native plants that have cultural significance and co-sponsoring the Champinefu Series. (Dave's suggestion.)
- v. Always state safe practices such as making sure hikers remember to bring their lunch/snack/water along on the hike, reminder to stop at junctions and inform the leader or sweep when you step off the trail. Stop for rest and water breaks.
- vi. Make sure all drivers have good directions to the trailhead. Share cell phone numbers when necessary in preparation for separate journeys to the trailhead. Carry contact numbers of emergency personnel on wilderness trips.
- vii. In short, all the things we are taught in leadership training are part of our policy I would think. If not, let's define policy.
- viii. Children must be accompanied by their parents or guardians. We need to change our policy on our webpage.

b. **ACTION:** Dave suggests that Mike and Mary Beth take this list and organize it by categories, discuss via email and, once finalized, submit a policy statement for a vote and discussion. "We adhere to all National and Chapter policies and add these policies specific to MPG."

c. **Land Acknowledgement** - Have we collected the various land acknowledgments that fit the different areas where we might be hiking? Here is one from the Portland area (from Leslie as borrowed from a mailer): For Portland: "We are located on occupied, unceded lands of Chinook, Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Tualatin Kalapuya, and Molalla tribes."

- ix. (Dave) We have to use an acknowledgement that is accurate and acceptable for the related Confederated Tribes. The above

acknowledgement is inaccurate and essentially indicates these tribes are not recognized as sovereign nations by the U.S. Government. Each of the above tribes ceded their lands by treaty (1864, 1864, 1851, 1855, 1855 & 1855 respectively) to the U.S. Government and are therefore recognized by the U.S. Government as Sovereign Nations. This recognition as a sovereign nation is now one of the most important acknowledgements that can be afforded to the tribes.

- x. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde has approved the land acknowledgment of OSU and I recommend we use that where hikes are performed in Kalapuya homeland (Willamette Valley).
- xi. (Dave) Since the MPG hiking area is large and contains many separate and unrelated tribal homelands, I have previously offered to provide the appropriate tribally-related acknowledgement to hike leaders. This is tricky as some areas overlap tribal homelands and others do not and a simple map is not necessarily the best approach. David requests that as leaders lead hikes outside of the Kalapuya area, we email him and he will provide the name of that tribal group to the leader to use in an acknowledgement.
- xii. (Dave) I recommend all land acknowledgments indicate that the MPG are planting tribal culturally-appropriate native plants in public areas to respect the cultural and environmental landscape of the respective indigenous culture.

**b. Lessons learned from our latest outings -**

- i. How have they been going?
  - ii. Ideas that leading the hikes have engendered.
  - iii. Leslie suggests that we make notes next to our list of hikers as to leadership potential and keep that list for future reference when election time rolls around.
- c. The hikes on Marys Peak for the Natural Areas Celebration Week were canceled due to spring snow on Marys Peak.
- d. Peter suggested more acknowledgments of hiking achievements. We could add to most hikes along with greatest accumulated altitude, most miles hiked or “the hundred mile hikers”, etc. For kids: a treasure hunt for flowers and a pressed flower bookmark at the end for at least one flower the child identified.
- e. Outings wish lists: more first aid kits, comprehensive and basic (maybe the standard NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) kit, possibly one per leader), some insignia to identify hike leaders. Board is being charged with making a contingency list.

**6. Peak View and Facebook (Mary Beth and Julie)**

- a. How is The Peak View coming along?
- b. Possible ideas for future short articles in The Peak View
  - i. Compost tea application at Bald Hill
  - ii. Culvert replacement at Bald Hill. We donated \$1000.
  - iii. She Rose From the Sea artwork
  - iv. Donation to Greenbelt Land Trust
  - v. Corvallis Sustainability Coalition SHIFT Together campaign update. Does the Coalition have a promotional tool kit that we can use? **Not yet. Still planning.** (Dave)

- vi. MPG history
- vii. Two-three sentence review of any hikes/events over the past week. (Dave)
- viii. schedule write-up column on notable hikes or more photos of group hikes and a brief incident on the hike. Maybe encouraging hikers to write a “hike-oo” (haiku) and choose a few to put in the Peak View.

## 7. Conservation Projects (Dave)

- a. **Earth Day Tour report** - Forty-eight participants both hiked and worked along a lower stretch of Oak Creek as it passed through Oregon State University (OSU) campus. Representatives of the MPG, Marys River Watershed Council and OSU faculty provided interpretation of the creek, its history, its current status and regeneration efforts along the creek.
- b. **Herbert Farm Natural Area report** - Twenty-two participants hiked through the Herbert Farm natural area along a creek, a river and wetland with interpretation by the director of the Institute of Applied Ecology, Tom Kaye, who manages the wetland and prairie regeneration project there. Camas, Yellow paintbrush and other flowering plants were spectacular.
- c. **Compost tea application** at Bald Hill Natural Area - Weather, mud and personal issues prohibited the application of compost tea again this spring. The project will be reevaluated to be formed in the fall as summer is not a productive time to apply this solution.
- d. **Culvert Replacement at Bald Hill Natural Area** - The culvert is now scheduled to be replaced with an 8' diameter culvert in mid-July. We can now forward our commitment of \$1,000 to the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition for our portion of the payment.
- e. **Marys Peak West Point Meadows Regeneration** - All of the funding for this project has been approved by the U.S. Forest Service. We can now forward our commitment of \$2,500 matching funds to the Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas (AFRANA).
- f. **Oak Creek Preserve Purchased** - The Greenbelt Land Trust announced the purchase of the Oak Creek Preserve, to which the MPG donated \$2,500 toward that purchase. This large and strategically-placed property under the Greenbelt Land Trust's management will result in a significant improvement in the Oak Creek environment, greater hiking opportunities and connectivity, and will prevent development sprawl into this very special area. Here is the announcement for GLT Director Jessica McDonald: *“I am delighted to share the news with you that Greenbelt Land Trust has completed the acquisition of Oak Creek Preserve! This is a giant step forward for this property and for the larger vision of connecting habitats and trails. 30+ years ago this property was highlighted as one of the key parcels to create broader linkages ... what an honor it is to be moving this long-term vision forward for our community!*

*Oak Creek Preserve has already begun a transformation, with a habitat restoration project that commenced this Spring. Soon you will be seeing the pasture evolve into a wet prairie, awash with wildflowers and with vernal pools dotting the landscape. The future is bright for this property and the connections it will provide for people and wildlife.”*

- g. Marys Peak Interpretive Plan-** USFS has put this project on hold (largely due to staff turn-over. USFS is waiting for an interpretive specialist to be brought on board before it goes forward again.) MPG has already donated \$2,500 that must continue sitting in its account for a while, a couple of weeks at least.
- h. Future Projects -** As a heads-up, Dave will be requesting funding this year for plantings around the new culvert at Bald Hill Natural Area, as well as for Lamprey Creek for a November planting.

8. Programs (Dave)

**a. Liz and Bob Frenkel Spring Environment and Hiking Lecture Series Spring 2023 report -**

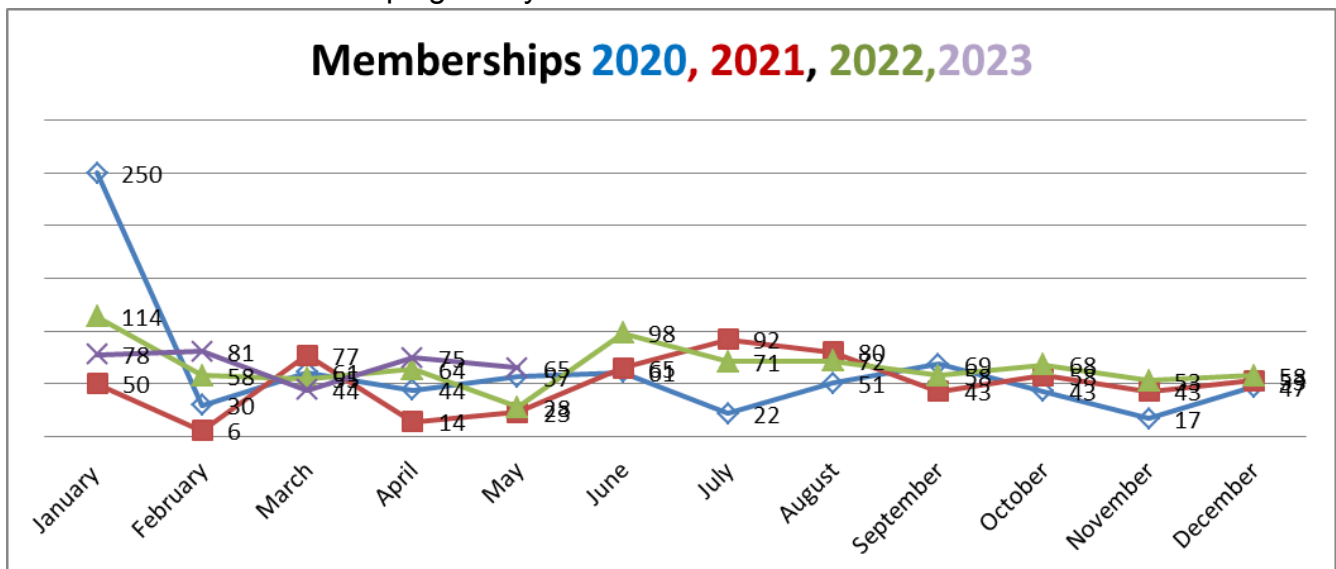
- i. All three webinars about regenerating wetlands in the Mid-Willamette Valley were successfully presented with a total of 8 invited presenters plus introductions by representatives of the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library and the MPG.
- ii. Over 1,000 viewers participated or watched it on YouTube or a later direct stream. The presentations either are or will be shown on the Library's YouTube channel,
- iii. The first webinar is currently available for viewing at: [Reviving the Wetlands at Finley National Wildlife Refuge - YouTube](#) The remaining two webinars will be closed-captioned and uploaded to YouTube shortly.

**b. The 7th Annual Champinefu Lecture Series. Fall, 2023.** - Two webinars and one live presentation will be held this Fall. Dates/Times, presenters and the final location will be reported when they are determined:

- i. October Webinar - Canoe Families of the Willamette Valley
- ii. November Webinar - Indigenous Fires - Types and Techniques
- iii. December Live Presentation - Ikanum - Sacred Stories of the Kalapuya

9. Membership (Melanie)

- a. Melanie has about 60 letters of welcome that she will get mailed out once she is back from helping family.



This chart was submitted on 6/19/23, before the minutes were approved.

10. Elections

- a. Leslie talked to Hilary White who has agreed to be the third person on our Nominations Committee.
- b. Julie doesn't remember whether we set up a schedule for elections. She will check.
- c. **MOTION:** Appoint Julie Arrington, Dave Eckert, and Hilary White as the Nominations Committee.
  - i. Motion made by David.
  - ii. Second by Mike.
  - iii. Motion carried.

11. National report (Julie)--Restructure Briefing for Volunteers which is designed to use a regional approach to oversee the groups.

12. Chapter report (Julie)

- a. The Chapter ExCom is meeting monthly. We are getting closer to getting an executive director.

13. Next meeting: TBA

14. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm