

**WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
September 29, 2016
DRAFT**

Present

Jessica McDonald, Chair
David Hibbs, Vice-Chair
Charlie Bruce
Mark Dolan
Steve Rogers
Joel Hirsch, City Council Liaison

Staff

Jennifer Ward, Public Works
Tom Hubbard, Public Works
Mark Miller, Trout Mountain Forestry

Visitors

Jim Fairchild

Absent

Jacque Schreck
Richard Heggen

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
I. Call Meeting to Order/Introductions • Election of FY 16-17 Leadership	X		
II. Review of Agenda	X		
III. Review of August 24, 2016 Minutes			Approved with one minor change
IV. Community Comments	None		
V. City Council Report	None		
VI. New Business • Implementation of the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan • 2016 Peacock Larkspur Report	X X		
VII. Old Business • None			
VIII. Staff Reports	X		
IX. Board Member Requests and Reports	X		
X. Adjourn	6:40 pm		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. Call Meeting to Order/Introductions

Chair McDonald called the meeting to order and those present introduced themselves.

Election of FY 16-17 Leadership

David Hibbs was elected Chair and Steve Rogers was elected Vice-Chair. Chair Hibbs took over as chair of this meeting immediately after being elected.

II. Review of Agenda

Ms. Ward circulated two copies of the final Forest Activities Report. The report will be available on the Watershed web page after it has been provided to the City Council on October 18.

III. Review of Minutes

Board Member Bruce moved to approve the August minutes with a single minor change; Board Member Rogers seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Community Comments

None.

V. City Council Report

Councilor Hirsch had nothing to report.

VI. New Business

Implementation of the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan

Visitor Jim Fairchild provided his background with the Board and the watershed. Mr. Fairchild expressed concerns that forest thinnings are actually becoming variable retention harvests. Mr. Fairchild questioned the City's willingness to work with neighbors of the watershed and he would like to see that improve. In response to the question of what would he specifically like the City to do, Mr. Fairchild recommended that the City talk to neighbors before taking on management activities, especially when those activities affect the neighbors. Councilor Hirsch, speaking for the Council, apologized for any offence or inconvenience the City may have caused and agreed that the City should do better.

2016 Peacock Larkspur Report

Ms. Ward stated that there are three sub-populations of Peacock Larkspur on the watershed which are inventoried every year when they bloom. She stated that the numbers of Peacock Larkspur are up in all areas from last year, but so are the numbers of other larkspur species which compete and hybridize with Peacock Larkspur. Staff is continuing to remove competitive species of plants to help Peacock Larkspur thrive. Staff is working with the Native Plant Society to establish a pure stand.

VII. Old Business

None.

VIII. Staff Reports

Mr. Hubbard stated that he is still researching the USGS stream monitoring station, as requested by Board Member Heggen at a previous meeting.

Ms. Ward responded to questions from the Board about creating a reserve fund for the watershed. The first question was, excluding harvest costs, what does it cost to run the watershed for a year. She stated that for the current fiscal year, approximately \$111,000 has been budgeted for expenses related to the watershed, plus \$22,000 in grant funds for meadow restoration. Anticipated expenses include the consulting forester, Northern Spotted Owl surveys, stream temperature surveys, fish surveys, education and outreach, Peacock Larkspur management and

augmentation, timber tax, and materials and supplies for the annual tour. The second question was related to budgeting for the Watershed Program Specialist position. Ms. Ward stated that the Watershed Program Specialist is paid from the watershed fund; in addition to the expenses mentioned, \$17,630 has been budgeted for the Watershed Program Specialist. In answer to the third question, the unaudited ending balance from last fiscal year is \$888,761. Ms. Ward stated that the next question asked about projected harvests over the next ten to fifteen years. Mr. Miller stated that the Stewardship Plan does look ahead fifteen years, but exact harvest volumes have not been determined. The plan is to have similar harvest volumes every year, but that the value of those harvests will fluctuate from year to year. The final question regarded the City's procedure for creating a reserve. Ms. Ward said that she asked Finance Director Nancy Brewer, who told her that the Board would need to identify the source of the funds, the use of the reserve, the limitations of the reserve, whether there is a minimum or maximum amount for the reserve, how to create a permanent funding source, and how the sources and uses would be different from current sources and uses. Ms. Ward reported that Ms. Brewer offered to attend a meeting to discuss this with the Board. The Board discussed the next steps for the working group to take and agreed that having Ms. Brewer attend a meeting would be a good idea.

Mr. Miller reported that the bid process for the next two fiscal year's harvests is complete. He stated that three bids were received, with Cross and Crown as the low bidder. Preliminary road work is set to start on Monday, October 3, with logging planned to start near November 1. The contract goes through the end of October 2017, but the contractor plans to have the work completed within the current fiscal year.

IX. Board Member Requests and Reports

Chair Hibbs reported that the Habitat work group took the summer off, so has nothing to report, but he and Board Member Bruce are planning to spend September 29 on the watershed.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: October 26, 2016, 5:15 p.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room