

Willamette Mainstem Cooperative (WMC)

Meeting Minutes Summary from January 17, 2013 meeting

Attendees: Holly Crosson, Jenny Ayotte, Crystal Durbecq, Brad Withrow-Robinson, Bud Baumgartner, Jeff Baker, Kendra Smith, Scott Youngblood, Lisa DeBruyckere (facilitator)

I. The steering committee discussed the draft mission of the WMC and further refined it as follows:

The mission of the Willamette Mainstem Cooperative is to promote, facilitate, and share long-term stewardship of natural resources along the Willamette River, with a focus centered on the Corvallis to Albany reach, through the collaborative efforts of individual landowners and interested organizations.

II. The steering committee discussed Guiding Principles for the consortium:

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

III. Structure

The Willamette Mainstem Cooperative (WMC) is a group of landowners, organizations, and volunteers (neighbors) working together to improve stewardship across all landownerships along the mainstem of the Willamette River.

The WMC has a steering committee that:

- Provides 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 goals of the Benton SWCD-Meyer Memorial Grant.
- Represents a variety of local and regional organizations and landowners, and may bring new opportunities and projects to the cooperative.
- Encourages organizations within the geographic scope to "act locally," but collectively work toward a regional vision.
- Serves as a convener to interact and remain connected with others in the region to advance mutual goals.
- Seeks to leverage the strength of "community" associated with its mission by collaborating and coordinating to develop an integrated approach to solicit funding.
- Facilitates a process that allows partner organizations to contribute to defining priorities for projects.
- Represents diversity (i.e., geographic scope, expertise, type of organization, distribution, landowners, interests).

- Embraces the mission and guiding principles of the cooperative.
- Will consist of no more than 10 steering committee members.
 - Steering committee members must nominate a prospective member, and the prospective member must provide a statement of interest and advance projects of the cooperative.
 - Prospective new members must attend at least one steering committee meeting.
 - Steering committee members are expected to attend all steering committee meetings and conference calls, and can name an alternate in advance of convening. If a steering committee member missing three meetings/conference calls without naming an alternate, the member will be formally approached to discuss future participation.
 - Will have a Chair and Vice-Chair, each serving one year, staggered terms.

Partners are individuals and entities that have a stake in the mission of the cooperative. Partners:

- 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 in a meaningful and productive way.
- Offer capacity, technical assistance and in-kind funding, when possible.

IV. Next steps:

1. **ACTION ITEM:** Obtain Linn SWCD support by signing an MOU with the Benton SWCD.
2. **ACTION ITEM:** Determine how best to use the results from the assessment (phase 1), defining priorities and scale by convening a strategic weed map meeting. Crystal will administer a Doodle poll to check for availability of steering committee members in early February.
3. **ACTION ITEM:** Facilitate a process that allows partner organizations to contribute to defining priorities for projects.