Marys Peak Group Executive Committee Final Minutes

June 23, 2021 via Zoom

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

Present: Tom Lum Forest (Chapter ExCom Chair)

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

Recorder: Karl McCreary

I. Welcome and announcements

II. Approval of minutes

Julie moved, Mike seconded, to approve the minutes of our 4/29/21 excom meeting. Passed unanimously on 5/8/21

III. Motions passed by email

There were no email votes other than to approve the minutes.

IV. Treasurer's report (Robert)

Motion to accept report: David moved; Jules seconded. Report approved.

V. Outings (Jules)

Pilot Outings Updates (April 2021)

4 outings to date, all day trips, 5-10 participants

Leader feedback before: get rid of wearing masks at all times, masks are too restrictive, completing a medical for is too much

Leader feedback after: phone calls to each participant prior to the event are not necessary, sticking to simple hikes and small group activities worked well, fully vaccinated people should be allowed to carpool, medical should be attached to registration and waiver.

Actions taken: created fillable medical form and attached to Campfire Event registration

Pilot Outings Updates (May 2021)

8 outings to date, all day trips, 10-20 participants

Leader feedback before: it's unrealistic to require people to wear masks for all of the hike but does make sense to require people to have them, requiring a medical form that goes beyond covid-related questions is too conservative

Leader feedback after: many of the Covid-19 protocols are no longer necessary, mask wearing should not be required for vaccinated people (other than where social distancing is difficult, mask wearing for unvaccinated should be recommended, get rid of the medical form

Actions taken: n/a

Pilot Outings Updates (June 2021)

n/a outings to date, n/a all day trips, maximum 10 participants/leader

Leader feedback: masks are required for indoor close quarters, optional outdoors regardless of vaccination (not required for day trips), communicate before outing and/or after in regards to Covid-19 exposure (incident report), medical form not required for day trips, safety management plan (1-800-OUTINGS), group sign-in for contact tracing. Policy for minors TBD and offices will reopen ~7/19. The previous request to limit outings to 50% of last year's will grow 10% monthly until we're back to 100%.

Actions taken: presented to Outing Chairs 6/22.

Discussion: Julie-what do they mean by 50%? Jules-each group looks at their rate of outings from last year, not number participants.

Both MPG Outings Chair Jules Moritz and Mike Neeley-Brown have passed their OLT 101 training within the last month and have current Basic First Aid cards. So, it is my understanding that Mike Neeley-Brown can help me (Jules) with my apprentice hikes.

Julie--Carolyn may be current too.

VI. Peak View and Facebook (Julie and Jules)

A. Forest Dell / Brandis Park / Powerline Trail / Chip Ross Park hike by Dave Rabinowitz

Dave gave us several photos of this hike with direction arrows added to the pictures. We could use the photos on Facebook and use this text in the Peak View and on Facebook. The text is below:

"One of my favorite hikes to lead in the Corvallis area is sort of unique in that the trailhead is accessible by a city bus during the school year. We meet at the downtown transit center and take the 50 bus (Kings / Chs / Highland / Crescent Valley) to the NW Meadow Ridge Place stop on Highland, north of Walnut. Crossing to the west side of Highland and walking a few feet up NW Highland Dell Drive you find an almost hidden entrance to the Forest Dell Park trail. The trail heads west and splits into two sections which meet up at the other end of the park. You can take either one, and I just go with whichever I feel like. The trail is reminiscent of hiking trails in the Cascades, but is still within Corvallis city limits. At the far end of the trail you get to an information board and water tanks. Walk to the right of the tanks and up a paved path through the trees until you find an entrance to a trail through Brandis City Park. There are several alternative routes through this park, though some don't really go all the way through so you might have to double back and take another. I usually keep right until the last left turn option, but you can't know it's the last unless you keep going to the right, but you don't end up going too far. Follow this trail and you'll come out at the Powerline Trail. which will be easy to recognize by the power lines. If you're tired you can turn left and take the trail down to Walnut at Kings, from which you can get a number 5 bus back to the transit center, but I usually turn right and hike the trail up to NW Lester Avenue, passing some pretty impressive mansions in a seldom-visited part of town. Turn left on Lester and you quickly find yourself at the parking area for Chip Ross Park. Check out the routes on the map at the park kiosk and choose a path, eventually descending to the Timberhill residential area. From there you can walk down NW 29th Street to Walnut and take a number 1 or 7 bus back to the transit center, or walk east on Walnut to the Timberhill Shopping Center and take a number 5 bus.

"The hike can be as short as 2 miles if you turn left on the Powerline trail, or more than 4 miles, depending on which paths you take in Chip Ross Park, and elevation gain can vary from a couple of hundred feet to about five hundred feet.

"One issue with this hike is that the number 50 bus runs on a very limited schedule and only when Crescent Valley High School is in session, but you can always walk up Highland from Walnut (number 4 bus), adding about half a mile to the total distance."

Action: We need a motion to use this article in the Peak View and on our Facebook page.

<u>Motion</u> to approve: Dave moved; Jules seconded. Jules--Good suggestion for an outing. Dave-City Parks and Rec has a history of local parks, so maybe that might be good to include. Not online, contact Jude Geist for more information. All ayes.

- B. Doris deLespinasse suggested that we have Bob Lillie write an article for the Peak View and Facebook. Dave recommends that Bob Lillie be asked first. He literally wrote the book on the Marys Peak and surrounding area geology, is an OSU Geology professor emeritus and will be developing the geology interpretive panels for Marys Peak. I believe he had previously written a geology article for the Benchmark. Perhaps we can republish his previous article.
- C. Doris has more article ideas. She suggests "one more about flowers, places to look for them in the Cascades, with a couple of specific plants. Then get into other

things. Looking at the rocks actually is better when there aren't leaves on the trees and shrubs, so a few months from now would be fine. I found that Bob Lillie has an extensive thing on line about Marys Peak rock, so it could be an introduction with a reference to that for people who want more. Maybe also something on Corvallis geology. And something about birds that arrive here in fall, also what leaves. Carolyn? Or someone else?"

Motion to approve-Dave; Jules seconded. All ayes.

VII. Conservation projects (Dave)

A. South Corvallis Greenway and Corridor - Motion below - The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition invites the Executive Committee of the Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club to endorse the concept of a South Corvallis Greenway and Pedestrian Corridor that extends from SW Crystal Lake Drive to SW Allen Street along the Mill Race in South Corvallis.

<u>Background</u> -The Mill Race is a human-made waterway trenched and deepened in South Corvallis from a previous natural marshland drainage corridor. It is also a Marys River floodway during extreme rainstorms and a rapid-response stormwater conveyance drainage trench for 99W and a large portion of South Corvallis. It is also an aquatic and terrestrial animal refuge corridor and a shaded "cooling corridor" for South Corvallis during hot summers.

- M.i. The original human purpose of the Mill Race was to feed a steady supply of water from the dammed Marys River to a mill wheel located on the banks of the Willamette River. The dam and the milling complex are now gone and the Mill Race no longer serves its intended industrial functionality. For more background, go to CORVALLIS MILL RACE HOME.
- M.ii. Former community asset The Mill Race was a community asset from the 1850s through the early 1960s. It served commercial, recreational, transportation and social connectivity functions for both South Corvallis and Benton County. The Mill Race no longer serves those functions.
- Former Environmental Refuge The Mill Race was an important refuge for migratory and resident aquatic species, primarily during flooding, but also throughout the year. Plentiful calm, flowing water was a relatively safe habitat throughout the year. That habitat no longer exists and is replaced by alternating flood waters and minimal excessively warm still water. The deep trench now lowers the groundwater table precipitously for surrounding South Corvallis. Despite these conditions, juvenile cutthroat trout and Coho Salmon still seek refuge in the lower half of the corridor, up to the 99W crossing near Lilly.
- Economic and Ethnic Segregation 99W (SE 3rd Street) in South Corvallis is an ODOT-managed north-south state highway. The highway segregates South Corvallis into two economically unequal sections. The highway design has exacerbated social and economic inequity and connectivity in the community. The westside has significant hispanic populations. The eastside does not.
- Traffic Safety Problems The highway is the location of recent pedestrian and bicyclist deaths and injuries.
- ☑..vi. Flooding Problems The highway at the Mill Race crossing is both a

choke point and the receiving point for flood waters from four separate directions and sources. The highway design exacerbates the flooding and diminishes the highway's functionality as a transportation route and limits development opportunities.

- M..vii. The Mill Race offers the only motor-free corridor directly connecting the east and west sides of 99W where transportation, flood safety, social equity and environmental quality issues are significantly improved.
- National background A South Corvallis Greenway intro-PowerPoint presentation Is available for viewing.

Endorsement Proposal - The Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club endorses the concept of a South Corvallis Greenway and Pedestrian Corridor that extends from SW Crystal Lake Drive to SW Allen Street along the Mill Race in South Corvallis. We request that the City of Corvallis and Oregon Department of Transportation work with appropriate agencies, non-profit organizations and individuals to develop a South Corvallis Greenway and Pedestrian Corridor to improve east/west alternative forms of transportation, social equal access and connectivity, flood and transportation safety and environmental quality in an area where these qualities are lacking. We also endorse the concept that the City and ODOT incorporate whatever planning tools are most efficient and effective at enabling the development of this corridor. This is a unique time to act with overlapping City, State and Federal proposals, plans and projects to improve all of these needs.

Motion: The *Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club* endorses the concept of a South Corvallis Greenway and Pedestrian Corridor that extends from SW Crystal Lake Drive to SW Allen Street along the Mill Race in South Corvallis. We further recommend that the City of Corvallis and ODOT incorporate whatever planning tools are most efficient and effective at enabling the development of this corridor.

APPROVED - Move to endorse; Mike; Jules seconded. Julie-do we write a letter? Dave-a two to three sentence endorsement statement at some point, emphasize social equity aspect. Karl-does this to relate to the new bike path? Dave-Part of this plan will tie this to part of the Willamette River Trail. ODOT monies available for connecting projects. As it is right now, two north-south segregated bike paths, the Mill Race project will tie them together. All ayes.

B. Dunawi Creek Regeneration Site at Bald Hill Natural Area update, no motion - this is a 5-acre City-owned natural area with an ephemeral creek inhibited by a tiny culvert and is buried across the natural area field in an underground agricultural drainage pipe. We are resurrecting the creek and regenerating the riparian zone. Project started in 2016. The MPG has partnered with the Corvallis Sustainability and the City of Corvallis on this project.

Progress update - All pandemic-restricted era work has been led and managed by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition.

- ☑..i. Planting of salvaged camas from other sites to be developed.
- ☑..ii. Weeding & Mulching of project areas planted in the last two years and in the area being prepared for planting this November.

- ☑..iv. Plant survey initiated with OSU students/faculty
- ☑..vi. Ordered \$3,781.25 (MPG funded \$500 of that) worth of wholesale native plants for November planting. That represents 791 individual native plants of 18 different native species
- ☑..vii. Site photo documenting plus drone photography and cinematography
- Site webinar produced, recorded and soon available through the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library.

Next Steps - All pandemic-restricted era work will be led and managed by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition.

- Working with City Youth Volunteer Corps to dig initial 791 planting holes for November planting. The holes will be covered with cardboard and wood chips for decomposition, moisture barrier and weed suppressant.
- ☑..iii. Use a City water truck and donated water tanks from July through September to water the native plants installed in 2020.
- Working with contracted (by Corvallis Sustainability Coalition) engineering firm to complete final culvert construction drawings.
- Submit final drawings to City/state for permit review and approval.
- Native plants closer to the culvert this November and December with the help of OSU and high school student volunteers.
- C. Lamprey Creek Riparian Regeneration Project & Lamprey Creek Awakening Video update, no motion This project started with the MPG endorsement of the naming of an unnamed Oak Creek tributary in Corvallis as Lamprey Creek, the first creek in the United States to commemorate the Lamprey species by name. The name was approved by the Oregon Geographic Names Board and the U.S. Geological Survey. The creek naming ceremony was presented by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla and the creek was blessed by Ampinefu Kalapuya David Harrelson. Since then, the turf grass riparian zones of Lamprey Creek as it passes through Dr. MLK, Jr. Park has been regenerated into a natural vegetative buffer with native trees, shrubs, ferns and perennials.

Progress Update - All pandemic-restricted era work has been led and managed by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition.

- ☑..i. This year we partnered with a Girl Scout who is attaining an advanced award and needed to manage a project. She has been managing and maintaining the 5th of 5 regeneration sites along Lamprey Creek. She will be planting 59 new native plants in November.
- ☑..ii. Mulching and weeding have been the primary maintenance work this season.

Next Steps - All pandemic-restricted era work will be led and managed by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition.

Video of Lamprey Creek Awakening Event

- ☑..i. A YouTube video was just found that an OSU student made of the Awakening event. While the video doesn't convey the whole event with its many parts, it displays powerful presentations. This 30-minute video is highly recommended for learning important local cultural and biological information and for experiencing a cultural awakening that is beginning to occur in Corvallis.
- ☑..ii. Here is the video link <u>Lamprey Creek Awakening World Fish Migration</u> Day - YouTube

IX. Programs (Dave)

A. Liz & Bob Frenkel Hiking and Environment Spring Lecture Series - update, no motion

Background - The MPG has produced Hiking and Spring Lectures series since the beginning of the 21st century. In 2019, following the passing of Liz and Bob Frenkel, the MPG ExCom decided to name the Spring Hiking and Environment Spring Lecture Series after Liz and Bob to honor their lifetime of work for the Sierra Club, particularly, the MPG and Oregon Chapter.

2021 Program - The series this year continued the decades-long pattern of success for the series. Due to the pandemic, the program was in the webinar format. We partnered with the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library again, and they hosted the 3 webinars. The theme was "The Gift" because it referred to three gifts the Frenkels gave to provide a sustainable future for three natural areas that are frequently used by the MPG Outings - Jackson-Frazier Wetland, Marys Peak and Bald Hill Natural Area. Representatives of AFRANA (Alliance For Recreation and Natural Areas), the U.S. Forest Service, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Marys Peak Alliance, the City of Corvallis and the Corvallis Sustainability Water Action Team all provided audio-visual presentations. Each of the three presentations had over 100 households viewing. And each was recorded by the library.

Webinar links - Each of the recorded presentations will be linked to the library website, plus the websites of the MPG, AFRANA, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and Oregon Explorer. The closed-captioned recordings are expected to be available by July 1st from the Library.

B. Marys Peak Interpretation Displays - Update, possible motion

Background - The Marys Peak Alliance (MPA) was initiated and incubated within the Marys Peak Group in 2012 for the purpose of helping the public and Marys Peak landowners to better appreciate and protect Marys Peak. The MPA separated from the MPG in 2014 on good terms (changing funding and communication requirements) and continues to partner with the MPG. The MPG participated in a Marys Peak Interpretation convening in September 2019 at the Philomath City Council Chambers with 19 other agencies, tribal governments, non-profit organizations and bureaus. The MPG has also sponsored numerous Marys Peak hikes that were interpreted by MPA certified interpretive guides The MPA is currently in negotiations with the U.S. Forest Service to design and develop

interpretive displays on Marys Peak. This request is inquiring into MPG involvement with the Marys Peak interpretive displays.

Question: Would the MPG be interested in endorsing and participating?

Implications: In meetings with the US Forest Service, I can say I have the support of the Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club. This also implies, but does not commit, the MPG to provide some funding. Once the logistics and costs are determined and other partners are committed, then I will return to the ExCom with a specific request for funding.

Motion: The MPG ExCom supports the development and installation of updated interpretive displays that show the cultural, physical and ecological importance of Marys Peak for visitors to the mountain. Melanie-what would be the nature of the signage? Dave-3 foci for the signs, ecology, physical (geology), cultural significance: Native American and settler history.

APPROVED: Motion moved- Dave, Mike-seconded. All ayes.

c. Champinefu Lecture Series - update, no motion - This Fall will mark our 5th annual presentation series with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. The MPG has already funded \$1,000 this year to help pay for the honorariums. This year we will be joined by the following 5 co-sponsors:

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library (hosts the webinar)

Corvallis Sustainability Coalition (provides funding)

Spring Creek Project (provides funding)

The webinars will be presented on the second Wednesday of October, November and December at 7:00 pm. Following are the DRAFT working titles and the presenters:

October 13 - Tribal Fire -

- David Harrelson Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde Ampinefu Kalapuya member and Cultural Resources Manager and former Hotshot Wildland Firefighter
- Dustin Hawks, Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde member, Cultural Resource Protection Specialist in the Tribes Historic Preservation Office and is the Tribe's Wildland Fire Program team boss.
- ☑..iii. Amanda Rau OSU Assistant Professor– Willamette Valley/Cascades Regional Fire Specialist, Oregon State University Extension Service

November 10 - Tree Culture on Marys Peak

- ☑..i. Greg Archuleta Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde Santiam Kalapuya member, Cultural Resources Analyst and Artist
- ☑..ii. Ed Jensen OSU Professor Emeritus, College of Forestry, Author of "Trees to Know in Oregon" and "Shrubs to Know in Oregon"

December 8 - Tribal Water

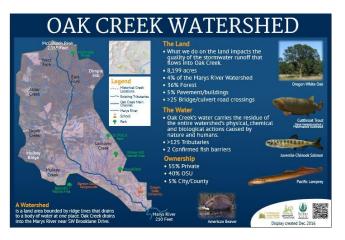
- Mathleen George Mountain Community Fund and is a member of the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission. She is the recipient of the Columbia River Hero Award.
- Meta Loftsgaarden -Executive Director for the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and chair of the Oregon 100-year Water Vision.

 Julie: Looks great! Mike-Funding secured? Dave-Coalition is a cosponsor this year. Funding is going toward honoraria for the

speakers since no space rental fee this year.

D. Dammed Oak Creek Video - introduction & motion

Background - Over the past 10 years, the MPG has initiated and helped to fund physical displays along urban creeks to educate the public about the physical, cultural and ecological importance of these creeks. These displays have been successfully installed throughout the City for that purpose. Short videos can be equally effective in educating the general population. One factor that greatly impacts the health and functionality of creeks are dams.



Beaver dams have existed on these creeks and have improved creek health for many thousands of years. Human-engineered dams have generally degraded the ecology, water quality and hydrology. The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition is sponsoring a 5-minute video revealing that dams are not harmful, but previouslyinstalled human-designed dams are. The video will guickly show a human engineer dam being removed on Oak Creek in Corvallis at OSU Campus and posit the return of beaver dams and how these new dams can help us. This would be another good opportunity for the MPG to partner and collaborate with other local organizations in producing a product aimed at improving the natural world and to have our name and organization associated with the effort. The video will be posted on the Oregon Explorer website at OSU. Links to the video will be on the Coalition's website and heavily marketed. The link can also be linked from cosponsors' website and marketing platforms. The focus will be on virtual promotion and showings, rather than live showings. But it will be available to be included in live presentations for those who request it. It also could be an added feature for our Spring lecture series.

Proposal - The MPG endorse its support for this video and commit that it will vote in the future to provide an indeterminate amount of funding for this project, dependent upon receipt of a reasonable cost/benefit report.

Motion - The MPG endorses the production of *Dammed Oak Creek* video and commits that it will vote in the future to provide an indeterminate amount of funding for this project, dependent upon receipt of a reasonable cost/benefit report.

Discussion: Mike-Who is the money going to? Dave-paying directly to Matt Kellem, the videographer who will work on this. Julie-motion for a \$1000 to vote on now? Dave-yes, let's do it now. Jules-where are the 3 dams? Dave-35th and Oak Creek-the one that has been removed in 2008 near the Center for Urban Horticulture. "Pop-up" dam near Harrison and 53rd. The other Dam is in the McDonald Forest. Julie-the video would be on Oregon Explorer and where else? Dave-we can put in on the MPG website. Hope to have video done by end of summer.

APPROVED: Move to approve motion-Mike, Karl-seconded. All ayes.

E. Crescent Valley and Cheldelin Schoolyard Native Arboretums Webinars - update.

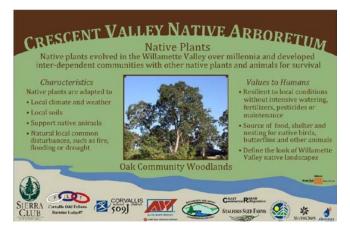
no motion

Background - In 2010, the MPG initiated and partially funded the Crescent Valley High School Native Arboretum and has helped to maintain it to this day. In 2011, the MPG initiated and partially funded the Cheldelin Middle School Native Arboretum and has helped to maintain it to this day. This past May, the MPG, in partnership with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, produced two webinars describing the initiation, process, planting and maintenance. We averaged 85 households viewing the webinars. The presentation was hosted and recorded by the Coalition

Update - The webinars will be posted on YouTube by mid-July for public viewing. The links to the webinar will be placed on both the Coalition and the MPG websites and promoted through the Peak View. The link will also be promoted through the schools and on the Coalition's distribution list. Viewing will also be required in selected classes at the two schools. We expect a high viewership.

F. Corvallis Schools Creek Interpretation Displays - introduction, motion

Background -The MPG has participated with other local organizations to design, fund, produce and install native arboretum displays for schoolyards. An example of an existing display is to the right. The Sierra Club logo is placed on the display - lower left. The Corvallis School District is interested in installing interpretive educational displays (grade appropriate) regarding the adjacent creek to various schools. The school



displays would be of a different design and grade-specific content. The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition has agreed to be involved. This project continues our involvement in the schools with displays where we have also initiated and participated in the creations, installation and maintenance of 6 schoolyard native arboretums.

Question: Would the MPG be interested in participating? If so, I would be the project lead for the MPG as I am laying the groundwork for the video..

Implications: In meetings with the School District, I can say I have the support of the Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club. This also implies that the MPG will provide an indeterminate amount of funding. Once the logistics and costs are determined and other partners are committed, then I will return to the ExCom with a specific request for funding. This request could range from the high hundreds to the low thousands.

Motion: The MPG ExCom supports the development and installation of interpretive displays that show the cultural, physical and ecological importance of urban creeks that flow past schoolyards. Following a request for a specific amount of funding to support this endeavor, the ExCom will review the request to decide its commitment to funding.

APPROVED: Motion to approve-Mike, seconded. Karl- who is writing these? Dave-Bayley and Dave will write first drafts and then submit to an intensive review process. A complex process of writing. All ayes.

X. Membership (Melanie)

No names since March. Helen has not been updated with new listings. Answering e-mail questions from old members, about 1 a month.

XI. Excom position descriptions (Melanie)

Have written and formatted descriptions for all except one position description-treasurer still waiting for.

XI. Elections

A. We annually must vote to allow for email voting for the excom elections.

MOTION: The elections for the 2022 Marys Peak Group executive committee will use electronic and paper ballots. We will use electronic votes for those members for whom we have an email address. All members who request a paper ballot will receive a paper ballot. All members for whom we don't have an email address will receive a paper ballot.

APPROVED: Motion to approve-Julie, Karl/Jules seconded. All ayes.

- B. Nominations committee: Karl, Julie and? Mary Betts a possibility, will ask her.
- C. Elections committee: Julie, ?? Mary Beth throws her hat in! Need to find a third person who is not on Excomm.
 - D. Schedule:
 - 1. Advertise elections in Peak View, Facebook and on website as soon as we get our committees filled
 - 2. Report nominees to excom 5 weeks prior to ballot mailing date: Oct 4
 - 3. Deadline for nominations petitions: Oct 18
 - 4. Paper ballots prepared by: Nov 1
 - 5. Mail ballots: 4 weeks prior to closing date: Nov 1
 - 6. Electronic voting begins Nov 1
 - 7. Voting closes: Dec 6

MOTION to approve schedule, Jules. All ayes. **APPROVED**.

XII. Next meeting. September