Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club
Approved Minutes
Wednesday, March 27, 2019  7:00 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: Leslie Hogan (Secretary)

I. Welcome and announcements

II. Secretary's Report/Minutes (Leslie)

  Dave Eckert moved to approve the minutes from the January 26th, 2019, meeting. Susan Kropp seconded. Unanimously approved on 1/25/19.

III. Treasurer's Report (Robert W)

  Julie thanked Robert for sending the 2018 year-end financial report to chapter. Robert detailed our few expenses in the new year and presented the report.

  On a motion from Dave and a second from Mike, the treasurer's report carried.

IV. Chapter ExCom report (Julie)

  Trevor Kraul, Chapter Director, wants to join MPG this spring after his wedding in April to hike or plant shrubs. He hasn't gone to Marys Peak.

  Julie reports that MPG needs a conservation chair so that it can be represented on the Chapter Conservation Committee (Cons Com). The Chapter Cons Com will start reporting back to Chapter ExCom. Eileen of the Conservation Committee called Julie and reported that they were surveying members, looking for trends and ideas for campaigns. She asked what Julie thought their greatest achievements were. Also, Julie told her that MPG will work on local issues and said that it looks to Chapter for advice on politics and for technical information.

  The give/get donation is due by 4/30. Chapter is hoping to eventually hire someone who will do the development work.

  Chapter will offer training for MPG for their climate justice program. They are starting an organizing school to launch in the fall to support volunteer leadership development. The goal is to train new leaders both on organizing skills generally and the SC model, including the Jemez Principles which are about democracy and leadership from the bottom up and inclusion. They will present the school in Corvallis for MPG members.

  National Sierra Club and the Oregon Chapter are aiming for an integrated
management plan that integrates all the volunteers and staff using multi-year projections. They are working on a structural assessment and want us to be involved.

The National SC Clubhouse website is closing down to be replaced by their Campfire website. Julie can send interested parties a link to a webinar to learn how to use it.

Rhett Lawrence, the Chapter Conservation Director, reported as follows:

- Grocers are behind the bag ban because they want a state-wide policy.
- Sierra Club is trying to strengthen the oil train regulations which are the weakest on the west coast and is also trying to regulate diesel engines.
- Part of the Jordan Cove plan is a 229 mile pipeline to bring the gas to the coast. It crosses rivers and streams 485 times. The Oregon Dept. of State Lands (DSL) got so many comments on the permit that they asked for a delay on their ruling so they could read them all. DSL will rule in the fall. The DEQ will give its permit ruling this fall on the pipeline. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has to approve the plant itself. FERC has denied it twice already.

The Chapter Ex Comm. Sept. 22 or 23 meeting will be held in Corvallis.

V. Standing Committees/Team Reports

A. Outings (Robert V.)

1. Leadership status:
   - one new, very active leader, Milena Simeonova
   - two prospective leaders, Becky Garrett & Mary Austin (Jules Moritz prefers to help scout but not lead)
   - one returning backpack leader, Dave Anderson

2. Late Winter / Spring outings:
   - busy calendar but definitely slanted toward moderate to difficult local hikes (> 5 miles, > 1000-1500 ft elevation gain), reflecting our current leaders’ personal preferences
   - variable attendance, related to weather conditions and difficulty level of hikes offered

B. Membership (Susan)

Several people signed up to be on the Peak View email list at the Sustainability Fair and the first of MPG’s spring lectures. Also, people had fun participating in the map activities Susan offered at MPG’s tabling event as well as talking about their favorite
hiking areas. Dave suggested that in these discussions, we might be able to recruit hiking leaders.

Welcome letters continue to go out with 30 sent for December, 2018, to new and transferring members, 62 for January, 2019, and 24 will go out for February.

MPG is signed up for tabling at the Saturday, June 8th Get Outdoors Day at Peavy Arboretum. Susan invites us all to come out for an hour or two between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and meet lots of families!

C. Conservation (Dave)

1. Plantings – About 30 Salmonberry bare root plants were donated and five volunteers planted them along Lamprey Creek in Dr. MLK, Jr. Park. MPG and the Sustainability Coalition will not be doing any more plantings until November. Until then, they will be managing weeds and preparing the November planting areas.

2. Displays for Mill Race – Dave recommends MPG partners with Hollingsworth & Vose (H&V), the City and the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition to design and install seven interpretive displays about the Mill Race. H&V is funding professional drone photos of seven sections of the Mill Race. Those photos will then be labeled and provide one half of each display. The display will also include a labeled map of the whole watershed, a different title and theme for each display and the co-sponsor logos at the bottom. The Coalition Water Action Team will fund the majority of the costs for the design and production of the displays and posts while the City will fund the installation and provide the land. Dave proposes the Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club provides some funding for the production of the displays. In that way the Sierra Club logo will be prominently displayed as a co-sponsor with the other three entities. In addition, this collaboration with H&V will position us in a strategic place to negotiate with H&V regarding its impact and potential remediations regarding the Mill Race.

Motion: The MPG ExCom approves partnering with Hollingsworth & Vose, the City and the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition to produce 7 different Mill Race interpretive displays to be installed along the Mill Race in South Corvallis. Some funding has already been allocated (January, 2019) to start the process. Dave made the motion; Robert made the second. The motion carried.

3. Displays for Dixon Creek – One interpretive display was installed along Dixon Creek by Corvallis High School along Buchanan Avenue where a recent riparian planting was held. The display, with the Sierra Club logo, was installed by the City in time for the community planting there which consisted of 85 community volunteers. A second display has been produced and will be installed by the City in the residential headwater area where a tributary crosses a highly-used public multimodal trail.

4. Displays for Crescent Valley High School arboretum – The designs for 5 trail sign displays are being finalized by Crescent Valley High School
students. The trails are being named in the Kalapuya language to identify a primary native plant found alongside that respective trail within the native arboretum.

Julie will ask if MPG can have its own logo to put on all these displays.

5. **Mill Race Tour** – Our twelfth Annual Corvallis Urban Creek Tour will be held along the Mill Race on Friday, May 10th from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm. The date/time was selected to coincide with the Corvallis Natural Areas week and the availability of co-sponsor staff. Co-sponsors include the City of Corvallis Public Works, the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Water Action Team and the Marys River Watershed Council. We will meet at the Thompson Shelter in Avery Park at 3:00 pm, have an orientation in the shelter about The Mill Race and then proceed to five different stops along the Mill Race. Transportation is recommended by personal bicycle. The City will provide its trolley bus for those who cannot bike. The Mill Race is our most industrialized and polluted creek, and it provides the greatest flooding concerns along streets of any creek and site in the City. It also has a very interesting history of humans attempting to control hydrological forces in all of the wrong ways. This includes current control techniques which will be explained in the tour.

6. **Earth Day Tour** – Mike Neeley-Brown has agreed to be the Outing Leader for the twelfth Annual Corvallis Earth Day Tour. Dave Eckert will be the interpretive guide. The tour will be held Monday, April 22nd from 2 pm – 5 pm and will tour large-scale, community-benefitting solar energy systems – the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant, Corvallis High School and Oregon State University. The tour is always held on the true Earth Day. The timing of this tour is directly correlated to the availability of the respective facility staff and site accessibility. People can go by bike or carpool.

D. Programs (Dave)

1. **Champinefu Lecture Series** – The Spring Creek Project at OSU has agreed for the third straight year in 2019 to co-sponsor the Champinefu Lecture Series to be held in the Fall at the Majestic Theater. They will be providing direct payment of $1,000 to the Majestic Theater to assist in rental and A-V fees.

2. **Spring lecture series update** – The first Spring lecture was held March 14th following a postponement of Barry Wulff’s presentation until May due to unexpected closure of the library. As a result, the library agreed to co-sponsor all three lectures, resulting in no rental charges at all this year to the MPG for the series. Bill Sullivan’s presentation drew over 180 people and was a huge success. Bill sold out of his new hiking book and provided his usual captivating presentation. We dedicated the presentation to the life and work of Liz Frenkel who passed away the day prior to the presentation. With the passing of both Bob and Liz Frenkel, the founders of both the MPG and the Oregon Chapter and among our region’s greatest advocates for hiking and environmental protection, Dave believes it is timely and imperative that MPG
provide a long-lasting tribute to their life work for the Sierra Club. The Spring Lecture Series is all about what they espoused – enjoying and protecting the natural world around us..

**Motion:** The MPG ExCom name the annual Spring Lecture Series (now in its sixteenth year) as the “Liz and Bob Frenkel Spring Hiking and the Environment Lecture Series”. Dave made the motion; Mike made the second. The motion carried.

Julie will send a letter to this effect to Stephen and Anne, children of the Frenkels.

VI. Old business

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

Thank you to everyone who helped. It was a big success. We need a new venue for 2020 as the senior center will be undergoing renovations.

**B. January party (Julie)**

Due to the Federal Shutdown in January, the Forest Service has not caught up in its backlog of work and has not been able to move forward with the Marys Peak Interpretive Plan. So, nothing tangible has happened yet for the Marys Peak displays. Dave did attend a meeting, however, representing the Marys Peak Alliance of AFRANA (Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas) regarding the Corvallis to Marys Peak to Waldport Scenic Highway designation for Route 34, recently approved by the Federal Government. Because this makes this stretch of roadway eligible for some funding, there is interest in interpretive displays along the way, including on Marys Peak. Dave reported his attendance, along with two Forest Service staff, to be sure that Marys Peak interpretive displays are coordinated. Nothing has happened yet. The Scenic Highway program offers some incentives that Dave believes MPG needs to watch and so be ready to grab any opportunity for funding and collaboration that arises.

**C. Interpretive signs on Marys Peak to honor Bob Frenkel (Dave)**

Due to the Federal Shutdown in January, the Forest Service has not caught up in its backlog of work and has not been able to move forward with the Marys Peak Interpretive Plan. So, nothing tangible has happened yet for the Marys Peak displays. Dave did attend a meeting, however, representing the Marys Peak Alliance of AFRANA (Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas) regarding the Corvallis to Marys Peak to Waldport Scenic Highway designation for Route 34, recently approved by the Federal Government. Because this makes this stretch of roadway eligible for some funding, there is interest in interpretive displays along the way, including on Marys Peak. Dave reported his attendance, along with two Forest Service staff, to be sure that Marys Peak interpretive displays are coordinated. Nothing has happened yet. The Scenic Highway program offers some incentives that Dave believes MPG needs to watch and so be ready to grab any opportunity for funding and collaboration that arises.

**D. Lobby Day for Clean Energy Jobs Bill in Salem (Leslie)**

Five MPG members attended the Feb. 6 Lobby Day in Salem to first learn more about HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs Bill, a bill having to do with an Oregon carbon cap blueprint that is undergoing revisions (and bill title), and to then lobby Sen. Sara Gelser, and Representatives Dan Rayfield (Benton Co.) and Shelly Boshart-Davis (Linn Co.) Gelser and Rayfield support the evolving bill. Boshart-Davis is anxious to hear more from the agriculture community and other constituents. She expressed skepticism in the need for such a bill.

The five MPG members who participated were Dave Eckert, Annette Mills, Leslie Hogan, Mike Neeley-Brown and Julie Arrington.

VII. New business

**A. Letter of support from MPG for naming the streams on Marys Peak**
The MPG ExCom has received the penultimate draft of the naming proposal for ten currently unnamed creeks on Marys Peak in respective indigenous languages. The names have been chosen by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. The Oregon Geographic Names Board recommends that the sponsor of the proposal, the Marys Peak Alliance of AFRANA (Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas), request and receive letters of support from property owners, respective agencies and related non-profit organizations.

Motion: The MPG ExCom authorize our Chair, Julie Arrington, to write a brief letter of support for the naming of 10 Marys Peak creeks in the indigenous languages and submit it to the Marys Peak Alliance of AFRANA to be included in the proposal due on April 15th. (See PDF appendix item at bottom of minutes.)

B. More publicity for MPG (Julie)

1. Robert Verhoogen suggested to Julie that MPG send out a special Peak View created by the Ex Com dedicated to the next Nov. election. MPG might get more voting responses as a result.

2. Julie and Robert V. asked how to get more MPG members and Peak View recipients actively involved in MPG outings, activities, and programs, both those in the Corvallis-Albany region and those residing in the three other counties included in the Marys Peak Group. To this end, does MPG want to offer programs outside of Corvallis?

3. MPG has a Facebook page which Irene Schoppy manages. It's grown from about 50 followers from when she took over to currently over 422. She needs to post something to this Facebook page weekly to keep it “live,” to make sure that it shows up on people's Facebook feeds. When she doesn't have any original content, she will share something from National Sierra Club, local organizations (Greenbelt, Corvallis Sustainability, etc), local events, etc.

4. MPG needs to put more photos from our hikes and our activities on Facebook.

The discussion of the above issues resulted in these actions:

- All with a FB account should “Friend” MPG.
- Julie will submit information about hikes to the “Highlight” section of the Gazette Times and to the “Calendar” feature of The Advocate. Dave will continue to send information on programs to those publications.
- Hike leaders will be asked (Robert V.?) to ask new hikers how they found about the hike they are attending. The leaders will make a note of their response on the waiver form and Jane Luther will compile that data for MPG.
- The write-up of one hike per month can go out to the Google list run by the Sustainability Council. If Robert V. (?) sends that write-up to Dave by the 13th of each month, Dave will submit it.
- In addition to photos submitted to Irene for MPG’s FB page, Leslie will submit an
“MPG News Flash” based on one or more items from the minutes for the ExCom to approve and send on to Irene.

- Robert suggested using x number of Constant Contact emails to advertise MPG’s political actions and work in the community.
- Julie said she will send photos to Irene from this year’s solstice party slide show such as the plantings at Dunawi and as well as the photo of the five members of MPG who attended Lobby Day for HB 2020. Robert V. (?) will ask hike leaders to submit photos of the hikes they have led after getting approval from the hike participants for their photos to go up on FB.

C. Jordan Cove
Lobby Day is Thursday, 3/28. Julie, Mike and Jules are going to lobby against the Jordan Cove proposal, a new industrial complex that would emit large quantities of greenhouse gases.

Motion: Julie, Mike and Jules go as official MPG, Sierra Club delegates to Lobby Day, March 28.
Robert made the motion; Karl made the second. The motion carried.

VIII. Next meeting: TBA in later part of June
IX. Adjourn: Dave made the motion to adjourn at 9:04; Mike made the second. The motion carried and abundant thanks were given to Dave and Annette for the use of their home and their hospitality for this meeting!

MPG News Flash!
Where is the area in Corvallis most likely to flood in a good rainstorm?
MPG partners with Hollingsworth and Vose, the City and the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition to design and install seven interpretive displays about the Mill Race. Consulting the aerial photos on the displays, community members will be able to figure out the answer to that question.