

Marys Peak Group Executive Committee
6/14/22
Zoom
Final Minutes

ExCom: Julie Arrington, Mike Neeley-Brown, Karl McCreary, Dave Eckert, Jules Moritz
Melanie Feder, Mary Beth Downes

Present : Robert White, Leslie Hogan

Absent:

Recorder: Leslie Hogan

Welcome and announcements

1. **Approval of minutes:** by e-mail vote, April 8. Mike made the motion, Dave made the second. The motion passed.

2. **Motions passed by email**
 - a. Julie moved that we approve the migration of our website to the latest version of the Drupal software to be compliant with National's needs. Seconded by Melanie and Dave. Unanimously passed on 5/4/22.
 - b. On 5/22/22, Julie made the following motion: I move that we publish Hilary White's article about her hike in Finley Wildlife Refuge in the Peak View and on Facebook. Mary Beth seconded. Because of the pause of the chapter, 3 ExCom members were not eligible to vote. Their terms ran out. The voting eligible people are Karl, Jules, Mary Beth and Julie who voted in favor. Passed 5/25
 - c. Julie moved to appoint Dave Eckert, Mike Neeley-Brown and Melanie Feder to the Marys Peak Group ExCom to serve through the end of 2023. Jules made the second. Vote ended 6/2/22. The 4 members of MPG ExCom eligible to vote cast their votes in favor. They are Karl, Julie, Jules and Mary Beth.
 - d. Mike moved that we appoint Julie Arrington as the Marys Peak Group representative to the Oregon Chapter Executive Committee. Seconded by Dave. Passed unanimously on 6/7/22.

3. **Election of officers for the rest of 2023**
 - a. Chair: Julie Arrington
 - b. Vice-chair: Mike Neeley-Brown
 - c. Treasurer: Robert White
 - d. Secretary: Leslie Hogan
 - e. Outings: Jules Moritz

f. Peak View: Jules Moritz

g. Programs: Dave Eckert

h. Membership: Melanie Fedder

i. Substitute representative to Chapter ExCom: Mike Neeley-Brown

MOTION: Approve the slate of candidates

Jules made the motion and Dave made the second. The motion passed.

4. Treasurer's report (Robert)

MOTION: Approve the treasurer's report.

Dave made the motion and Mike made the second. The motion passed.

5. **Outings (Jules)** Jules and Mary Beth will re-check the requirements for restarting our hiking program. Mary Beth suggested that she and Jules scout a beginning hike. Mary Beth's qualifications for leading are up-to-date. They can choose to either lead a "practice group" or advertise it in the Peak View or advertise it in the Peak View with just a limited number of hikers. Karl made the suggestion of the Marys River Recreational area as a beginning hike. Dave suggested partnering with the Marys Peak Alliance for any number of hikes on Marys Peak. Robert will advertise hikes he will lead starting in August.

6. Peak View and Facebook (Jules)

a. Mary Beth's tribute to Ken Fitschen

Mary Beth's much appreciated tip of the hat to Ken, who is retiring from MPG duties, has been published in the Peak View. So many thanks, Ken!

7. Conservation Projects (Dave)

- b. Dunawi Creek regeneration site display - Two sets of two different interpretative displays have been produced. One set is made of light-weight, corrugated waterproof materials that will be installed this week by the culvert crossing of the multimodal path nearest the regeneration site. When the culvert is about to be replaced, this first set will be easily removed. A second set is made of a longer-lasting material that will be installed following the replacement of the culvert at the site. The first set can then be used for displays at public events, whenever those start happening again.
- c. Dunawi Creek culvert replacement - Local and state permits have either been approved or will be within a couple of weeks. The delay is waiting for sign-off by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Since this is not in a floodplain or by navigable waters, this sign-off is a mere formality and will be automatically approved, once they look at the requesting document. Unfortunately, we cannot move forward until they look at it and give their stamp of approval. We still hope the culvert replacement project will be started and completed in September.
- d. Marys Peak Interpretation plan update - in a similar situation of wait, wait, wait, two issues arose to set back the plan completion. First, the Forest Service staff tasked with working with citizens to complete the plan took another job within

the Forest Service. Then Forest Service officials decided they wanted a simpler interpretation plan. I informed them that before providing any more volunteer work on the plan that they need to decide exactly what they want and how they want it to be presented. The good news is that they just hired a replacement for the interpretation specialist and he has been assigned to work on the interpretation plan with volunteers. So, it looks like we are getting it back on track and will have an easier time completing it. No timeline for delivery.

- e. Marys Peak/West Point meadow restoration update - Everything has been APPROVED and is moving forward. The partnership is depending upon the MPG grant of \$2,500, but will make a request for it at some unknown time in the future.
- f. Marys Peak BPA Communication site formal objection - The Marys Peak Alliance filed a formal objection to the approval of the BPA Communication Site to be installed on the Marys Peak summit. The objection included six separate objection points. The U.S. Forest Service denied all 6 objection points for reasons that were either essentially unexplained or ineffectively explained. The job of environmental organizations now is to have eyes on the ground because it is pretty evident the promises by all parties to protect the protected meadows can not be kept by either the BPA or the Forest Service, due to staffing shortages and depending upon unsupervised sub-contractors.
- g. Marys Peak School Field Trip - Approximately 190 eighth-grade students, 30 parents and 8 faculty members participated in the first Marys Peak Field Trip since 2018. MPG members volunteered with the Marys Peak Alliance to serve as interpretive guides.
- h. South Corvallis Greenway proposal - No forward motion in the proposal to report. We have, though, had numerous volunteer events on two properties in the proposal area to regenerate native species.
- i. Crescent Valley High School and Cheldelin Middle School Native Arboretums - Both arboretums (initially planted in 2010 and 2011 respectively) have been tended and maintained considerably this summer. Both are maturing beyond adolescence. The shrubs are at full height. The trees are now mostly 10-20 feet tall providing needed shade for the schoolyards. The plants are now completely self-sustaining and need no further summer watering. Only the weeds need tending now, but at 10% of maintenance hours of even 3 years ago.

8. Programs (Dave)

- j. Report on the Beavallis lecture series - All three lectures were successes. The Corvallis-Benton County Public Library is a treasured partner hosting the webinars and providing closed-captioned recordings of the webinars on YouTube. When combining the numbers of those watching the webinar live with those watching the recordings from the Library on a direct link or on YouTube, between 200-300 have now watched each webinar. The webinars are now used as a resource for those trying to change Oregon laws and codes regarding the killing of beaver and destruction of their dams. The links to the three BEAVALLIS webinars are:

- j.i. **Webinar #1 - How Beavers Function: Local Beavers: How They Live and How We Live with Them**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFdpKghQhzg>

- j.ii. **Webinar #2- *Opportunities for a New Beaver/Human Relationship***
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kqk2ZI5Lo48>
- j.iii. **Webinar #3 – Global and Local Benefits of Protecting Beaver**
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/4557078097092883983>
- k. Report on the Earth Day Bike Tour - We had 27 people attend the Earth Day Bike Tour titled “*Four Creeks, Two Wetlands and One Beaver Dam*”. Ten more registered but backed out at the last minute because they thought it would rain. It did not and we had a great time. We stopped with extended interpretation at Lamprey Creek, our Dunawi Creek Regeneration Site, Starker Arts Park (we explored the area next to a Beaver Dam and then toured regenerated Filtering Wetland), Shawala Point and then two sites on the Mill Race. That took us four hours. The participants were engaged, asked a lot of questions and expressed gratitude.
- l. The Fall Champinefu Lecture Series - The theme will continue to be place-based on the Confluence of the Marys River and the Willamette River. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde have not yet announced the individual webinar titles or the presenter names. The Library has agreed once again to host the webinars and co-sponsor the series.
- m. Report on the Oregon Heritage Conference
 - m.i. Dave Harrelson and Dave Eckert spoke about the Champinefu Lecture Series. David Harrelson was highly complementary about the Marys Peak Group involvement.
 - m.ii. We need to write up a story about the series and the conference and submit it to Chapter and National.
- n. The “Dammed Oak Creek” video has been seen 1110 times as of 6/6/22 and has been promoted by various environmental groups in both Oregon and California. It is being used as a reference in the legislative lobbying for beaver protection in Oregon. Also, the new OSU Dean of the Agricultural Department has re-committed their practice of protecting beaver on OSU land as a result of the lobbying by the video star, Bob Beschta.

9. Membership (Melanie)

- o. Julie initiated a discussion revisiting Melanie’s concern that new members don’t often sign up for the Peak View, and MPG cannot automatically sign them up without an email address. Melanie would like to do the Peak View on-line in the data base so everyone can access it. The complications include the fact that if they are on the data base people would get mailings from National, too. If we run Peak View through National, efficient though it is, we lose our privacy, Robert pointed out. Julie asked if we could have two lists, our private Peak View list and the group linked with National that has already been captured by Google. Two listings seems to be the answer since many of those signed up for Peak View have signed up under the understanding that it is an exclusive list that won’t open them up to other mailings. Julie asks someone to look into what would be involved in operating two lists. Melanie will also send Leslie a copy of the membership letter to possibly edit in hopes there is some way to more

energetically encourage new members to access the Peak View.

10. Electrify Corvallis campaign (Mike) Mike attended a meeting of JETA which is developing an ordinance to prevent natural gas being used in new construction. Just Energy Transition Alliance (JETA) is currently looking for a sponsoring group. Mike wants to let people who might want to get involved to know of the existence of this group.

Alternately, Dave suggests as a positive way to move forward on issues of this nature is for MPG to support on-going initiatives such as OSU's sustainability plan striving for carbon neutrality (possibly by asking the City to join forces with OSU). Julie suggests we put an article about OSU's plan in the Peak View.

5. Elections

- a. The four ExCom members whose terms expire at the end of 2022 are Mary Beth, Karl, Jules and Julie. Mike reminds them the nominating committee will need a statement and photo from each candidate.
- b. We need a nominations committee and an elections committee to be approved by ExCom.
 - b.i. Elections: Mike, Marcia Shapiro and Leslie Hogan
 - b.ii. Nominations: Mike Neeley-Brown and two more volunteers TBD
 - b.iii. There is a chapter and group elections page in Campfire. We can get the member list from Campfire.
- c. Timeline:
 - c.i. Advertise the elections in the Peak View and on our website
 - c.ii. Report nominees to ExCom 5 weeks prior to ballot mailing date: Oct 4
 - c.iii. Deadline for petitions for nomination are due 3 weeks before the mailing date: Oct 11
 - c.iv. Paper ballots are prepared by this date: Nov 1
 - c.v. Mail ballots 4 weeks prior to the closing date of voting. Nov 8
 - c.vi. Voting closes December 6

6. Chapter report (Julie)

- a. The Legislative Committee (LegCom) applied for and received money from the National office to use to hire a lobbyist for next year's long legislative session. The LegCom and Chapter ExCom are discussing goals and how the ExCom can best support the LegCom.
- b. The Chapter ExCom is looking for new members who will help create a supportive environment in which to do our work.
- c. Julie has more classes to take with the Sierra Club as required by the Resolution Team for the Chapter ExCom.

7. **Next meeting** in September to be arranged by Doodle pole. Adjourned 7:54 pm.