

Marys Peak Group Executive Committee Minutes
Final meeting of the 2020 ExCom
January 12, 2021 via Zoom
Approved Minutes

ExCom: Julie Arrington (Chair), Mike Neeley-Brown (Vice-Chair), Robert White (Treasurer), Karl McCreary, Dave Eckert (Program Chair), Jules Moritz (Outings) Melanie Feder (Membership)

Present: Mary Beth Downes, Leslie Hogan (Secretary)

I. Welcome and introductions

II. Approval of minutes

Robert White **moved** and Dave seconded that we accept the minutes from the 10/6/20 meeting approved unanimously on 10/15/20.

III. Email votes

A. Robert W **moved** to send Julie's letter about the siting of communication towers on Marys Peak to the Bonneville Power Administration. Dave Eckert seconded. Passed unanimously on November 11, 2020.

B. Melanie **moved** and Jules seconded the motion that we send the BPA letter mentioned above to the Corvallis Gazette-Times letters to the editor. Unanimously passed on November 18, 2020.

C. Mike **moved** that Julie send her approved letter to the Audubon Society of Lincoln City in support of their proposal to designate Cape Foulweather and Cape Lookout as Rocky Habitat Conservation Areas. Seconded by Jules. 6 in favor. Julie forgot to vote. December 11, 2020.

IV. Treasurer's report (Robert)

Robert presented his report, the last one of his tenure on ExCom. Happily, he remains as our treasurer as an at-large member.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report. Dave made the motion, Karl the second. Motion carried.

V. Outings (Jules)

Jules reported that two MPG members have stepped up for leaders' training. One hopes to lead backpacks, the other is an experienced hike leader for other groups and both are heartily welcomed.

In answer to Robert's question as to who keeps records showing which leaders require trainer recertification, Melanie said she keeps the records and lets people know in advance when their training is due.

VI. Peak View (Jules)

MPG will continue its new series of favorite local hikes by publishing in the Peak View the account of a local hike along with photos, both from Dave Rabinowitz. Leslie will send out an invitation to other leaders to share stories or information on hikes they particularly recommend.

VII. ExCom elections (Mike)

Mike reported that four people ran for four ExCom open positions. People could vote online or via paper ballots. 86 people cast either email or paper ballots for three incumbents (Julie Arrington, Jules Moritz, and Karl McCreary) and hike leader Mary Beth Downes. The ExCom thanks them for their service.

Motion to accept the results as presented. Robert made the motion and Dave the second. Julie thanked Mike for running this election and noted what a lot of work it takes to run an election on an annual basis in accord with MPG's by-laws.

VIII. Chapter report (Julie)

Chapter representatives have been meeting monthly for an hour. The Chapter also met in December for the three-hour quarterly meeting. Chapter has another quarterly meeting this month.

The Chapter conservation committee submitted comments to the State on the Elliott State Forest which will be managed by OSU. The committee is concerned about stopping clear cutting/timber sales to fund the forest and wants to highlight the benefits of partnerships and carbon sequestration.

The Chapter Executive Committee including new treasurer, Ryan Howard, has been working on the budget for 2021. The Treasurer's manual is 700 pages long.

The Chapter voted to shift money designated for the Beyond Coal Campaign to Energy Democracy. It also shifted money for the Ready for 100 program to Portland Clean Energy Fund (otherwise, the money would have been lost). Chapter doesn't have a Director of Conservation to do the work.

Julie will set up alias names for MPG ExCom on MPG's website to decrease the possibility of scammers stealing email addresses. Dian of Chapter will help. She will send you an email to test the new address.

IX. Conservation projects wrap-up for 2020 (Dave)

Starting in 2010, MPG and partners planted native arboreta on school grounds in conjunction with public schools and have maintained them since then. When schools shut down due to the Covid virus, Dave responded to a request to put together a slideshow on the arboreta to share virtually with school kids. Dave started with the earliest established arboretum at Crescent Valley High School for teachers to use with their students--which they have been doing to good effect. This year a college student wanting to pursue a project took on the continuation of this project to enhance the educational opportunities inherent in the arboreta by putting together a power-point on the Cheldelin arboretum along with a curriculum tied in to it. Dave commented on what a positive (and labor intensive) way to document these projects.

A. The Arboreta slide shows have been distributed to the school administration, teachers, the school sustainability coordinators and to the Education Action Team of the Corvallis

Sustainability Coalition that assists the school sustainability coordinators. The School Sustainability Coordinator also forwarded the slide shows to the Green Schools Foundation which will be forwarding them to public schools around the state. The show has also been forwarded to some neighbors of the respective schools. Suggestions for further distribution is requested.

B. As a result of the \$500 donation to the Dunawi Creek Regeneration Project, 10 Western Crabapple trees, 25 Pacific Willows and 96 Common Rush were planted at the site wetland. These three species are critical to both the cultural and environmental restoration of the wetland and its functions. All three species can flourish in this type of wetland. (Over 1400 plants were purchased--all culturally and esthetically important.)

Western Crabapple was planted in a grove, which will provide important shade for summer water retention, a summer cool location for biota and great opportunities for pollination and species spreading. The tree is an important food source for pollinators, birds, and mammals. Culturally, Western Crabapple is used by Kalapuya for medicine, food, basketmaking and tool implements.

Pacific Willow was planted in the wetland at the most downstream portion on the City property to create a natural hydrological diversion and restrictive barrier, to shade and cool the water as it leaves the property and to provide food/materials to eventually attract beaver (their favorite tree is Pacific Willow) from the adjacent Mulkey Creek to build a beaver dam at this site. Additional Pacific Willow were planted in the middle of the field and in the middle of the proposed creek course to slow down and spread out the creek corridor, to stabilize the creekside soils, to shade the creek, to provide aquatic habitat and to attract beavers to produce a dam at this site. It also provides food for insects, pollinators, birds and mammals. Kalapuya uses include multiple food sources, basketmaking, bow-making, fabric production, tea, medicine and charcoal.

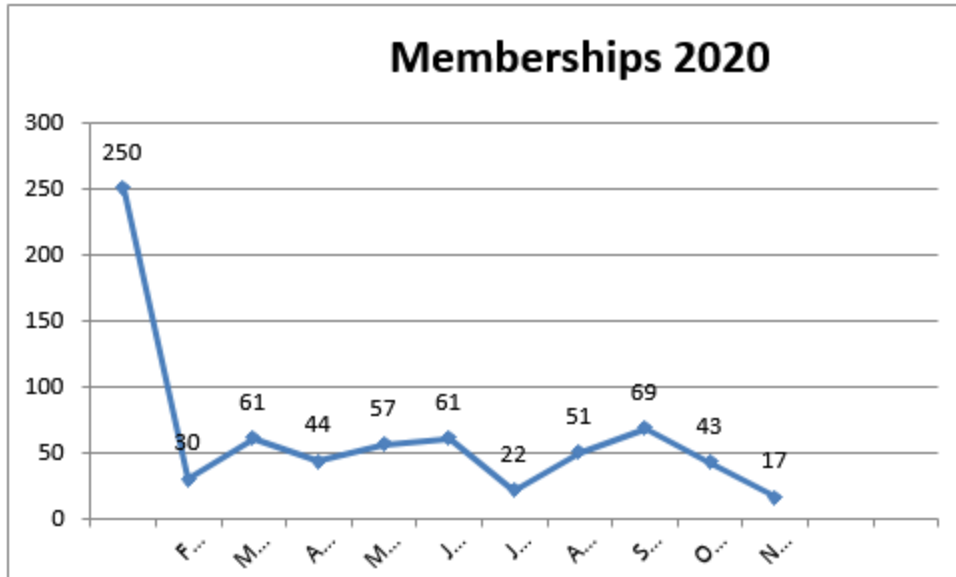
Common Rush - a grass-like graminod, the rush was planted exclusively along the downstream side of the wetland. It stabilizes and nourishes the soil, provides wetland habitat and food for insects, pollinators and birds, proliferates quickly to protect the wetland soil from UV exposure and cools the wetland waters. Kalapuya use rush for basket making and mats. It can also be used for tea.

Volunteers on these valuable projects are always welcome. The power-points can be found on the MPG website.

Julie noted how impressed Chapter is with these projects. Hats off to Dave for his vision and sustained work on these projects.

X. Membership (Melanie)

The graph shows the record of the letters of welcome that Melanie sent to new MPG members.



Adjourn:

Before adjourning, Dave commented on what a large and much appreciated contribution Robert White has brought to ExCom as former chair, treasurer and sage member. He steps off the ExCom as Mary Beth, a current MPG hike leader, takes her seat as a board member.

Motion to adjourn the 2020 excom. Robert made the motion and Mike the second. Julie adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

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 January 12, 2021 via Zoom

ExCom: Julie Arrington (Chair), Karl McCreary (Vice Chair), Dave Eckert (Program Chair), Jules Moritz (Outings), Melanie Feder (Membership), Mike Neeley-Brown, Mary Beth Downes

Present: Robert White (Treasurer), Leslie Hogan (Secretary)

I. Election of Chair for 2021 ExCom

Motion to re-elect Julie Arrington as Chair. Dave made the motion and Jules the second. The motion carried unanimously and rousingly. THANK YOU, Julie, for serving.

II. Election of Required Positions

A. Vice chair

Motion to elect Karl McCreary as vice-chair. Dave made the motion and Jules the second. The vote passed unanimously and again with thanks.

B. Group representative to Chapter

Motion to nominate Julie. Dave made the motion and Mike the second.

Motion to make Mike Neeley-Brown the back-up rep. The motion was made by Dave and the second by Jules. Both motions passed unanimously.

III. Appointment of Positions

- Secretary: Leslie Hogan
- Treasurer: Robert White
- Programs: David Eckert
- Outings: Ken Fitchen as assistant chair.
- Membership: Melanie Feder
- Conservation: Julie noted that MPG needs someone to be the conservation chair so that it can participate on the Chapter conservation committee which sets the priorities for the state.

Motion to approve the slate. Dave made the motion and Mike the second. Again, unanimous yeas with thanks from Julie for people who are “sticking in and staying with it.”

IV. Programs (Dave)

A. Dave suggested that we put an article about last year's Champinefu Lectures in the National newsletter. Dave has an image of the Tribes' logo to send to Julie to accompany the article.

B. Liz and Bob Frenkel Hiking and the Environment Spring Lecture Series - The Series will be held virtually by webinars hosted by the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library in March, April and May. No dates have been chosen, and MPG can begin that process at this meeting. The Series is focused on the three local natural areas for which Liz and Bob Frenkel left a considerable amount of funding in order to protect and promote them to the public. Each presentation will cover one of the sites: its history, its current status and the proposed uses for the funding. They are:

March - Dunawi Creek Regeneration Site at Bald Hill Natural Area - Presented by Dave Eckert

April - Marys Peak - Presented by Barry Wulff

May - Jackson-Frazier Wetland - Presented by Phil Hays

The library will host the webinars. Julie asked the board to look for conflicts with other events as we find dates for these events. This schedule is tentative.

V. Conservation (Dave)

A. Julie noted that the Elakha Alliance is hosting a webinar on January 14th at 7:00pm on “Oregon's Lost Sea Otters: Restoring a Cultural Heritage and Ecological Keystone.” The information is on their website.

B. MPG voted in Jan. of 2020 to plant trees, if the school district pays for them, to replace the arboretum at Garfield School that came down for the sake of a parking lot. Dave noted that

MPG would not be able to plant them until the pandemic is over. Dave has had no further communication with the School District. It has already planted trees on its property on its own, but there has been no tree planting on the new wide landscaping strip between the sidewalk and the street. Dave will check into the city's plan for that strip and then will follow up with the District on its plan to plant more trees or not.

C. Dave reported that he begins new negotiations with the USFS this Thursday on the interpretive signs on Marys Peak for the Frenkels' funded project.

VI. Mary Beth suggested at her welcome meeting at the end of Dec. that the ExCom start keeping notes on the requirements of each ExCom position and how those who hold those positions now run them. Recruiting "new blood" to take over positions of leadership will be easier and transitions smoother if current office-holders keep notes on what their jobs entail. Melanie has agreed to coordinate these "notes."

VII. Treasurer's Projections (Robert)

Robert worked up a "projection" report, not an official "budget," rather a look into the future at potential funding and expenses as a guideline for action.

VIII. Georgia Pacific plant in Toledo (Julie)

Debra Higbee-Sudyka sent Julie an email about the Georgia Pacific plant in Toledo that wants to increase the size of its landfill next to the Yaquina River. The time to respond has passed. Julie sent the email to ExCom members for their information. MPG would have to research this more to see if there is any way to get involved and to determine if it wants to.

IX. Potential meeting of ExComs from all the Oregon groups (Julie)

Ryan Kounovsky, Chair of Many Rivers Group, has suggested that the ExComs of Many Rivers Group, Juniper Group, MPG and the Illinois Valley Section meet via Zoom to share ideas on what each Group is doing and to exchange solutions to any issues they might have. Saturday, February 27th has been proposed.

Jules requested an agenda be published so members can tune in to issues that are of particular interest to them.

IX. Next meeting: April. Look for a Doodle Poll

X. **Motion** to adjourn made by Mike. Jules made the second.

Adjourned at 7:40 p.m.