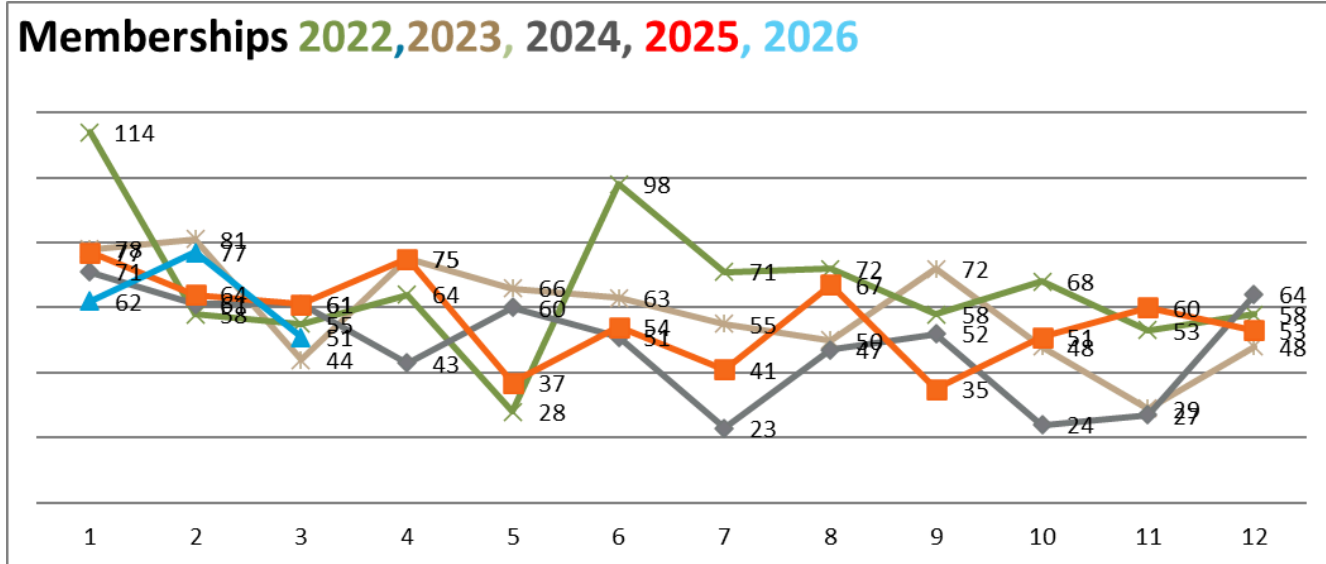


Marys Peak Group Executive Committee (ExCom) Minutes
April 6, 2026

ExCom: Julie Arrington, Mike Neeley-Brown, Melanie Feder, Mary Beth Downes, Leslie Hogan, Karl McCreary
Present : Robert White, Dave Eckert
Absent:
Recorder: Leslie Hogan
Meeting began at 6:12 p.m.

1. Welcome and announcements
2. Treasurer's report (Robert)
 - a. Robert recapped the minimal changes from last quarter's report.
 - b. **Motion** to approve treasurer's report: Karl made the motion, Leslie the second. The motion carried.
3. Programs (Dave)
 - a. **Liz & Bob Frenkel Spring Environment Series** - "*Listening to the Land*"
March webinar - *A Kalapuya Legacy: Oak Savannas & Prairies on OSU Lands*
Audience registered & received recording – 223
Viewed live – 96
Recording link: <https://tinyurl.com/1frenkelzoom2026>
April webinar - *What we can learn from the Ancient Trees of the OSU McDonald-Dunn Forests?* Registration link: cbcpl.net/Frenkel2
May webinar - *Cultivating Abundance through Land-based Education*. Registration link: cbcpl.net/Frenkel3
 - b. **19th Annual Earth Day Tour** - April 22nd - 1:30 - 4:30 pm - "*Magical Willamette River Walk*" - This walking tour will highlight a well-known trail along the Willamette River, but introduces a few side trails that few people use. The land, the river and the ecology will be interpreted by Gwendolyn Ellen and Dave Eckert who hosted the 2025 Frenkel webinar exploring the same trail. Mike Neeley-Brown and Julie Arrington are the MPG Outing Leaders. Pre-registration is required to receive the meeting location and logistics by emailing Dave Eckert at deckert@willamettewatershed.com
Upon request, David provided an attachment to all previous Earth Day Tours, not only providing a trip down memory lane, but a record of the interests of environmentalists over these past couple of decades. [2008 to present.docx](#)
 - c. **10th Annual Champinefu Series** - the 2026 series will kick off with a live and free performance at the PRAX of local Indigenous theatrical plays hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde the evening of October 15. Additional information will be forthcoming. Two webinars will follow in November and December.

4. Membership (Melanie)



a.

5. Tabling opportunities:

- a. Karl, Mike and Julie staffed a table at the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition’s Fair before the Town Hall. Five people signed up for the Peak View. Thank you!
- b. Julie welcomes other ideas for interactive or educational activities that we could use at tabling events.
- c. Karl asked that MPG pay to have its own table next year. Sharing a table did not work out to MPG’s advantage this past year.
- d. Melanie and Leslie Hogan offered to staff the HP Earth Day Fair tabling event this year.
- e. MPG has another opportunity for tabling at the Willamette Valley Symphony Environmental Lobby Fair Sept. 26-27 at Ashbrook Independent School.
 - i. The symphony is playing “The Malheur Symphony.” The symphony will feature bird sounds and photography from the Malheur Wildlife Refuge. There will be a Lobby Fair to go along with the symphony at which they honor local environmental groups “that do such good works towards local stewardship.”
 - ii. Julie will get more information since MPG is interested in principle in having a presence there.
- f. Get Outdoors Day!
Peavy Arboretum will once again be the venue, and the event date is Saturday, May 30th, with visitors attending from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Karl will find historical images of the Peavy/McDonald Forest area and print them off for the tabling event. Among Julie, Leslie and Karl someone will cover the tabling event. Julie or Leslie can give Karl a lift to Peavy. In addition to standard tabling information MPG ExCom will look into the advisability of having up-dated information on the threat of the restructuring of BLM policy in regards to development of public lands.

6. Outings (Mary Beth, Mike)

- a. Are there any candidates around willing to be trained as hike leaders? Mary Beth has been talking up the need for hike leaders. (Mary Beth Downes, Sheryl Thorburn and Robert White are our only three leaders currently.) Mary Beth suggests that leaders

- regularly make an appeal for leaders at the end of hikes.
- b. Dr. Rick Colwell (College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences) would be happy to be our tour guide for star-gazing on a night time walk. Julie will get his contact information to Mary Beth for follow-up involvement.
 - c. MPG hopes to have an outing scheduled during the Natural Areas Celebration Week, May 2-10. Events will be promoted on the NACW's events page on the Sustainability Coalition's website and social media, as well as printed materials posted and distributed around town.
 - d. Solstice potluck.
 - i. June 28, Willamette Park, 12:00-4:00
 - ii. Items for ExCom to bring: Sierra Club banner, T-shirts. Julie will bring posters of Linn and Benton county maps for people to pin their favorite hikes as a conversation starter.
 - iii. Items for attendees to bring: Food will again be a potluck. BYO beverage and table ware and own cloth napkin.
 - iv. Mary Beth would like to set aside time for acknowledgements to MPG volunteers. Julie will draw attention to our need for hike leaders and board member candidates. Julie and Mary Beth will start the gathering with acknowledgements, invite people to eat and then hike in the area with Robert as lead.

7. Peak View (Mary Beth, Julie)

- a. The Peak View was requested by several people who are interested in hiking with us.
- b. Julie has not gotten around to shutting down our Facebook page.

8. Logging on BLM land and the attack on the Forest Service.

Melanie will contact Carol Valentine about progress on the BLM issue and the attack on the forest service. She will also send ExCom another article about further attacks on these issues.

9. Chapter report (Julie)

The chapter does not have a hiking chair or treasurer yet but has some very good new members. Chapter was also involved in the recent legislative session and felt they made an impact on environmental bills.

10. Elections

Leslie suggested that hike leaders also mention at the end of hikes, not only the need for hike leaders but the need for board members as well since we are in danger of falling below a quorum of board members in 2027. Julie will also add information about elections during our potluck.

11. **Motions** passed by email.

Mary Beth Downes made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/12/26 ExCom meeting. Mike Neeley-Brown made the second. Motion passed with 5 votes in favor. One member did not vote. The vote ended Jan 17.

12. The meeting adjourned at 7:35.

