

URBAN ISSUES WORKING GROUP
Klamath Watershed Partnership
Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2008

Attendees: Cindy Deas, Amy Hartell, Ken Hay, Dwight Long, Leslie Lowe, Heather Ray, Anita Ward

Staff: Katharine Jackson, Michelle Lounsbury, Terry Morton

The mission of the Urban Issues Working Group of the Klamath Watershed Partnership is to promote a healthy urban watershed through education, enhancement, protection and restoration.

GOALS and OBJECTIVES:

1. Protect and restore and create habitat

- A. Protect habitat along the Link River and Lake Ewauna
- B. Restore/Create Wetlands around Lake Ewauna Trail (LET)
- C. Manage uplands and drainage (juniper, erosion, storm water runoff)
- D. Enhance communication among partners

2. Educate the public (regarding watershed issues in the urban areas)

- A. Non-point source education
- B. Interpretive signage for Lake Ewauna Trail (OR 150?)
- C. Resource guides (green pages, KCEDA/Klamath Sustainable Communities)
- D. Establish the Partnership as a clearinghouse for information and resources to enhance the watershed

3. Develop a trail system (connect existing and develop new systems)

- A. Connect trails from the Running Y to Rails to Trails (Buck Ridge, Ridgewater, Moore Park, Link River, Wing Watchers, City Parks around Lake Ewauna, Conger Heights)
 - i. Research history of 4 years ago (minutes Sandra Z.)
 - ii. Reconvene group w/old and new players/stakeholders
- B. Develop design standards for various trail components (furnish, signs, lighting, surface)
- C. Obtain funds and specify participants

Today's Discussion:

Lake Ewauna Trail

- City meeting with OIT Engineering to design trail (grading, graveling, design standards for developers – Geo piping, cement walking)
 - This is being seen as an “internationally significant” geothermal design setup.
- Applied for local government Veterans Memorial funds
 - 200’ geothermal between the memorial and the trail to serve as trailhead
- Wingwatchers/FWS grant for restoring 400' of wetlands along WW trail

Interpretive Signs

- Funding
 - Klamath Greenways be lead organization, grant applicant
 - Potentially also OC&E, Rails-to-Trails, ODOT, State Parks, City, SOLVE (Solve Oregon Litter and Vandalism), OR 150 (trees)
- Format
 - State Historic Preservation Organization uses National Parks standards, similar in Jackson County
 - Good for consistency, but the material and production costs are very high, and they have to be replaced frequently due to vandalism
 - Estimate \$1,200 per sign
 - High-pressure laminate, 2' x 3', life span 10-15 years, costs may be reduced dramatically in the future
 - Fiberglass has a life span of 5-10 years, but can be extended by applying wax regularly
- Developing an overall program would help with funding
 - Could be phased in over time
 - Could be included as part of an OWEB Outreach and Education proposal, or as a portion of a wetland restoration proposal
 - State Parks – OC&E funding if trail is connected (or directional signs)
 - RAC Title II – only if forest-related
 - Property owners of Timber Shores could be approached with benefit of protecting the shoreline, as they will own 10 feet from it

Clarify Role of UI Group

- How can the Urban Issues Working Group add value to trail development?
 - Help Wingwatchers and other groups find grants
 - Hard because the way we pay staff is through Project Development in restoration grants, plus administrative fees
- Information-sharing
 - E-mail updates/list serve
 - Website describing all the various organizations involved, provide links
 - OSU Extension (watershed education)
 - Klamath Basin Birding Trail

- US Bureau of Reclamation (habitat)
 - OR 150
 - Travel Klamath / Chamber of Commerce
 - Klamath Greenways (open space)
 - State Parks
 - Wingwatchers (birding trails)
 - City of Klamath Falls (Lake Ewauna Trail)
 - Oregon State Parks (if OC&E / Rails-to-Trails)
 - Basin and Range Birding Trail
 - Klamath County
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service (habitat)
- Interactive blog
 - KWP monitor weekly and e-mail list serve to notify them of topics being addressed – members can click on a link and participate if they're interested
- Quarterly newsletters to be written by the member organizations, and compiled by KWP
- Concern that the trail system might benefit from the coordination of a bigger program – other than various volunteer organizations – to coordinate and ensure consistency
 - Could we develop a checklist for each component, to make sure that basic objectives are being met?
 - Be sure to integrate water quality education into interpretive signage

NEXT MEETING:

Date: January 12, 2008

Time: 1-3pm

Place: USFWS Conference Room