

Marys Peak Group Executive Committee Approved Minutes  
09-27-21

Zoom Meeting

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

Guests: Tom Lum Forest (Chapter ExCom Chair)

Present: Julie Arrington, Karl McCreary, Mike Neeley-Brown, Dave Eckert, Jules Moritz, Melanie Feder, Mary Beth Downes, Robert White, Leslie Hogan

Absent: none

Recorder: Leslie Hogan

**I. Welcome and announcements** Julie introduced Tom Lum Forest, chapter chair, and welcomed him to the meeting.

**II. Any additions to the agenda?** None.

**III. Motions passed by email**

- a. Minutes from 6/23/21 were approved on 7/16/21.
- b. Dave made the motion to approve the promotional article regarding the South Corvallis Greenway Proposal Webinar and print it in the July 4 and 15 Peak View and post it on the MPG webpage and Facebook page. Julie made the second. Motion passed unanimously on 7/1/21.
- c. Email vote 8/15/21. Melanie made the motion to approve Karl McCreary, Robert White and Julie Arrington as the nominations committee for ExCom elections in 2021. Jules made the second. yes: Julie, Dave, Mary Beth, Melanie, Jules, Mike, Karl
- d. Email vote 9/4/21. Motion made by Dave and seconded by Melanie to approve the nominations committee of Robert White, Karl McCreary and Julie Arrington. Also approved the elections committee of Mary Beth Downes, Marcia Shapiro and Julie Arrington. Motion passed.

**IV. Treasurer's report (Robert)**

**Motion:** Pass the treasurer's report.

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

**V. Discussion (Julie):**

**What are our goals this year?**

### **Dave Eckert Suggestions:**

**Outreach Goal** -- Poll members in Linn, Lincoln, Benton, Polk and Marion Counties through the new National email list serve for recommendations for programs/projects in the county and reach out for volunteers to administer those projects/programs. This polling would also hopefully lead toward nurturing potential ExCom members from all five counties.

· **Environmental Justice Goal** – Help to remediate environmental justice issues in poverty areas to promote and create more trees and natural places in low-income neighborhoods in our group area.

Discussion from ExCom yielded these suggestions on achieving that goal: Mary Beth suggested tapping into the manpower of The Arc, and she would be willing to act as a liaison for tree-planting, for example. Jules noted keeping in mind the need for maintenance of the plantings as well.

### **Where do we want to be in 2 years?**

**Dave Eckert** – Assuming I am re-elected to the ExCom in November/December, this will be my last term on the ExCom because I will be 75 and that is enough. I will continue to be active and manage some programs and projects. With that swan song in mind:

**Diversity** - I would like to see us seriously nurture active members who are diverse in location, age, ethnicity, cultural norms and sexual norms and encourage them to take leadership roles in the MPG.

More discussion yielded these ideas: Hiking with other groups could help expand our boundaries. Melanie suggested sending out emails to the many new members who do not get the Peak View to encourage their input. She also suggested putting posters at OSU at the various “houses,” such as the international houses. Mary Beth added that posters at the community libraries, etc, also would help spread a “wide net.” Dave felt the posters would be best directed toward enticing people into programs and activities and not particularly to pulling people directly into leadership such as ExCom. Once people become involved in a program or activity we can observe if they would be responsible for a leadership role. Mary Beth suggested there be a far-reaching “outreach” committee (which could meet by Zoom as necessary). Karl reminded us to also keep working folks in mind when scheduling events.

### **What do we want to do with our money?**

**Dave Eckert** - Each of the following proposals meet the Sierra Club mission of protecting nature or the current policy of social equity and environmental justice.

- Marys Peak Meadow Restoration – see attached proposal form
- Marys Peak Interpretation in-ground displays– see attached proposal form

- Oak Creek Preserve– see attached proposal form, application & graphic

**Motion:** MPG will explore the possibility of donating funds for the Oak Creek Preserve and would like to have a tour of the site as well as be a part in the

decision-making process in its development.

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

- South Corvallis Greenway– see attached proposal form
- Solar Arrays on public service buildings (along with solar powered batteries for buildings) –Proposal form not completed due to wait for specific data

**Dave Eckert** – We have \$5K coming from Chapter. How do we want to spend that?

**Motion:** MPG will spend the \$5,000 immediately upon receipt of said money from Chapter to honor the love and dedication of Liz and Bob Frenkel for Marys Peak, the most sacred place in this 5-county area since time immemorial and for their \$100,000 bequest to Chapter, which allows Chapter to grant us \$5,000.

Also, because the previous Chapter Executive Director promised the MPG \$10,000 of the Frenkel bequest to use for Marys Peak, it is fitting to use this money in the Frenkles' name. To honor half of the Chapter's promise, the work of the Frenkels and the needs of this sacred physical icon, the ExCom recommends we spend:

- \$2,500 for the Marys Peak Meadow Restoration Project– see attached proposal form, and
- \$2,500 for the Marys Peak Interpretation in-ground display project – see attached proposal form

Mike made the motion as presented by Dave, Karl the second, and the motion passed.

## **VI. Outings (Jules)**

Jules relayed information on a discussion held via Zoom meetings of National outing chairs and others concerning Covid-19, hiking and vaccinations. The upshot is that there will be no hikes until February when there may be mandates in place. Tom, Chapter outings chair, noted that there is more flexibility with leading hikes provided leaders and participants are willing to deal with filling out paper-work.

## **VII. Peak View and Facebook (Jules and Julie)**

a. MPG will run a story on protecting the wilderness around Waldo Lake.  
b. Karl is working on a new article from our stash of historic documents.  
c. Doris DeLespinasse suggested an article on the marbled murrelet. Dave suggested we ask Doris to write this, possibly with help from Jim Fairchild, former chair of Corvallis Audubon Society.

D. Mary Beth and Necia Bower from Orange Co., CA (who wrote to MPG and asked for someone from MPG to show her a local hike) arranged to hike the East Ridge to Tie Trail to North Ridge and summit. She extended an offer for others present at the meeting to join them.

## VIII. Conservation (Dave)

a. **Status of Dammed Oak Creek video** – Due to schedule conflicts of presenters and the videographer and the serious impacts of extreme drought's impact upon Oak Creek, we have delayed further filming until the rains begin again, hopefully in October. Coincidentally, there has been a sudden interest in local beaver dam activity and protecting our local beavers.

b. **Status of interpretative displays for the urban streams that flow past the schoolyards.** – Still waiting for school approval to proceed and confirmation of which schools to include.

c. **Status of South Corvallis Greenway Project.** - Two tours – Sept. 28 @ 4 pm and Oct. 3 @ 1 pm. Pre-registration required. There is no solid indication that the City or ODOT are warming to the idea yet, but pressure is building, especially around the flood mitigation issue.

d. **Update on interpretative signs on Marys Peak.** We are very close to completing the first draft of the Marys Peak Interpretation Plan with the U.S. Forest Service. This is a huge step in a complex effort with the U.S. Forest Service. This project started with a Convening in September of 2019 of 20 stakeholder organizations, government agencies and Confederated Tribes representatives. Julie Arrington represented the MPG at the Convening. The draft will contain a section on interpretive display design, content and locations. As soon as the first draft is completed, I will forward it to the MPG ExCom for review and comments. We have started to work with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management on display location planning. We have also decided that any tribal culture information will need to be designed and written by the appropriate Confederated Tribe. A decision has been made to design, approve and install the first displays at a parking lot pull-off on BLM land part way up Marys Peak Road. This will give us a less intrusive experience to introduce the design and content of the displays to the general public and to receive public feedback without disturbing the more culturally, ecologically and physically-sensitive sites, such as the areas within the Scenic Botanical Special Interest Area (SBSIA) in the top 1,000 feet of elevation of the mountain. We should be receiving some specific details on the site design for the installations from the USFS and the BLM by the end of October.

Display Types: Multiple sizes and designs of displays will be included, such as:

1. Interpretive Displays @ Marys Peak Road turn-off, CCC camp turn-off, LBJ turn-off, Conners Camp, Parker Creek Falls, West Point turnoff, West Ridge, Campground, Summit parking lot.

2. Kiosk Displays @ Marys Peak Road turn-off, LBJ turn-off, and Summit parking lot.

3. Wayfinder Signs – Trailheads, trail crossings, viewsheds, summit

4. Point of Interest (POI) – Stream crossings, cultural interest

5. Restoration Signs - LBJ turn-off, summit parking lot & Marys Peak gravel road to summit.

Each of the five display/sign types has its own shape, size and specific design.

**e. Bald Hill Natural Area Dunawi Creek Regeneration Project** – We are completing the watering season thanks to the summer assistance by MPGers Julie Arrington, Mike Neeley-Brown and Susan Kropp. The extreme drought this spring and summer did take a toll on our younger plants. The plants that were 2-5 years old did great surviving the desert-like conditions. Our October tasks consist of digging and searching for underground drainage pipes and destroying them. We will also be building pretend beaver dams (called Beaver Dam Analogues – BDAs) to create better creek hydrology. We will also be preparing the planting sites for hundreds of native shrubs, graminoids and perennials. Our plantings will occur starting about November 1. Still no word on the status of the culvert replacement from the contractor.

**f. Dr. Martin Luther King Park Lamprey Creek Regeneration Project** – Again, our first-year plants took a hard hit this summer, but the older plantings survived and grew. We are planting a new small site this November and replacing those plants that didn't survive with species that are more drought tolerant natives like ceanothus and coyote bush.

**g. Crescent Valley High School Native Arboretum** – We are into the 11<sup>th</sup> season and the arboretum is thriving, even with the drought. We did not even do one watering. Don't know how those plants could survive all of that abuse. We have a good crew of students in the school environmental club ready to maintain the arboretum, but the district has just placed more pandemic restrictions on activities. So, we may be responsible for maintenance for a while more.

**h. Cheldelin Native Arboretum** – We are celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> season this year, whenever we are allowed to celebrate again. Time will tell when and what we will do for the celebration. In the meantime, the whole arboretum is thriving even though it was only watered once this entire year.

## **IX. Programs (Dave)**

### **a. Champinefu Webinar Series**

i. Theme - Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in current times.

ii. Topics

1. Fire Since Time Immemorial -October 13 @ 7 pm

2. Trees and Shrubs of Marys Peak: The Stories They Tell – Nov.10 @ 7 pm

3. Oregon's Water – What Coyote Can Teach Us – December 8 @ 7 pm

iii. Format – Webinar hosted by Corvallis-Benton County Library.

iv. Co-sponsors - Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and the Spring Creek Project.

### **b. 2022 Liz and Bob Frenkel Hiking and Environment Spring Lecture Series**

i. Theme

1. Habitat Regeneration

2. Ecological Communities

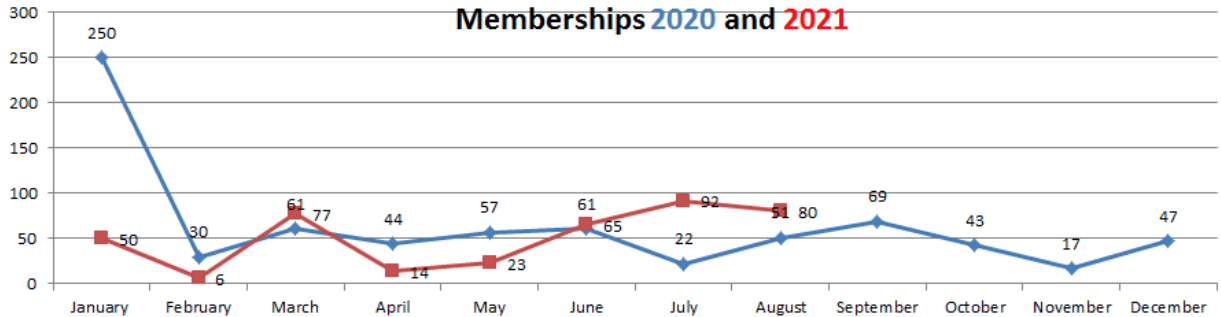
3. Environmental Justice in Urbanized Environments

ii. Three Presentations – March, April and May – Topics

iii. Format – Webinar – assuming pandemic continues into Spring.

iv. Co-sponsor – Corvallis-Benton County Public Library will host the webinar

**X. Membership (Melanie)** Melanie would like to find a way to send the Peak View to new members who have submitted their emails. Robert says there are technological issues that preclude doing that. Julie asked Robert and Melanie to problem-solve this issue further.



**XI. Officer jobs (Melanie)** Melanie is asking that at the next meeting, ExCom examine the job descriptions of Chair and Vice-Chair and reapportion duties. Some of the duties of Chair, she feels, could be off-loaded to those of the Vice-Chair.

**XII. Elections (Julie)**

1. Report nominees to ExCom 5 weeks prior to ballot mailing date: Oct 4
2. Deadline for nominations petitions: Oct 18
3. Paper ballots prepared by: Nov 1
4. Mail ballots: 4 weeks prior to closing date: Nov 1
5. Electronic voting begins Nov 1
6. Voting closes: Dec 6

**XIII. Next meeting TBA**