

Marys Peak Group Executive Committee Minutes
09/06/23
Via Zoom

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

Present : Robert White

Absent:

Recorder: Julie Arrington and Leslie Hogan

Meeting begun at 6:06

1. Welcome and announcements:
2. Motions passed by email:
 - a. Dave moved that the minutes from the June 13th meeting be approved. Second by Mary Beth. Voting ended 7/8/23. The motion passed.
 - b. The motion to approve the following election schedule was made by Leslie Hogan. Seconded by Melanie Feder.

Now: announce the elections. Look for candidates

Sept 15: deadline to receive petitions from those who want to run

Sept 29: report the nominees to the ExCom, 5 weeks before the ballots are mailed

Nov 3: mail the paper ballots

Nov 10: electronic voting begins

Nov 10th: paper ballots must be received 4 weeks prior to closing date

Dec 8: voting closes

Result: passed. Voting ended on 8/18/23

3. Treasurer's report (Robert)
 - a. Presentation of Robert's Treasurer's report

Our main expenses are reimbursing for first aid classes. Main income is interest.
Foundation staff have been cut.
We paid the money for the meadow restoration and the Bald Hill culvert.
 - b. Discussion of our goals for the money and our concerns: There was agreement

that MPG needs to establish an amount of money below which it should not spend. That sum would be determined by expenses for membership, PO Box rental, leadership training, elections and expenditures the board agrees are basic spending. **MOTION:** Once our treasury account falls to \$7,000, MPG will not undertake any expenditures beyond administrative costs. The motion will be good for the remainder of 2023 and may act as a guideline for future Excoms. Melanie made the motion and Karl the 2nd. The motion carried.

- c. **MOTION** to pass the treasurer's report made by Dave, seconded by Mike. The motion passed.

Karl joined at 6:20.

Leslie arrived at 6:33.

4. Outings (Mary Beth and Mike)

Mary Beth gave us a run-down on hike leaders. Robert White has been leading hikes and most other OLT trained volunteers have not yet stepped forward. David suggested that personal phone calls to those leaders should be the next step. MPG also discussed activities to establish camaraderie and exchange of experiences among leaders. We talked about drawing up a hiking policy using some of the topics we discussed at our last meeting. Mary Beth will approach Kelly Smith, chapter outings chair, to guide her in that task.

- a. Leaders have sent in land acknowledgements they have used at different geographical locations (many of which have come from Dave). These are now in a single document that leaders should know to use and add to as new hike areas require new acknowledgements.
- b. Shall we buy new first aid kits? We need new gloves in the kits. We need training on the use of the contents of the kits. MPG currently has 4 first aid kits so at this point buying more is not needed.
- c. We can't facilitate carpooling per National's instructions. Robert lets the hikers know who is hiking with us. It's up to the hikers to make their arrangements. Robert only gives out email addresses if he has the hikers' permission.

5. Peak View and Facebook (Mary Beth and Julie)

- a. We continue to get requests from people who want to get the Peak View.
- b. Robert has been writing a little summary of the hikes he leads to include in the Peak View. It shows that we are active.
- c. Possible article on the culvert replacement at Bald Hill
- d. Possible article on our donation to the Greenbelt Land Trust

6. Conservation Projects (Dave)

- a. **Culvert Replacement at Bald Hill Natural Area** - The culvert was replaced with an 8' diameter culvert in July. MPG has sent our commitment of \$1,000 to the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition for our portion of the \$94,000 payment for the engineering, permitting and construction of the culvert. The contractor did a highly professional job and we look forward to the rains starting to watch the waters start flowing. The next steps are planting Oregon White Oaks, common rush, western spirea, oceanspray, camas and tarweed as well as other native plants along the riparian zone near the new culvert. The goal is to develop both a highly functioning riparian zone where the vernal creek crosses the multimodal

path berm and a highly appreciated cultural place that can be enjoyed by the Confederated Tribes and the general public.

- b. **Proposal to re-allocate \$750 from Compost Tea application to purchase Oregon White Oak and native shrubs for the riparian area surrounding the new culvert.** The approved and funded application of compost tea at the Bald Hill Natural Area has proven to be strategically challenging to the point that the cost-benefit ratio is being questioned. It is probably a better use of those funds to be re-allocated to purchase Oregon White Oak, Pacific Willow, Western Spirea and other native plants to protect and improve the area surrounding the new culvert. If approved, the \$750 would be matched by \$1,000+ from the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition for the full project.
 - **MOTION: The MPG ExCom approves re-allocating the designated \$750 for compost tea application at Bald Hill Natural Area to be used for purchasing native trees and shrubs to be planted surrounding the new culvert at the Bald Hill Natural Area.** Motion by Dave Eckert. Second by Leslie The vote carried.
- c. **Marys Peak Interpretive Plan-** U.S. Forest Service (USFS) continues to put this project on hold (largely due to staff turn-over). Barry Wulff and Dave Eckert will be meeting with the new Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor to discuss how she can help move this process forward after all of these years of delays.
- d. **Oak Creek Watershed Confluence** - Dave Eckert is working with faculty and staff at the OSU College of Liberal Arts and the Spring Creek Project to produce a one or two year program at OSU combining Arts and Sciences departments to look at Oak Creek on OSU Campus and to produce artistic and scientific outcomes. As this program develops more specificity, the MPG ExCom will be informed to see if there is any interest to participate.

7. Programs (Dave)

- a. **2023 Liz and Bob Frenkel Environment and Hiking Spring Series** - All three webinars are now on YouTube. Following are the titles, abstracts and the link to the YouTube recording with closed captions.

Reviving the Wetlands at Finley National Wildlife Refuge - 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 you can 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.

YOUTUBE RECORDING: [Reviving the Wetlands at Finley National Wildlife Refuge - YouTube](#)

- **Reviving the Wetlands at Herbert Farm Natural Area -**
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. **Presenters:** Jude Geist, Parks Division Manager, City of Corvallis; Tom Kaye, Executive Director, Institute for Applied Ecology; Sara Alaica, Restoration Ecologist, Institute for Applied Ecology

YOUTUBE RECORDING:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6dR-iG9mc4>

Owens Farm/Jackson-Frazier Wetland Complex - 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 Tappon, President, Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas (AFRANA)

YOUTUBE RECORDING:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COSBx4rNQs>

- b. 2023 Champinefu Series -** This year, we will present two webinars and one in-person program. **Content** for these events is planned and presented in partnership with the Grand Ronde Cultural Resources Department. The event logistics are organized by the Marys Peak Group Sierra Club. Additional co-sponsors include the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, Spring Creek Project, OSU School of Language, Culture & Society

Willamette River: Ancestral Highway - Thursday, October 12th @ 7 pm - Webinar - Join the kickoff event for this year's Champinefu Lecture Series by tuning into a virtual release event of a video about Canoe Culture at Grand Ronde and the Tribe's relationship to the Willamette River. Conversation panel to follow with Canoe skippers Bobby Mercier and Brian Krehbiel as well as members of the Grand Ronde Canoe Family in conversation with David Harrelson, Grand Ronde Cultural Resources Department Manager

***Fire is Life: Living in Relation with Indigenous Fire Practices of Western Oregon* - Thursday, November 9th @ 7 pm - Webinar** - Join Joe Scott (Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians) winner of the 2023 Indigenous Place Keeping Artist (IPKA) Fellowship for a virtual presentation about his work as a Fellow over the last year connecting indigenous people of this place to the sacred resources that have sustained people of this place through the seasonal round since Time Immemorial. Come learn about his work to restore the “high art” of tended landscapes here in Western Oregon through fire.

***Winter Storytelling: Telling Indigenous Stories of Place* - Tuesday, December 12th, 7 pm - In-Person - OSU Alumni Center** - Join members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and their invited guests in person for an evening of storytelling in many forms through a handful of voices. Stories shared will focus on place and life here in Western Oregon. They will include family stories, Ikanum (creation stories), contemporary stories, and readings.

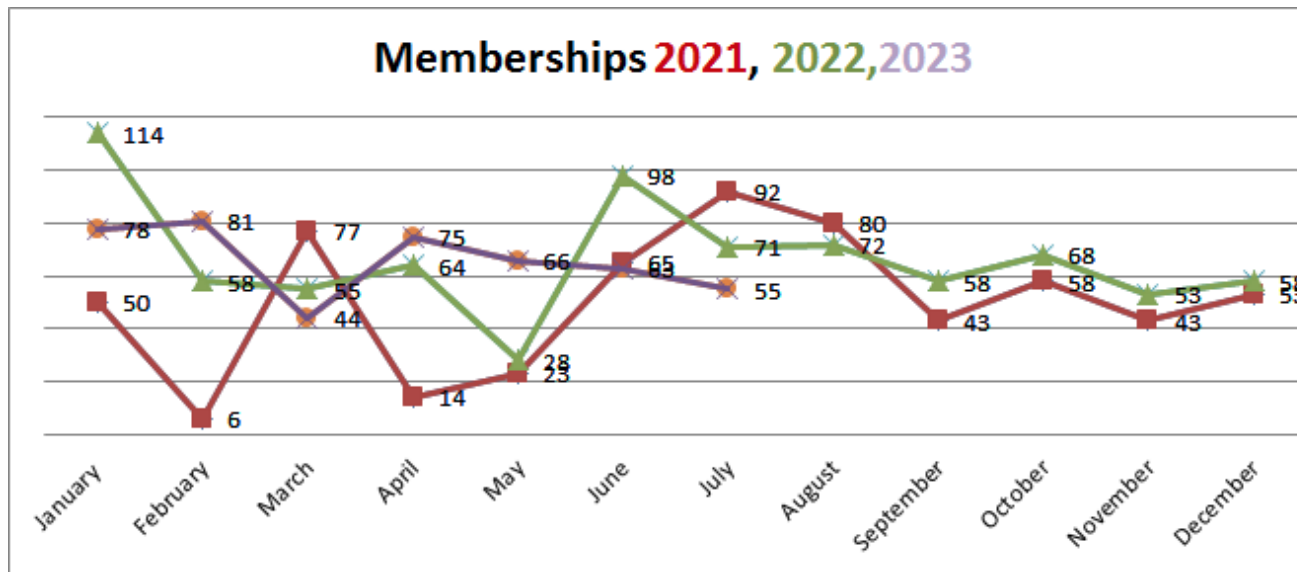
MOTION: The MPG ExCom approves allocating \$600 toward the approximate \$4,000 costs of the 2023 Champinefu series. The funds would be used for a portion of the rental fees of the OSU Alumni Center for the in-person December program. Motion by Dave Eckert. Second by Mike. The vote carried

MPG discussed setting up a table at this event and presenting an opportunity by way of a donation jar for patrons to contribute to the cost of renting the venue. Details will be worked out.

Uploading of Champinefu Webinars on YouTube - Since the Library may be unable to staff the closed-captioning process for the webinars and yet will require accurate closed-captioning, the MPG ExCom is requested to consider we negotiate with its existing OSU partner to provide the closed-captioning service and uploading onto YouTube of the first two webinars. MPG asked David to move ahead with this task.

- c. **2024 Liz & Bob Frenkel Environment and Hiking Spring Series** - This is the time to consider the primary theme and the three presentations for the series in March, April and May. One theme suggestion is “*Living with Wild Animals in Western Oregon.*” Presentations could focus on where we live, where we hike, and our built environment (travel and wildlife impacts from fossil fuel and green energy technologies). A new book by Ben Goldfarb (“Crossings”) reveals the direct impact our travels by motor vehicle, rail, or airplanes have on the lives of wild animals. We could ask him to be in a webinar on the travel portion. For the first two, we could ask Oregon wildlife experts. The ExCom accepted these themes and gave its input.

8. Membership (Melanie)



9. Elections

- a. Melanie and Mike are willing to continue on as members of ExCom. Dave is retiring. Dave has been searching for a third candidate.
- b. **MOTION: The ExCom approves the appointment of Leslie Hogan, Marcia Shapiro and Julie Arrington as the Elections Committee for this year's election.**

Motion by Julie. The second by Dave. The vote carried.

10. Chapter report (Julie)

- a. Damon Motz-Storey, who uses they/them pronouns, begins their work as Chapter Director on Sept 15. The Chapter ExCom will get to meet them at our Sept 19th meeting.
- b. Chapter Co-chair Evan Reynolds will be attending the National Sierra Club board meeting on Sept 9th as the chapter's CCL representative. (Council of Chapter Leaders). I will let you know if he learns anything about the upcoming structural changes.

11. Next meeting will be in January. The old ExCom will finish its work and welcome the

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