

WILLAMETTE MAINSTEM COOPERATIVE

PROGRAMMATIC BYLAWS

MISSION

The mission of the Willamette Mainstem Cooperative (WMC) is to promote, facilitate, and foster long-term stewardship of natural resources along the Willamette River, and specifically the Corvallis to Albany river reach, through the collaborative efforts of individual landowners and interested organizations.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. We value the pivotal role that natural landscapes, productive working lands, and the voluntary contributions of landowners and others make to support Oregon's economy and enhance functional habitats along the Willamette River.
2. We characterize and understand conditions along the mainstem of the Willamette River so that other partners and interested entities can collaborate and coordinate efforts to achieve the greatest benefits.
3. We develop and share processes and information to enhance stewardship of natural resources along the Willamette River and its tributaries.
4. We convene and collaborate with partners to prioritize and make strategic, efficient use of organizational resources to advance sustainable on-the-ground stewardship.
5. We foster dialogue, involving all people in recognizing and supporting stewardship of the Willamette River and its associated resources.

STRUCTURE

The Willamette Mainstem Cooperative (WMC) is a group of landowners, organizations, and volunteers working together to improve stewardship across all landownerships along the mainstem of the Willamette River. The WMC has a Steering Committee of partners who are integral to decision making and the planning of projects and other actions.

Currently, the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District (BSWCD) serves in a leadership role to facilitate the activities of the WMC through the Steering Committee. The BSWCD employs a Project Coordinator for the WMC and the BSWCD District Manager serves as the WMC Project Manager.

Steering Committee

The WMC Steering Committee represents a variety of local and regional organizations and landowners, and may bring new opportunities and projects to the cooperative.

1. Roles and responsibilities of Steering Committee members:
 - Embrace the mission and guiding principles of the cooperative.
 - Provide guidance and direction to designated projects that align with the mission of the WMC. Initially, the focus of the committee will be to achieve the following goals of the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District-Meyer Memorial Trust Grant.
 - a) To characterize habitat conditions on the mainstem Willamette River between Corvallis and Albany.

- b) To set priorities and develop a strategy for the management of invasive species on the mainstem.
 - c) To document and analyze expenditures for invasive plant control and habitat improvement and maintenance on a river reach scale.
 - d) To evaluate the capacity of existing organizations to carry out and sustain habitat assessment and improvement projects on the Willamette mainstem.
- Encourage organizations within the geographic scope to “act locally,” but collectively work toward a regional vision.
 - Serve as a convener to interact with others in the region to advance mutual goals.
 - Seek to leverage the strength of “community” associated with the WMC’s mission by collaborating and coordinating to develop an integrated approach to solicit funding.
 - Facilitate a process that allows partner organizations to contribute to defining priorities for projects.
 - Offer capacity, technical assistance and in-kind funding, when possible.
2. Decision making – Decisions will be made based on a simple majority vote of committee members representing a quorum. A quorum is defined as more than 50% of the members.
 3. Nominations - Steering Committee members must nominate a prospective member, and they may be elected based on a simple majority vote. Prospective new members must attend at least one Steering Committee meeting prior to being voted in as a member.
 4. The WMC Steering Committee will consist of no more than ten members, a quorum of which is 50% of the committee members plus one.
 5. Steering Committee members are expected to attend all Steering Committee meetings and conference calls, and can name an alternate in advance of convening if the member is not able to attend.
 6. Other Committees - The Steering Committee may establish advisory committees as it deems necessary.
 7. The Steering Committee may appoint a Chair and Vice Chair or other agents and/or officers as it deems necessary. Officer terms, authority and duties will be determined by the Steering Committee.

Partners

Partners are individuals and entities that have a stake in the mission of the cooperative, and whose roles and responsibilities are as follows:

- Agree to support and advance the mission of the cooperative.
- Are genuinely interested in the cooperative and serve as an advocate for the mission.
- Participate through assessment, compilation and sharing of information.

AMENDMENTS

- These Bylaws may be amended or repealed at any time, and new Bylaws adopted by the Steering Committee by a majority vote.
- These Bylaws will be formally reviewed every two years beginning with the adoption date.

Date Adopted: 11/18/15

Signature of Willamette Mainstem Cooperative Manager: Hally Crosson