Marys Peak Group Executive Committee Minutes
September 29, 2026

ExCom: Julie Arrington, Mike Neeley-Brown, Melanie Feder, Mary Beth Downes, Leslie Hogan, Karl McCreary
Present : Robert White, Dave Eckert, Joe Walicki
Absent:
Recorder: Leslie Hogan
Meeting begun at 6:05

1. Welcome and announcements
   Introductions. Julie introduced Joe Walicki, an MPG member from Salem who attended the meeting. (see below)

2. Motions passed by email.

3. Programs (Dave)
   It is time to pay the approved $800 for the MPG to co-sponsor the 10th annual Champinefu Series this year. Please make the check out to "Corvallis Sustainability Coalition" in the lower left corner line of the check which reads "For", please write "Champinefu Series".The MPG initiated the series in collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Cultural Resources Department in 2017 and has been held annually since then. Since then, four new partners have been added to the collaboration. The Champinefu Series programs and presenters are all chosen by the Cultural Resources Department of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.

   The Sacred Commute: Off/On the Rez
   October 15, 7PM. Doors Open at 6:30
   Live at the PRAx - OSU Campus, Corvallis, Oregon
   Free: First come, first seated with overflow areas where the program can be watched remotely.

   Join host Joseph Dowd (Grand Ronde) and Jedd Schrock for a night of song sharing and storytelling. Contemporary folk songs about life as a Native American off the reservation and on the reservation will be performed. Song sharing will be interspersed with storytelling and poem sharing that conveys the lived experience of contemporary Native Americans of Western Oregon as well as of their ancestors.

   Joseph Dowd is a descendant of Santiam Kalapuya (Hudson and Dowd families) and Takelma/Tututni Athabaskan peoples. Joseph is a 2026 Indigenous Place Keeping Fellow through the Grand Ronde Tribe's Art Program.

November 4, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

Learning by Doing: Kalapuya Stories and Histories
Webinar - To register and receive the link to watch:
https://cbcpl.net/champinefu
With Jedd Schrock, Staff Linguist, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.
Jedd will present how they are finding, recording, translating and engaging their community with a large body of information about Kalapuya culture that has not previously been published or generally known to current generations. If you want to learn more about local Indigenous culture, this webinar is a must see and hear.

December 2, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

Building Community through the Currents that Connect Us: Canoes, Family, & Responsibility
https://cbcpl.net/champinefu

With Dr. Luhui Whitebear, enrolled member of the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Indigenous Studies at Oregon State University. For the past few years, Indigenous students, faculty, and staff have discussed and worked towards establishing a Canoe Family at OSU. What started as a conversation has led to building a foundation to prepare for the arrival of a canoe to be welcomed as part of the community. Our approach has been committed to intentionality, respect, and patience as we take each step closer to bringing a carved canoe to Corvallis waterways. In learning more about ourselves and each other as Indigenous people connected to the ways of water; the emerging Canoe Family has built a community based on what it means to understand the currents that connect us and the responsibilities that come with it. Learn more about the steps taken, the partnerships and the preparation for the arrival of the canoe in 2028.

Co-sponsoring partners are the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Cultural Resources Department, Marys Peak Group Sierra Club, Spring Creek Project, Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and the OSU School of Language, Culture and Society.

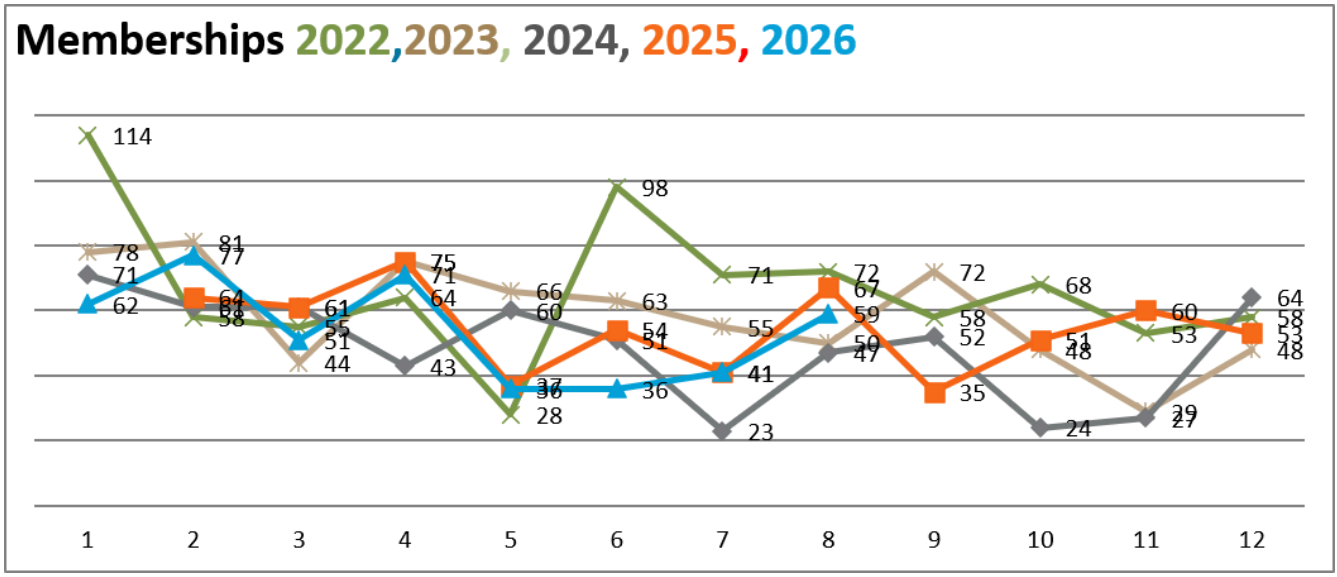
4. Treasurer's report (Robert)

Approve the report after discussion
National has been doing a test of having all the Sierra Club accounts at Amalgamated Bank. The money would be accessed through NetSuite. Chapter preferred not to join this experiment when the issue came up. Robert proposed closing our investment account which has fallen below a

designated level for receiving interest and opening up a regular checking and savings account in its place. **Motion** to close our investor account. Karl made the motion and Mike the second. The motion passed.
A member made a donation in honor of Monika Shepherd who passed away this summer. Monika was a long time and enthusiastic hiker with MPG.
Motion to approve treasurers report. Mike made the motion and Mary Beth the second. The motion passed.

5. Membership (Melanie)

Recent tabling events: The Willamette Valley Symphony played music by an Oregon composer to accompany slides showing photos of the Malheur Refuge. Nine new people signed up for the PeakView during the tabling event there. Karl would like to meet to talk about our message and approach for the OSU Nonprofit Fair. MPG got one parking pass and will need to carpool to the event.



6. Outings (Mary Beth, Mike)

Chapter has not found a new outings chair.
Mary Beth announced her withdrawal from the position of outings chair. She will stay involved with leading occasional hikes and being involved in the annual potluck. Mary Beth has put a great deal of thought and effort into training new leaders to reboot MPG after the pandemic. She will stay on until the end of the year and will work toward making a smooth transition to a new leader.
A new requirement from National is that there is an additional training that leaders must take dealing with respectful execution of working in a national organization. Karl and Julie note that MPG should update leadership qualifications requirements. Mike agreed to take on that task and noted that CPR is also now required as part of leadership training and not just

recommended .

7. Peak View (Mary Beth, Julie)
   Mary Beth again expressed appreciation and admiration of Rose Young for the job she has been doing on writing and administering the Peak View.
8. Chapter report (Julie)
   Damon Motz-Storey (they/them) finished their run as Chapter Director on 9/15/26. Damon built up the Chapter Staff with some wonderful folks. Before Damon left, they met with the staff to go over their work plans. Damon also wrote up notes and information to help whomever is hired to replace them to get off to a good start.
   Damon also restored the visibility and image of the Chapter and did so much to raise up the staff and the volunteers and to make the Chapter a great place to be. Julie once again expressed how impressed she has been with the strides our Oregon Chapter has made under Damon's leadership.
   Emily Bowes, Chapter Political Strategist, will serve as Interim Director until a new one is hired.
   We hope to have the new director hired by November 17.

9. Elections
   Kai McMurtry, Chapter Senior Communications Coordinator, will help us create our member lists. Chapter will merge files and send out the paper ballots for the groups and chapter. It will also launch the chapter's, Many River's, and Marys Peak Group's voting at the same time and on the same schedule.
   National has a voting app which MPG hasn't checked out yet. They have been hosting webinars to explain it.
   MPG needs an elections committee and a nominations committee. Marcia Shapiro has offered to help out again. The committee needs two more members.
10. Joe Walicki shared his experiences in years past in generating interest in a Sierra Club in Salem by a one man mass telephone-calling campaign. In light of the retirement of MPG's secretary and outings co-chair at the end of this year and in the need for board members and more hike leaders in general, the board discussed trying to find people interested in helping reinvigorate MPG. Melanie agreed to provide a list of telephone numbers of people who have hiked with MPG and Leslie and MaryBeth offered to call people on that list to identify people with an interest in helping achieve the goals of MPG. Joe generously offered to call any names from the Salem area. Julie first made sure the by-laws allow the ExCom to appoint members to the board since this search will be done after annual MPG elections. ExCom will determine jointly the message we will deliver to those we call.

11. Meeting adjourned at 7:26