Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club
Final minutes
Wednesday, June 26, 2019   6:30 pm

ExCom Present: Julie Arrington (Chair), Mike Neeley-Brown (Vice-Chair), Robert White (Treasurer), Karl McCreary, Dave Eckert (Program Chair), Susan Kropp (Membership), Jules Moritz
Present: Robert Verhoogen (Peak View and Outings Chair), Leslie Hogan (Secretary)

I. Welcome and announcements (Julie)

Julie extended congratulations to Dave Eckert for the recognition he and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde have received for not only the naming of ten creeks on Marys Peak, but for the manner in which the process of naming these streams was achieved. Dave and David Harrelson, cultural resources officer for the Grand Ronde, have been invited by the Oregon Geographic Names Board to give a presentation on “convening,” the inclusive decision-making process the tribes use to reach consensus.

II. Secretary's Report/Minutes  (Leslie)

Julie Arrington moved to approve the minutes from the March 27th, 2019, meeting. Robert White seconded. Unanimously approved on 4/6/19 by email.

III. Treasurer's Report  (Robert W)

David Eckert moved to approve the treasurer's report. Mike Neeley-Brown seconded. The motion was approved.

IV. Chapter ExCom report (Julie)

Julie reported as follows:

The Chapter Executive Committee met in Bend on June 22.

The Conservation Committee makes policy decisions but not strategy decisions. It doesn't have standing rules.

The responsibilities of the Chapter ExCom are fiscal responsibility and structure of the Chapter, according to Chair Drew Kerr.

On the Integrated Planning Process (IPP), the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing (JPDO) were adopted in 1996 by the Sierra Club due to criticism by non-whites of the big 10 conservation groups. The JPDO promote democracy and organizing from the bottom up. The point is to be more inclusive in our leadership.
Trevor, the Chapter Director, said that the 6th Jemez Principle, which is a commitment to self-transformation, is the most important principle.

They had a two day retreat to create the IPP. It will help guide staff as they need to know where to work. They will not impose it on us which would be against the Jemez Principles. This is not a directive to groups. Next steps are for Chapter ExCom to vote on the IPP and then figure out how to implement it. The Chapter IPP visioning statement will go on their website.

The Chapter will conduct organizing schools around the state to help train new leaders in leadership skills. The will come to Corvallis, and they hope to have 30-50 attendees.

Larry reported that the Chapter is on track with its budget. Chapter is still looking for a treasurer to replace Larry. MPG paid its “give/get.”

I have a Team Sierra webpage for fundraising for Chapter. I can use it for fundraising for MPG. I could do something like ask my friends to donate to it for my birthday. We can put a link to it in the Peak View.

Juniper Group is hosting their annual Waldo Lake campout on 8/23 – 8/25. We are invited. They do all the setup work.

The next Chapter meeting will be here on 9/29, probably at Nectar Creek in Philomath. Please attend if you can.

V. Standing Committees/Team Reports

A. Outings (Robert V.)

1. 2019 outing numbers through May 31st are as follows: 149 individuals, 34 outings offered, 308 participants (19 by one participant, 14 by two, and 13 by another)

2. Robert gave his thoughts on the adequacy of our leaders’ Wilderness First Aid (WFA) knowledge and preparation when planning and conducting same-day outings. He noted that MPG tends to think that WFA pertains only to overnight and or back-country outings. Does it not also pertain to 5 to 10-mile hikes 2+ hours away in the Western or high Cascades or on a coastal ridge between main coastal cities?

**Action plan:** hold a discussion meeting with current leaders likely to lead same-day outings to those areas to make them more aware that we must be vigilant, not cavalier, about potential problems and their management. That includes being ready with phone numbers that connect to a person, not a machine, for the ranger station and sheriff’s office in the area of the hike. After discussion, Robert said he would also make a list of vetting questions for new hikers.

**Motion:** As treasurer, Robert White will order and pay for five books, *Wilderness First Aid--A Field Guide*. These books will accompany the current Sierra Club first aid kits with extra books for leaders who provide their own kits.

Robert White made the motion, Mike the second, and the motion carried.
3. Per Ryan N. K. Brown, Recreation and Engagement Program Manager, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator, OSU Research Forests: OSU Research Forests applied for an RTP grant (due 06/15/19) to finish up trail connectivity in the north end of the McDonald Forest and improve ADA accessibility at Peavy Arboretum and Cronemiller Lake in 2020 and 2021. These are all approved through the Conditional Use Permit process:

- 510 Connector Trail (we really have to come up with a better name!) will complete trail connectivity between Lewisburg Saddle and Peavy Arboretum for mixed use to accommodate mountain bikes and horses which can’t use the Section 36 Loop.
- Banzai Trail Reroute: This would create an off-road route between Dan’s Trail and Calloway Creek Trail, open to mixed use and would replace the current Banzai trail/road.
- Accessibility improvements at Peavy Arboretum and Cronemiller Lake: Trails internal to Peavy Arboretum, as well as the trail around Cronemiller Lake, are commonly used by community, educational and OSU groups. OSU would be widening and adding new surface to these trails to make them ADA accessible where gradient allows so that all people have the opportunity to get out into the woods, regardless of their mobility status. If OSU is able to do so without applying for a Conditional Use Permit with Benton County, it may consider adding a new ADA trail to connect from parking up to the lake as well.

**Action plan:** simply FYI, a letter of support was sent by MPG within the June 10th timeline, written by Ken Fitschen and edited by Julie. (See letter below, after the formal minutes.)

B. Membership (Susan)

Thirty-five letters of welcome were sent in March. More than 46 will be sent for April.

Susan tabled at the OSU Get Outdoors Day which went very well. Though there weren't any Peak View sign ups, she met many great children and their parents/guardians, and they had fun with the matching animal tracks to animals cards and simply chatting about the outdoors.

C. Conservation (Dave)

1. Plantings– Dunawi Creek, Lamprey Creek, Mill Race

This October we will be co-sponsoring planting at the Bald Hill site along the headwaters of the North Branch of Dunawi Creek, at a wetland rehabilitation site on the south end of the Starker Arts Park Duck Pond outfall into the South Branch of Dunawi Creek, at Dr. MLK, Jr Park along Lamprey Creek and along the Mill Race near SW Bridgeway Avenue in South Corvallis. Dave will be coming back with a request for planting funds.
2. Displays for Crescent Valley High School Native Arboretum

In collaboration with Crescent Valley High School and the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde, we worked with 2 high school students to design 6 different trail displays for the native arboretum to name the trails in the Kalapuya language to help guide visitors past the native plants. The names provided by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde include:

1. Ahsney (Coyote) Trail (planted with Coyote Bushes)
2. Anafu (Elderberry) Trail
3. Anchmit (Maple) Trail
4. Anklakwa (Ocean Spray) Trail
5. Amituwi (Salal) Trail
6. Ampup (Alder) Trail

The display final designs were completed and then printed by Elements Graphics. The metal posts are manufactured locally by Trevor Heald. The first two displays have been installed at the arboretum by Mike Neeley-Brown and Dave Eckert. The remaining posts will be completed by August 1st and installed before the school year starts. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the installation.

3. Corvallis Earth Day Tour

The 2019 Corvallis Earth Day Tour was another success for our 12th annual tour. Approximately 40 people attended the tour of large-scale, community-based solar array systems at the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant, Corvallis High School and Oregon State University. Mike Neeley-Brown and Doris deLespinasse were the Outing Leaders. Most participants rode in a critical mass bike ride, while a small number carpooled. As is tradition, our thinking behind the tours extends beyond the number of attendees. We are supporting and promoting those who are taking action to move in the environmental direction we believe is best. In addition, the tour promotion and the follow through is aimed at long-term “Big Win” scenarios evolving in Corvallis. For this year, the “Big Win” has been a greater interest by the City and the School System in collaborating to develop more solar energy sources on their properties to drive their electrical systems. As a result of the tour, there are now plans underway to install systems at the Taylor Water Treatment Plant and at the School Administration building.

4. Mill Race Tour

The 12th Annual Corvallis Creek Tour was in collaboration with the City of Corvallis, the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Water Action Team and the Marys River Watershed Council. Most participants rode in a critical mass bike ride, while a small number carpooled. We explored from the upstream section to the mouth. About 35 people participated. We learned from both professionals and neighbors about the history, current conditions and possible futures for each section of the creek. We also heard the
poetry written about the creek by one of its long-time neighbors. Like the Earth Day Tours, we always look for an action-oriented “Big Win” from these tours. The “Big Win” for the Mill Race appears to be a new effort to acquire land to provide for a true riparian corridor for this highly-abused creek that is highly flood-prone in a developed area.

D. Programs (Dave)

1. Champaigne Lecture Series, 2019

The rental of the Majestic Theater and the confirmation of the topics and speakers from the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde have been completed. The Spring Creek Project has agreed to co-sponsor and co-finance the program with the Marys Peak Group. Don Hall, former Editor of the Corvallis Gazette-Times, has agreed again to design the poster. The 2019 programs will be as follows:

· October 9th – “The Kalapuya Texts II” by Jedd Schrock – Jedd will discuss original stories he has recently translated from native-speaking Kalapuyans of the early 20th century and published and the Kalapuya dictionary he is developing. These publications are a major step forward in the current understanding of Kalapuya culture.

· November 6th – “The Kalapuya Mounds” by Tia Cody and Shelby Anderson – Tia and Shelby have been using state-of-the-art technologies to understand the locations and functions of the thousands of Kalapuya Mounds that had been created throughout the Willamette Valley.

· December 11th – “Indigenous Art of the Willamette Valley” by Travis Stewart – Travis is the Interpretive Coordinator for the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and for the Chachalu Museum on the Grand Ronde Reservation. He will discuss and show historical and current day indigenous art, particularly representing the cultures of the Grand Ronde

2. Spring lecture series update, 2019 & 2020

Over 300 people attended the 3-part Spring Lecture Series with presentations by the legendary Bill Sullivan, OSU Professor Dominique Bachelet and our own Professor Emeritus Barry Wulff. We renamed the annual Spring series as the Liz and Bob Frenkel Hiking and Environmental Lecture Series to represent their passions and accomplishments. Only one lecture has been planned to date for 2020, for either March 12 or 19th with Bill Sullivan talking about his next hiking book. We are currently taking recommendations for the April and May presentations.

VI. Old business

A. Corvallis Climate Action Advisory Board (CAAB) update (Dave/Julie)

CAAB is transitioning its advisory staff. It will be administered through the City’s Economic Development Office. The City budgeted $150,000 for CAAB projects in 2019-
2020.

The next CAAB meeting is Thursday, 6/27 at 5:00 pm in the Madison Avenue Meeting Room. The CAAB is asking us to fill out a short online survey which is due by Thursday, 6/27.

B. January party (Julie)
The Chintimini Senior Center is undergoing renovations and won't be available for our January potluck. Dave gave us a list of possible sites to consider including the upper rooms at the Majestic.

C. Interpretive displays on Marys Peak to honor Bob Frenkel (Dave)
The MPG and Marys Peak Alliance met on June 5th with Forest Service staff in an effort to speed up the planning process for the interpretation plan on Marys Peak. The staff agreed to review and provide their input to us by July 3rd. Before we can work on the displays, there must be an interpretation plan that directs how we proceed. With a July 3rd deadline for the Forest Service response, the process looks like it could move forward this summer as long as the MPG and the MPA do a lot of heavy lifting on the real work.

D. Revising the bylaws (Mike)
This revision is a long term goal to bring the bylaws up-to-date with the computer age. Mike is not currently making this a priority.

E. More publicity for MPG (Julie)
Julie is now an administrator of our Facebook page, along with Irene Schoppy, and can add photos and commentary to it. Leaders are encouraged to submit photos of outings to Julie and Irene. To publicize outings in the G-T, send information to Jane Stoltz (“Visit Corvallis”) or on-line c/c Mike McInally. Also, The Advocate can publish our notices if MPG leaders send the information two weeks in advance. Finally, Jules said he will contact the Obsidians to see if MPG’s outings can be included on their calendar.

F. Naming streams on Marys Peak (Dave)
On June 15th, the Oregon Geographic Names Board unanimously recommended approval of the 10 proposed Kalapuya, Wusi’n and Yaqo’n names for unnamed creeks on Marys Peak. The letter of support from the MPG as well as the six other organizations/agencies were read into the minutes. The next step is for the U.S.G.S. approval, which can normally take 3-6 months. Once they approve the names, then we will work with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians as well as the property owners to plan one or two celebrations, one on Marys Peak and one in Corvallis. Then the process of interpretive displays development
Dave extended the invitation for MPG to be involved in planning the celebrations if they wished. The main coordinators will be the Confederated Tribes and property owners such as Starker Forests.

G. After discussion of the uncertain implications of the YouCAN movement’s use of the Sierra Club logo on their documents, the ExCom’s decision was to keep watching to see if there are any negative ramifications by YouCAN’s use of the logo.

VII. New business
A. Elections (Julie)
   1. The election committee make-up requires the inclusion of three MPG group members, one of whom at least should not be on the ExCom.
   2. The nomination committee needs to be appointed not less than four months before the end of the election, ie, by August 1. Their names are to be reported to ExCom at least two weeks prior to the deadline for petition nominations and five weeks before ballots are mailed.
   3. Schedule:
      ❏ The elections must be held in the fourth quarter of the year.
      ❏ There needs to be an announcement in the Peak View. Robert V suggested that we devote a special edition of the PV to the election or, better, to use the Constant Comment site. (see below).
      ❏ MPG should publicize elections in August. We must describe how to petition for nominations.
      ❏ The deadline to present the slate of candidates to ExCom is Sept 27. (Bylaws require that it happen five weeks before ballots are mailed.)
      ❏ Ballots must be sent to members by 10/27. MPG has to allow four weeks for the return of ballots, therefore, MPG should send ballots five weeks before the end of voting
      ❏ Voting ends 12/1/19, then the ballots must be received by 11/3. Consequently, MPG should send ballots by 10/27.

Robert says the policy in using the Peak View is that information on that site is to be strictly related to outings and programs. MPG should start to use a site called “Constant Contact” to send out information about endorsements or elections.

B. Robert Verhoogen announced his retirement in 2020 from his duties as outings chair and publisher of Peak View. MPG will need to find a new leader or leaders to step up to take over these important positions early enough to shadow Robert for a smooth transition.
C. Robert V. led a discussion on an opportunity to hike with composer Stephen Woods and bio-acoustic researcher Lauren Polansky. He suggested hiking in the area of the McKenzie River (Blue River, or Sahalie and Koosah Falls and Clear Lake). The ExCom encouraged him to organize the event on a weekend if possible.

D. Liz Frenkel's service (Dave)

Liz’s service will be held on July 13th at 1:30 pm in the Unitarian Fellowship of Corvallis, 2945 NW Circle Blvd, Corvallis, OR 97330. Following the speakers, when Stephen Frenkel asks if there are those from the audience who would like to say a few words about Liz, Barry Wulff has agreed that he can stand up and talk about what Liz Frenkel meant to the Sierra Club. There is probably no one who will be in attendance who will know that subject better than Barry. In addition, Julie will ask Barry to please send a photo of Liz along with a few lines on Liz’s contribution to the Sierra Club in Oregon and to MPG for publication in the Peak View and on our web-site.

E. Oak Creek Tour in 2020 (Dave)

The 13th Annual Corvallis Creek tours in 2020 will focus on Oak Creek and its entire watershed. To date, we have 11 co-sponsors, including five non-profits, one municipal department, one agency and four public university departments. In previous years, we have never had more then four co-sponsors. Mike Neeley-Brown has agreed to represent the MPG on the planning Committee.

VIII. Next meeting: TBA

The meeting was adjourned around 9:00.

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Upon the request of the OSU Research Forest, Ken Fitschen, MPG’s representative to that group, submitted a draft letter in support of a grant the research forest is pursuing. On June 5, 2019 via email, the board unanimously approved the submission of the final draft of the letter (below) to the funding agency.

P.O. Box 863
Corvallis, OR 97339
June 5, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

The Marys Peak Group of the Oregon Sierra Club continues to support and applaud Oregon State University’s efforts to encourage community use of the McDonald Forest, one of OSU’s research forests. OSU has chosen to foster recreation in this research forest. Members of our group are grateful for this generosity, and therefore support OSU’s RTP grant application to further improve recreational opportunities for the entire community.

With over 2500 hikers and walkers receiving our weekly e-news, Marys Peak Group understands the value our community has for the McDonald Forest. Our group regularly organizes hikes on its trails. Our members have also volunteered their time and energy to build and maintain trails. In addition, we can regularly provide feedback to OSU because one of our members serves on its community recreation advisory board.

For many years, OSU has chosen to foster recreation in this research forest even though recreation is not part of its primary mission. OSU recognizes the importance of interacting with the natural world and also learning more about the many aspects of forestry. In recent years, it has increased its efforts to improve the network of trails for all users: hikers, bikers, walkers, equestrians, families and dog walkers. Before developing specific plans, however, it met with representatives from all of these user groups to get their feedback and identify common priorities. Members of the Marys Peak Group were included in these discussions as representatives of local hikers. One of those priorities was developing more loops; i.e., connecting existing trails or developing new trails that allowed users to travel longer loops on single-track trails. The new RTP grant would address that priority and more.

The development of the 510 Connector and Banzai Trails would develop two additional loops for multiple users. Representing the hikers in the area, Marys Peak Group naturally supports these developments. Moreover, it applauds OSU’s efforts to expand community use by making Peavy Arboretum and Cronemiller Lake ADA accessible.

Community partnership: These two words sum up the Marys Peak Group's perspective of OSU’s Research Forests’ relationship with our chapter and the entire community. It therefore strongly supports its initiatives in this RTP grant.
This letter was approved unanimously by the Executive Committee of Marys Peak Group, Sierra Club, on June 5, 2019.

Julie Arrington  
Chair  
Marys Peak Group Executive Committee