

Marys Peak Group Executive Committee (ExCom) Minutes
Via Zoom 7/13/26

ExCom: Julie Arrington, Mike Neeley-Brown, Melanie Feder, Karl McCreary

Present : Robert White, Dave Eckert

Absent: Mary Beth Downes, Leslie Hogan

Recorder: Karl

The meeting began at 6:03.

1. Welcome and announcements
2. Additions or changes to the agenda?
3. Motions passed by email.
 - a. Melanie Feder made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2026 ExCom meeting. Mary Beth Downs made the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously on April 19.
4. Treasurer's report (Robert)
 - a. Discuss Robert's report
 - i. Education expenses: Sustainability Coalition Town Hall, Champinefu series
 - b. We have at least 2 financial decisions to make tonight but are missing two ExCom members. How shall we proceed?
 - c. Let's approve the Treasurer's Report by email. Robert and Hilary leave August 1st.
5. Programs (Dave)
 - a. Report on Corvallis Earth Day Tour (Started in 2008) - at Willamette River Park in South Corvallis - 31 participants (41 pre-registered) Outings leader: Mike Neeley-Brown and Julie Arrington. Interpretive Guides: Gwendolyn Ellen & Dave Eckert. Participants learned about river history, current conditions and native species.
 - b. Liz & Bob Frenkel Spring Environment Series;
 - i. Recordings of all 3 webinars with theme of "Lessons from the Land" are now on the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library YouTube channel and promoted in the weekly Peak View
 - ii. ***A Kalapuya Legacy: Oak Savannas and Prairies on OSU Lands with Dr. Dennis Albert***, OSU researcher. Audience registered & received recording: #223, Viewed live: #96. Recording on YouTube: [A Kalapuya Legacy: Oak Savannas and Prairies on OSU Lands](#) YouTube views: 80
 - iii. ***What we can learn from Ancient Douglas-fir of the OSU McDonald-Dunn Forest with Dr. Meg Krawchuck & Charles Drake***, OSU Researchers: Audience registered & received recording #296. Viewed live: #112. Recording on YouTube: [Implications Found in Ancient Trees of the OSU McDonald-Dunn Forest](#) YouTube views: 13
 - iv. ***Lessons from the Land: Cultivating Abundance through Land-Based Education***
 - v. ***By Marta Capriles***, Corvallis Waldorf School Agricultural Arts teacher. Audience registered & received recording: #216. Viewed live: 60. Zoom recording views: 121. Recording on YouTube: [Cultivating Abundance through Land-Based Education](#) YouTube views: 133

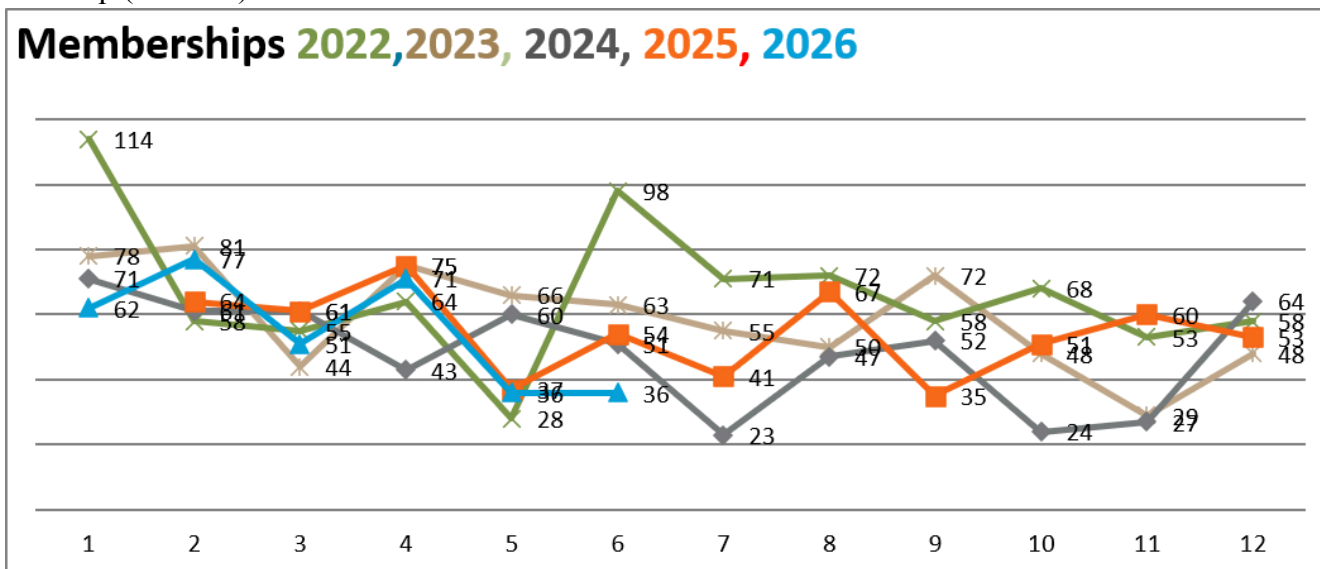
c. 2026 Champinefu Series (10th year)

- i. Request a motion to collaborate with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the 4 other local co-sponsors and share in the series funding by contributing \$800 to the collective fund. Hopefully, the MPG wishes to continue to be an active co-sponsor.

Karl moves to continue MPG support of 2026 Champinefu series at \$800. Mike seconds the motion. All voted in favor of support.

- ii. The program dates and presenters are set, The titles for the first two are in draft format and the third presentation is set. Following is the status as of the ExCom meeting:
 1. Thursday, October 15th - ***Being Indigenous Today*** (Working draft title) Live at the PRAx with the Joseph Hamm Native Theater.
 2. Wednesday, November 4th - ***Kalapuya Language Impacts on Perception*** (Working draft title) - webinar with Jedd Schrock, Staff Linguist, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
 3. Wednesday, December 2nd - ***Building Community through the Currents that Connect Us: Canoes, Family, & Responsibility*** - Webinar with Dr. Luhui Whitebear, enrolled member of the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Indigenous Studies at OSU. Learn about the steps local Indigenous people have taken, to prepare for the arrival of the OSU Indigenous canoe in the near future to be used on the Marys and Willamette Rivers.

6. Membership (Melanie)



a.

7. Outings (Mike)

- a. We started a conversation via email about whether to reimburse hike leaders for taking Wilderness First Aid. The conversation got complicated. It's hard to have a discussion via email. We said that we would continue it at the next ExCom meeting.
- b. Robert brought up the topic of paying a hike leader for taking Wilderness First Aid (WFA). We voted recently to pay up to \$70 for first aid and CPR training but didn't mention WFA. In the past, we paid up to \$90 for WFA.
- c. WFA is more intense than first aid and takes place over 2 days. National is now requiring that hike leaders have the certification if they are going to the Cascades or areas that are

over an hour away from help. It's a bonus for us to have a leader who has WFA as does Sheryl.

- d. The questions are: Do we want to reimburse for WFA? If so, how much? The amount was the sticking point. Mike moves that WFA is reimbursed at the full amount if a hike leader has completed 2 outings. Melanie seconds. All voted in favor of motion. Robert will follow up with Sheryl.

8. Tabling opportunity

- a. MPG has an opportunity for tabling at the Willamette Valley Symphony Environmental Lobby Fair Sept. 26-27 at Ashbrook Independent School. The symphony is playing "The Malheur Symphony." The symphony will feature bird sounds and photography from the Malheur Wildlife Refuge. The Lobby Fair will go along with the symphony at which they honor local environmental groups "that do such good works towards local stewardship."
 - i. Melanie and Julie will table. Does anyone want to join us?

9. Peak View (Julie)

- a. Executive session to discuss a potential story for the Peak View.
- b. We continue to get requests for The Peak View.

10. National training required for volunteers

- a. To help ensure that Sierra Club remains a respectful, inclusive, and welcoming environment for everyone, we are implementing two required trainings for Volunteer Leaders beginning in July:

Respectful Leadership and Intervention Training
Equal Opportunity Policy Training

Follow-up on updating the MPG website when we learn about how to interface with these new trainings. Where do we find the new requirements for Outings Leader training?

Let the Chapter know that MPG doesn't approve of having to take these classes. What form do these trainings take? Webinars or self-study?

Karl suggested that we get together as a group to do these trainings.

11. Chapter report (Julie)

- a. Damon's departure
- b. Major shift: loss of a large amount in expected national Sierra Club chapter allocation.
- c. National still has a \$3 million deficit despite all the cuts it has made.

12. Elections

- a. Karl, Leslie and Julie are up for re-election.
 - i. How can those who want to be replaced, do so?

13. The meeting adjourned at 7:03.