

Marys Peak Group Executive Committee
3/22/22 virtual meeting
final minutes

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: Julie, Robert, Melanie, Karl, David, Jules, Mike, Leslie

Absent: Mary Beth

Recorder: Leslie Hogan

I. Welcome and announcements

II. Additions to the agenda? None.

III. Approval of minutes

Dave moved to approve the minutes from our 9/27/21 meeting. Julie made the second. The vote to approve the minutes of the 9/27/21 meeting via email was unanimous.

IV. Motions passed by email

Julie moved to approve publishing Mary Beth's story about hiking with Necia on Marys Peak. Mary Beth made the second. Vote was unanimous in favor.

V. Treasurer's report (Robert)

Motion: Approve the treasurer's report.

Mike made the motion, Karl made the second, and the motion passed.

VI. Where are we going? (Julie)

Julie presented questions for future discussion and linked us to our previous minutes to remind the ExCom of ideas to keep considering as to . . . What do we see us doing in the future? What do we want to do this summer? What do we want to do this fall? How will we find new leaders?

[Minutes from 9/27/21](#)

VII. Outings (Jules & Julie)

a. Jules reported on meetings and stirrings of activities of groups coming back to activity. Melanie will report back to ExCom as to who is still qualified to lead hikes for MPG. ExCom then discussed policies that should be in place if we begin to lead hikes again. Julie suggested that all hikes stay small and we "take it slow" in the process of resuming a

schedule of hikes and activities. MPG may not require that hikers mask up on the trail. Hikers should be given a notification prior to the hike as follows, however:

“Sierra Club’s responsibility for hikes starts at the trailhead. Please be aware that if you wish to carpool to the trailhead, drivers may ask that all who ride in the car be vaccinated and/or wear masks.”

b. Julie indicated there is an opportunity to have an Outing at OSU focusing on tree identification. The ExCom agreed this is a good idea, but that we need to wait a few months to see how the pandemic evolves. The last time we sponsored such an outing at OSU (April 22, 2011 – Earth Day Tour – The Trees of OSU Campus) we had 75 people participate. We will address this tour at our next meeting.

VIII. Peak View and Facebook (Jules)

a. Ideas for Peak View stories.

1. Julie suggested articles about the life and death of an Oregon glacier and also about marbled murrelets. Leslie will contact potential authors for these articles.

2. Julie will write a “public service announcement” urging members to vote in the national board election.

3. Similarly, Leslie will contact a friend of Joanne DeMay’s for the submission of a notification of her death and appreciation of her life and her love of the outdoors.

IX. Conservation (Dave)

A. Dunawi Creek Regeneration Site Display approved by City Parks and Recreation Dept. to be installed on the west side of the Bald Hill project site adjacent to the Bald Hill Multimodal path. It is ready to print and I placed the MPG logo on the display in case the MPG wishes to co-fund the display with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. \$300 would fund about 50% of the cost.



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Dave Eckert MOVES that MPG ExCom allocates \$300 toward the costs of printing, mounting and installation of the display. The remaining costs will be covered by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition.

Melanie made the second, and the motion carried.

B. Marys Peak Interpretation Plan update (info only) - The development process is still moving forward, but has slowed down again because the Forest Service Interpretive Specialist transferred to another USFS job as a grant writer. The good news about that move is that he will be looking for grants to upgrade the Marys Peak experience. We are currently working on locations and content concepts for all physical displays on Marys Peak from the Marys Peak Road entrance to the Main Summit. Draft chapters of the plan will be sent to MPG ExCom members for comments.



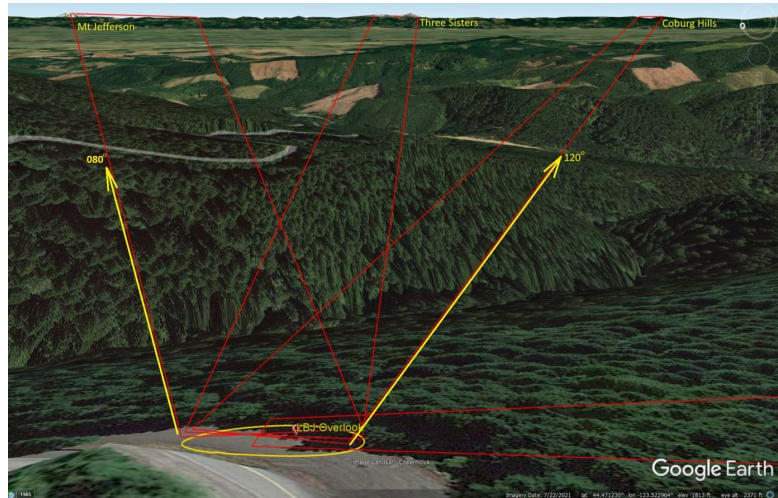
- C. Marys Peak/West Point Meadow Restoration update** (info only) - The Meadow restoration process is going forward. It looks like the final grant will be approved. The approved MPG \$2,500 grant will be requested later this year or the beginning of 2023. The adjacent graphic shows the summit and west slope of West Point (Marys Peak has 4 summits and West Point is the 3rd highest of the 4.)
- D. Marys Peak BPA Communication site construction formal objection** (info only) -The Marys Peak Alliance (MPA) filed a formal objection to the USFS tentative approval of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) plan to build a new building and tower on the summit. The formal hearing was held last week. Representing the MPA was Dave Eckert and Phil Hays (former MPG Excom member and newsletter editor). The USFS will send an official response to the objection by the MPA and I will share the response with the MPG ExCom as soon as it is received.
- E. Marys Peak School Field Trip** (info only)- There are indications that there may be a Marys Peak field trip for Cheldelin Middle School on June 9th through the Marys Peak Alliance. The Field Trip and the date are contingent upon reserving the school buses, getting final approval by school administration and the pandemic conditions at the time. There has not been a field trip to Marys Peak for students since 2018. In 2019, a logging truck accident on Marys Peak Road closed down that portion of Route 34 for the entire time of the field trips and the field trips were held elsewhere. Because of the pandemic, no field trips were held in 2020 or 2021.
- F. *She Rose from the Sea*** (info only) - All of the agreements have been approved for the artwork we co-funded about Marys Peak to be placed in the new 2nd floor indoor patio for the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. The artwork will be placed with a plaque in the patio and available for public viewing whenever the grand opening of the patio occurs. To my knowledge, that date has not been announced.
- G. South Corvallis Greenway Proposal** (info only) - While work continues on the Mill Race site on SE Bridgeway Avenue and the riparian zone is regenerating nicely, the larger proposal is stalled for the moment. No forward motion has been made with the City of Corvallis or Oregon Department of Transportation. MPG ExCom is encouraged to promote colleagues to view the webinar made about this proposal - [South Corvallis Greenway proposal - YouTube](#)
- H. Dunawi Creek Culvert Replacement** at Bald Hill Natural Area (info only) - The City Parks and Recreation Department has applied for the culvert replacement permit. The goal is that the permit will be approved and the culvert will be replaced sometime this summer. This is a BIG advance in the process.

- I. Marys Peak Road
Ridgeline Lookout and
Seral Forest Regeneration
Project** (info with question)
- The Marys Peak Alliance.



the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S.F.S. are collaborating on a public interpretation and forest regeneration project on Marys Peak Road at the 2.6 mile marker (2,400' elevation) in the Alder Creek watershed, ¼ mile up-road of Alder Creek Falls. The forest is about a 50-year uniform forest which towers above the former viewpoint. The project will selectively harvest the trees to allow view points from the lookout area and to create a biodiverse forest. The wood will be used in local Federal creeks to regenerate complex hydrological patterns that optimize native fish recovery. Work on the thinning will be in two phases (July and early October). The displays will hopefully be installed next summer. The existing paved lookout area will have 5 interpretive displays and three spectacular views:

- a. Willamette Valley and Cascade volcanoes to the southeast
- b. Flat Mountain and other Coast Range Mountains to the south
- c. Prairie Mountain and other Coast Range Mountains to the west.



This project is part of the upcoming Marys Peak Interpretation Plan. MPG ExCom expressed initial interest in its being involved with the interpretive displays. Dave will get back with more details. MPG's involvement would primarily be with funding.

X. Programs (Dave)

A. Liz & Bob Frenkel Hiking & the Environment Spring Webinars Series

BEAVALLIS: Beavers and Beaver Technologies in Corvallis. We are again co-sponsoring the series with the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. The webinars are extending the theme of the "Dammed Oak Creek" video ([dammed oak creek - YouTube](#)) co-sponsored by the MPG.

Following is a schedule with individual webinar titles, a link to the library website with more details for that webinar (presenters and individual presentation titles) and a link to register for each individual webinar.

March 31st: Local Beavers: How They Live and How We Live with Them

Three presenters explain what is happening with beavers in Corvallis and Benton County.

<https://corvallisbenton.librarycalendar.com/event/how-beavers-function-beavallis-beavers-and-beaver-technologies-corvallis>

Register here: <https://bit.ly/beavallisseries1>

April 28th: *Opportunities for a New Beaver/Human Relationship*

Four presenters explain how we can work together with beavers and the Oregon Legislation required to allow that to happen.

<https://corvallisbenton.librarycalendar.com/event/opportunities-new-beaverhuman-relationship-beavallis-beavers-and-beaver-technologies>

Register here: <https://bit.ly/beavallisseries2>

May 19th: *Local and Global Benefits of Protecting Beavers*

Three presenters explain why we must work with beavers to survive climate change and environmental degradation, both locally and globally.

Motion: MPG will pay for the \$200 honorarium for Suzanne Fouty, one of the presenters. Dave made the motion, Mike the second, and the motion passed.

<https://corvallisbenton.librarycalendar.com/event/local-and-global-benefits-protecting-beavers-beavallis-beavers-and-beaver-technologies>

Register here: <https://bit.ly/beavallisseries3>

BEAVALLIS T-Shirts - The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Water Action Team is considering producing BEAVALLIS, Oregon T-shirts (organic cotton). If they do produce the shirt (\$20/shirt), would the ExCom be interested in purchasing shirts to give as a token gift to the presenters and the two library hosts for their work on the webinars? I believe it will mean a lot to them. The total cost for 10 presenters and 2 hosts would be \$240.

Dave Eckert MOVES: The MPG ExCom allocate \$240 to purchase 12 t-shirts to give to the 10 presenters and 2 webinar hosts as tokens of appreciation for their work on the webinars. Mike made the second, and the motion passed.

- B. Earth Day BikeTour** on 4/22/22 - *Four Creek Projects for Earth Day - A Bike Tour*. The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition is already a sponsor. MPG would co-sponsor the tour with them. Robert White has agreed to be the designated outing leader, while I will be the interpretive guide. Volunteers to photo and video record portions of this Bike Tour are needed. The proposed tour will be:
- a. Start at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park (the tour highest elevation point) to walk the Lamprey Creek Regeneration Sites with an interpretive presentation.
 - b. Proceed down Walnut Blvd. Multimodal path to the Midge Cramer Trail at Reservoir Road. Take the trail west to the Bald Hill Multimodal Path and stop for a presentation at the Dunawi Creek (North Branch) Regeneration Site.
 - c. Return the same way to the "T" where Reservoir Road meets 53rd Street. Turn

right onto the 53rd Street Multimodal path to Country Club Drive. Turn left onto the Country Club Multimodal path and stop for a presentation at the Starker Arts Park Filtering Wetland Project by the Dunawi Creek - South Branch.

- d. Continue east on the same Multimodal Path through Pioneer Park, cross the Marys River Bike Bridge, continue on the Eric E. Austin Memorial Bike Path to Crystal Lake Drive. Turn left on Crystal Lake Drive to Bethel. Then right on SE Bridgeway Avenue to the Mill Race Riparian Restoration Project site. The tour is 12 miles from MLK Park with the Mill Race in S. Corvallis as the terminus..

Dave Eckert MOVES that MPG ExCom authorizes the Earth Day Bike Tour to be co-sponsored by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Water Action Team. Melanie made the second, and the motion passed.

- C. Fall Champinefu Lecture Series** (MOTION required) - The Confederated Tribes has agreed to co-sponsor the 6th annual Champinefu Lecture Series. This will be our third time using the webinar format. This is the first time that the whole series is focused on one location and then viewing that location through the lens of the Kalapuya in three different ways. The location is of the confluence of the Marys and Willamette Rivers. The Champinefu band of the Kalapuya were located in the Marys River Valley, and the confluence with the Willamette has had special significance, one that has not been shared by or with the settler population. As in all of the Champinefu series, the presenters and individual subjects will be chosen by the Cultural Resources Department of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. More information to follow.

Dave Eckert MOVES that MPG ExCom authorizes the 2022 Champinefu Lecture Series as described to be co-sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, Spring Creek Project and the Corvallis-Benton County Library. Jules made the second, and the motion passed.

- D. March 30: Academy for Lifelong Learning** (info only) - Marys Peak: Are We Loving It Too Much? The Corvallis Academy for Lifelong Learning invited Dave Eckert to speak to the organization in a virtual presentation about Marys Peak. Eckert will present basic background, a virtual trip up Marys Peak and an introduction to components of the upcoming Marys Peak Interpretation Plan. The presentation will close with a discussion of whether or not we are loving it too much and causing damage to that which we love so much.

- E. April 29: Oregon Heritage Conference** (info only) - David Harrelson of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde has asked Dave Eckert to present with him at this virtual state conference about the Champinefu Lecture Series. Following is the promotional blurb: *Centering Tribal Knowledge through Community Collaboration: Corvallis' Champinefu Lecture Series Come learn about what successful collaboration with a Tribe has looked like in Corvallis. 2021 brought the 5th year of the Champinefu Lecture Series, named after the local Kalapuya people's name for the Corvallis area. This has been a partnership between Marys Peak Group and The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde with additional co-sponsorship by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, Spring Creek Project, and The Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. This*

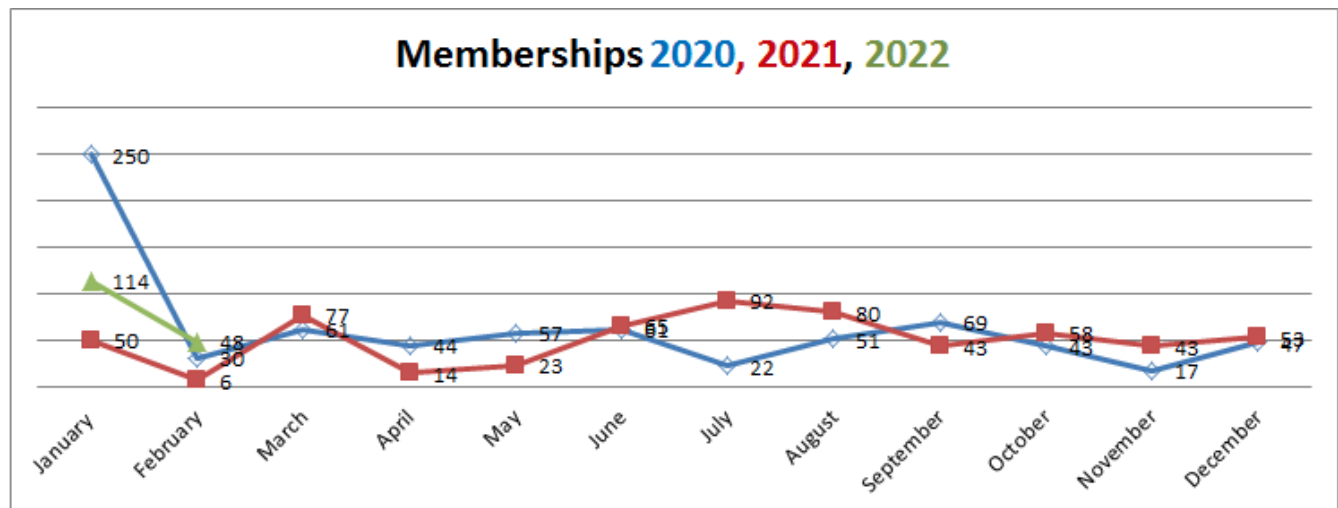
series was created in 2016 to share information about the indigenous Kalapuya people with the Corvallis community. In the first three years of in-person talks at the Majestic Theater there were over 2700 attendees. With the onset of the pandemic, a virtual format was adopted and increased reach including views after live events through publicly available recordings hosted in 2021 by the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. Presenters: David Harrelson, Cultural Resources Department Manager, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; Dave Eckert, Marys Peak Group.

Julie suggested that, upon completion of this Conference, MPG writes up the story of the series and the conference and submits it to National.

F. Dammed Oak Creek (info only) - The 9-minute video co-sponsored by the MPG has now been viewed by over 880 to date. It has helped viewers to understand the multiple values of beaver dams during climate change and to be aware of beaver protection state legislation that are wallowing in legislative committees.

G. Solar arrays (info only) - Benton Habitat for Humanity is still promoting the MPG role in initiating and co-funding solar panels on low-income Habitat homes in Corvallis. Solarize Corvallis is focusing on solar panels for institutional buildings that need resilient energy sources to protect the community through climate change and other energy threats. They have worked to provide large-scale institutional solar on 7 local institutions, including schools, government and social services for the houseless. Upcoming projects include 3 public schools and the Taylor Water Treatment Plant in South Corvallis.

XI. Membership (Melanie)



MPG has 2,490 members in good standing. We gained 1,517 new members from 2020 through Feb. 2022.

Melanie mentioned at our last meeting that she would like to be able to send the Peak View to new members who have submitted their emails. Robert said that there are technological issues that preclude doing that. The ExCom discussed pro's and con's of various methods of reaching the new members without disrupting service to all the others who now have access

to the Peak View. Karl will talk to Irene about how many people use our Facebook page and our web site to help determine if posting the Peak View on those sites would meaningfully serve more people.

Ideas we are weighing going forward are to post the Peak View on our website and Facebook page or to look into the logistics of sending Peak View from our database to members with a second posting by which we send Peak View as we do now to non-members. The goal is to continue service to all who currently receive the Peak View and to be able to simultaneously send it to new members if we can find a technological “work around” to current impediments.

XII. Elections

When MPG is again allowed to hold elections, here are notes to remember:

There is a chapter and group elections page in Campfire. We can get the member list from Campfire.

The original nominations committee is Robert, Karl and Julie

The original elections committee is Mary Beth, Marcia Shapiro and Julie

The three members of MPG ExCom whose terms were to have ended and who were going to run again were Mike, Dave, Melanie

We may have to get feedback from National before we move on this. We need over 2 months to go through the whole process.

Here is the usual timeline:

Advertise the elections in the Peak View, Facebook and on our website

Report nominees to ExCom 5 weeks prior to ballot mailing date

Deadline for nominations petitions: 3 weeks before mailing date

Paper ballots prepared by this date_____

Mail ballots: 4 weeks prior to closing date

Voting closes

XIII. Chapter political committee (Mike)

Endorsements are in the process of being made.

XIV. Chapter legislative committee (Julie)

I have been attending the chapter legislative committee meetings for many months now. The committee worked hard presenting testimony at hearings during the short session. We sent out alerts to chapter members, and 700 actions were taken. I was the committee’s representative to the Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) which is organized by the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. OCN is composed of groups which are working on conservation and justice issues. They shared lots of intelligence about upcoming bills and the possibility of their passage.

We are already planning for next year’s session.

Two excellent staff from National have been mentoring us.

I don’t think that I have been officially appointed as MPG’s representative to the committee.

Motion: Appoint Julie to the legislative committee.

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

XV. Chapter conservation committee (Melanie)

There are a lot of events taking place with the Conservation Committee of Sierra Club in Oregon. Here is a brief summary:

- The Conservation Committee is working in a coalition with other environmental organizations to divest state pension funds and other investments in fossil fuels.
 - State forest practices are dated and Chapter is trying to update them.
 - Portland area is trying to put a team together to work on resisting a natural gas pipeline.
 - The committee is establishing a newsletter asking for help on climate change issues.
 - Patricia Bloom of Illinois Valley Section made a passionate plea for dealing with the BLM which is cutting trees (>30in) in the name of thinning. Trees are earmarked for cutting which comprise 30 to 40% of existing canopy. All this is being done without an Environmental Impact Statement.
 - Gretchen from Juniper Group stated that ponderosa pines are being cut without any recourse.

XVI. Amendments and/or changes to MPG Bylaws (Mike)

Mike gave a report about by-laws.

XVII. Next meeting: Julie will send out a doodle poll for a June meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22.