

LUMP committee May 13, 2014

Dennis Todd, DJ Rogers, Joseph Newton, Thom Barr, Anna Scott, Paxton Hoag (go to meeting), Bear the Elder, Jain Elliott (scribe)

Minutes were approved.

Shane sent this report:

Good evening folks, I am so sorry that I cannot be present for tonight's meeting. A scheduling conflict forces me to attend another meeting in Salem tonight. I am writing this to update you all on site conditions, and progress made on researching better ways to manage our forest and legacy trees.

As you all gather tonight, the site is currently open to everyone. All we ask is that when you arrive onsite that visitors sign in at the site information kiosk located in front of the warebarn. It has a few announcements that I would like people to read and a map located on the backside that shows areas where known dangers exist. Please avoid these areas if at all possible. If you must enter these areas you do so at your own risk, and all hazards may not be marked and may not easily be identifiable. While onsite please be aware of your surroundings, keep your eyes up as most of the dangers lie in the canopy. If anyone does spot something that needs to be addressed please let someone know of the location. Many eyes will help identify areas we may have overlooked. Also be aware of weather conditions. The wind often arrives later in the day if it becomes too windy please consider removing yourself from possible harm.

The fair draws near and many crews have been out getting some of the heavy lifting done. Our mantra has been chip chip chip the day away! The chipper and crews have been working tirelessly every weekend, so when you see Tree Crew, Site Crew, Camping Crew please be sure to thank them for working long hours on the chipper to prepare the site for the upcoming event.

The days are getting longer and so is my dance card. You can catch me onsite most days, and email catches my attentions regularly. If anyone has any questions, suggestions that needs immediate attention, email is the best way to start a dialog.

I am looking forward to working closely with all of you this prefair and many more following! Have a great meeting, and thank you all for working so hard.

Tree management subcommittee report, also from Shane:

So concerning the matter of tree care practice on the Fair site. I feel that there are several important factors to take into account. I will do my best to address them here through bullet points. I have tried to include Jon Shaffer (spelling) in this email but don't have his email handy! This is what we have come up with thus far. Any input is greatly appreciated.

1. Sensitive Wetland Environment: Diverse wildlife habitat to be considered.
2. Legacy Trees
3. Event Safety
4. Appropriate pruning and maintenance for tree species.
5. Restorative management practice and structured management plan.
6. Maintaining an aesthetic and visualizing pleasing atmosphere for event participants.
7. Minimalize the amount of work to be done in the future to maintain individual tree health and safety.
8. Extreme weather precautions.
9. Care to be administered through educated as well as practiced tree care professionals.

The fair grounds is the location of [some of the best] wetlands existing in Oregon, so this makes the entire area an especially sensitive case when it comes to how the land is managed. Especially the trees as they impact every other creature and plant that comes on and through the land. It is a preservation and gathering site, so it is to be made safe for the participants of the few on grounds gatherings and events, yet to be managed as naturally as possible to reduce the impact on wildlife and preserve habitat.

The fair grounds is the location of many "Legacy" trees. Legacy trees are those that have reached to and beyond maturity long before we thought to set foot on the land and many of them were alive during the period of time in which the land was used as a gathering ground for the Native American tribes of the area, and will more than likely outlive our time of gathering on the land, if cared for properly. These trees being in maturity, must be handled with sensitivity when addressing maintenance practices, as they are not in their most vigorous stages of growth and the amount of nutrients that they require to maintain integrity is immense. Therefore naturally occurring and pruning wounds take much longer to heal and can often lead to the trees decline. Once these trees have declined they can not be replaced even within a few human life times. There are also many other trees on the grounds that are candidates for emerging Legacy trees. If these trees are cared for properly they can live healthier and longer lives than even their predecessors.

As well some of these legacy trees may require support to provide wellbeing for themselves and safety for the event participants. Trees grow slowly and do grow the required mass to support the ever extending new growth as it reaches for the sun. Though unfortunately trees can and do succumb to natural phenomenon that contribute to failure of the entire tree.

Through comprehensive restorative management practices, appropriate to the tree species, many of these trees can be preserved and actually brought into a more robust state of resiliency maintaining a pleasing

atmosphere for the events and healthy environment for the wildlife. Thus leaving a legacy of care from ourselves upon this land to those who will inherit it in times to come.

Thanks,
Shane Harvey, Nate Stuart

SW added: Looks good. To put this discussion in context, check out: [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willamette_Valley_\(ecoregion\)>](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willamette_Valley_(ecoregion)). Seems to me, the Fair site is (mostly) made up of two Level IV ecoregions, as designated by the EPA: 3B, Willamette River and Tributaries Gallery Forest, and 3C, Prairie Terraces. The dividing lines are the 100 - 500 year flood lines, vague as those may be lately. There's precious little of 3B left in the Valley, and what's on the Fair side is already compromised by our use, making the Far Side riparian forest even more valued as an ecological preserve. The Kalapuya practice of annual prairie burns covered most of the Willamette Valley bottomland, but likely reached only to the edges of the riparian gallery forest, so these forest ecosystems could have thousands of years of continuous history. There are several accounts of the earliest explorers of the valley encountering, in the fall months, blackened smoking plains, and green ribbons of riverbank vegetation.

Some random thoughts:

* we should be extremely cautious about creating a written record of "problem" trees needing maintenance - risk/liability exposure is a major headache for Fair managers, and such a document would be a treasure to an unfriendly personal injury attorney in the discovery process of a lawsuit.

* Let's not forget the yew trees, they may be the oldest trees on site. Losing the yews in Ark Park, ex-Mario's on the river and in ChelaMela camping hurt. The yew on the bank in ChelaMela camping should be designated as a legacy tree.

Anna wants us to balance tree preservation with solar access for solar arrays for electricity & collectors for thermals, green roofs, gardens, orchards, as well as solar openings for juvenile trees. Not all big weedy trees need to be legacy trees. Joseph says old photos show less canopy. Some people's Fair is all about sun, others love the shade.

Anna wants zone designation citations in the LUMP manual. Using common language will help in grant seeking. "More work for Robert, who's not here."

Subcommittee reports:

Map subcommittee— **The LUMP committee is seeking Fair Family who are interested in sharing and collaborating on maps of the Fair site.** Many different crews use and adapt the several existing maps, and we would like to move the conversation forward to encourage communication and improve everyone's ability to use and share map information.

The OCF Map Organizing and Sharing Team (MOST) would be a inter-crew, inter-committee, open source working group to identify ways to share information, and propose a "base map" that could be used as the basis for sharing. We have identified some crews and groups as important collaborators: Cartography, OCF staff, Management (BUMS), Site and Quartermaster, Archaeology, Camping, Traffic, Water, Other utilities, Fire, Construction, Communications, Security, Recycling, Sanitation.... We seek other groups with important contributions and mapping needs.

LUMP will host an information gathering meeting on Monday, June 9th from 6pm to 9pm. We will meet on site at Alice's, subject to availability.

The goals of this meeting are to find out:

- Who uses maps at OCF?
- What maps are out there? What spatial information is available but not mapped?
- How can crews collaborate and share maps and information?
- What technology is appropriate for the needs of Fair Family and for managing the site's resources?

Please join us!

RSVP to Jason Kelley (MOST host?) kellyja@onid.oregonstate.edu

Anna shows us an amazing map that we can someday see with overlays if we're not amazed enough.

Green zone subcommittee was actually a board motion in October 2006. We would like to nudge this one along. Designation and enforcement are the two challenges here, but we hope the mapping group can help with designation and recording. Anna says some campgrounds (Paxton's, Energy Park) already have this, and we could use their process as models. Anna will ask Energy Park to help. Thom says we could use this in developing the South Woods. Camp Hosts will monitor slough-sedge near Miss Piggy's to site camps near but not on sensitive areas.

Gray water subcommittee: Dennis says the troughs that were inoculated last month are rip roaring with a very aggressive fungus. They're eating a lot of wood chips. Anna convinced Dennis that this subcommittee should be under the auspices of Peach Power. Dennis met Sunday with 3 students: Micco from LCC en route to OSU in environmental engineering, Michael at OSU in chemical engineering, and Channa Hall at LCC, enthusiastic about myco-remediation. All three have been to the Fair, have swallowed the bait. When Main Camp opens & showers start, we'll get these students to start testing. Unfortunately none of them have access to labs. Jeffery Johnson is now a lab person doing soil studies & has a new baby, but might be able to help us with resources. Channa thinks we should contact EWEB, Dennis thinks maybe Metropolitan Waste Water or Veneta waste water. River Avenue has a staff chemist; Veneta may not. We could get samples and see if they'll test it. We'd like to have biological oxygen demand, coliform bacteria, pH, maybe nitrate & phosphate analyses.

Dennis would like to develop a comprehensive water management plan for the whole site. Anna says Peach Power funds that come from many sources (set up in 2007) were revised & expanded in 2011 to include drafting integrated resource plans. LUMP should be part of this.

Old business

Committee leadership positions accepted were: Dennis Chair, Jain Scribe, Robert IT, Anna co-chair

Committee tasks and goals: Develop action, work plans—we'll do this at our fall meeting.

priority list: LUMP manual update (ongoing), map collaboration (ongoing—June 9th meeting (maprica could give us a phone app)(Oregonflora.org is a wildflower site we are drawn to—there might also be a phone app), green zones, work plan, StewardShip, review OSU report, ponds project, Long Tom Watershed Council collaboration

Ponds project, Tree management and wood salvage: more in the fall

Our next meeting will be October 14th.