

Oregon Country Fair Land Use Management Planning (LUMP) committee

February 9, 2016

7:00 PM at OCF town office

Introductions: DJ Rogers, Dennis Todd, Crystalyn Autuchovich, Shane Harvey, Thom Barr, Ann Rogers, Jon Silvermoon, Joseph Newton. Go-to-meeting: Steve Wisnovsky, Paxton Hoag (from Mexico!), Scribe: Jain Elliott

Announcements: Jon says the Fair board adopted the proposed guideline on arborists.

Last month's minutes were approved.

Staff reports: Shane says we're cleaning up storm damage in the uplands area; the Eight is still too wet. Log jam has moved significantly, one more flood might break it up, which might stop some of the erosion on Strawberry Lane. Working tirelessly on eradicating *Geranium lucidum*, raking as much as we can out, then burning the ground around it. Test spots at Alice's with heavy mulch to see if that works. Started creating maps of the areas we had problems with last year that we're revisiting this year. Will put maps in FFN so the family can pitch in & help. There's so much that the employees can't keep up with it. It's along all the roadways & paths now, everywhere that people camp, since seeds stick to people's shoes & clothes. There's a lot of work to be done. Steve recommends checking with Tom Locasio at Mt. Pisgah. Concerned that it will eliminate our wildflowers. Shane is sure we have a dedicated volunteer base that will come and pull for us. February 21st will plant trees from the nursery. Archeology will be there, hope to have people come out & help in the New Area. Introducing Scouler's willow & Pacific black willow, putting in cedar, oak, ash, & maple, focusing on areas where we've lost trees, also will find other areas to reforest the site more vigorously.

Board Liaison report: Jon says the caretaker job description will be posted on the .net site this week. Feedback on description in by the end of the month. Hope to hire by May meeting.

Old business

Refine work/action plan: What do we want to get done in our next three meetings before the Fair? Feedback on the Steward Ship? Address at next meeting. Promote tree stewardship among campers? Educate about the ash borer? What do we want to get into booth packets on the ash borer & *Geranium lucidum*? Shane will check on the timeline for that. Work on packets in March & the Steward Ship display in April & May. Ann will contribute native uses of plants from Archaeology.

Review Emerald Ash Borer policies and procedures. We can develop materials for next year's guidelines about bringing organic materials on site. We may not be able to eliminate wood pallets. We can let crafters who work with ash know to check where it comes from. Kirk has said it's going to be hard to stop people from bringing their own materials on site, but we can teach quartermasters to identify infected wood & write guidelines to mandate it.

Scouler's willow & Pacific black willow were chosen for a proposed living structure in the New Area because they grow taller than the willow we currently have growing on site. How do we feel about introducing new species to the site? They are native to the Pacific NW, says Dennis, & found in the Willamette Valley. They're drought-tolerant. Our native willows are all down in the creek bottom, and may not thrive in the New Area, where the soil is so well drained & sandy. Willows are notorious hybridizers, so there might be some genetic contribution, but Dennis doubts they'll take over. They don't propagate by runners. If we change our minds about these next year we can still pull them up. Dennis suggests we try them out and monitor what happens. Jon thinks we should only do native plantings. DJ wishes we weren't putting more clutter into that nice meadow. Shane will get info to the Board on this. Committee decides to proceed with caution.

Tree policy and LUMP manual edits (continued): We want to put a mission statement in the LUMP manual that foreshadows the guideline change the Board just passed. Could be a paragraph in the first section, a statement of intent that we're managing for a forest rather than a park. Dennis reads two draft paragraphs that Shane has written. Maybe we could use the second one in the vegetation management section. We'll discuss these again next month.

"The Oregon Country Fair in accordance to our land use policies and philosophies regarding stewards of the land, vow to restore and manage lands for the purpose of protecting and preserving open space with its natural wonders, significant fields, forests, wetlands, rivers and streams, with all of its associated wildlife, in a natural state for the education, pleasure and recreation of the public now and in the future."

"Green Landscaping - Our land is the most direct way for the OCF to address issues of stewardship, responsibility and environmental ethics. The OCF recognizes our stewardship obligation to preserve this rapidly disappearing ecosystem: Willamette Valley riparian floodplain and forest. The Fair site also serves as a critically important wildlife refuge linking the Fern Ridge/West Eugene wetlands, the Long Tom Watershed and Coast Range habitats."

[Shane wrote a third paragraph, not read at the meeting: "The Oregon Country Fair Site, located in Veneta, Oregon is a thriving mix of tree species and ages that creates a contiguous and healthy ecosystem that is cared for and valued by the fair management, family and all of its visitors as an essential environmental, economic, and community asset. In accordance with its vision of stewardship, the property will be managed as a forest, remaining in its natural state. "]

Wetlands enhancement project leader recruitment ad. Dennis has a draft:

"Wetland enhancement project leader needed!"

"The Oregon Country Fair is looking for a volunteer to lead a multi-year wetlands enhancement project. The project has three components: dechannelizing Indian Creek west of the Unorganized Territory, constructing a refuge pond for aquatic creatures at the edge of Miss Piggy's lot, and naturalizing the contours of the borrow pit on the Far Side. Candidates should have experience writing grants, organizing projects, collaborating with and recruiting volunteer workers, and managing a budget.

"For more information, or to submit an application, contact the LUMP committee at the OCF office."

Parking lot land use: Joseph says we could just send the board a statement saying we notice the trajectory is leading to an untenable situation. Jon is happy to take a resolution to the board, but is not optimistic that it will lead to anything. Dennis says maybe we can lay out some options, and just keep talking about it until it gathers critical momentum. Jon says half your crew gets parking passes whether your crew all live in Veneta or they all live in Seattle. Maybe we could rent space at the schools and have a shuttle. Maybe we could run a shuttle from Eugene (from a big big lot where people could leave their cars for 5 days, guarded at all times so we feel safe leaving cars there.) Could we run a train on the old line from Eugene to Veneta? Steve says the Thursday evening arrivals are the ones least interested in being asked to go park at a school and take a shuttle back to the Fair. Paxton says Domaine Meriwether had extra space last year.

New business: DJ investigated beaver deceivers, which are intended to control the water level behind beaver dams. During flood season they may not work.

Next meeting Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 7:00 PM at the OCF office in Eugene