

Network of Oregon Watershed Councils—Fall 2008 Update

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New Education & Training Coordinator Position at the Network

Fresh from Ohio, Alethea Gallman jumped into the Oregon watershed council world with both feet in September. Her second week on the job as our new Education & Training Coordinator found her on a five-day road trip throughout southeastern Oregon meeting with council coordinators, staff, and board members as we begin our in-depth assessment of council training needs. Alethea holds a BS and an MSc in Geography, from Ohio University and University College London, respectively. She brings strong organizational development skills from her experience working with nonprofit conservation organizations during both her undergraduate and graduate studies, as well as an excellent background in GIS. **As Education and Training Coordinator for the Network, Alethea will focus on identifying and developing workshops to build the organizational and technical capacity of councils throughout the state.** We're thrilled to have her on board, as this represents a significant step forward in the Network's ability to provide support services to councils.

Step One: In-depth Needs Assessment

As the [Network of Oregon Watershed Councils](#) prepares to increase our assistance to councils, we recognize the importance of communicating with councils one-on-one to learn first hand about their organizational needs and other issues arising in their effort to serve their local communities. The first set of interviews in this on-going process was held with 15 councils from the Southwest Region, the Willamette Region, and the Southeast Region of the state. **Initial results point to the need for workshops related to project liability questions, contract development issues, and watershed council staff & board roles and responsibilities.** This initial feedback enables the Network to begin developing a series of workshops to address these topics in early 2009, even as we continue to meet individually with councils throughout the state in the months ahead.

River Network/EPA Partnership

In addition to developing training workshops, the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils is partnering with [River Network](#) through a contract agreement using [US Environmental Protection Agency](#) Targeted Watershed Grant funding. **This partnership supports both our workshop development and provides us with the ability to work one-on-one with a few councils on specific organizational challenges such as strategic planning and fundraising planning.** Our first effort will focus on fundraising strategy development with the [Johnson Creek Watershed Council](#). A combination of watershed council funds; in-kind donation of staff time from River Network; and EPA, [Meyer Memorial Trust](#), and [Spirit Mountain Community Fund](#) support will finance the project. The result is excellent leveraging of funding and expertise from multiple sources to meet council needs. We will be developing additional opportunities to work one-on-one with councils throughout the state in the year ahead.

Good Company/Network of Oregon Watershed Councils Pilot Project

[Good Company](#), an Oregon research and consulting firm that helps clients measure, manage, and market their social and environmental performance, has partnered with the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils in a pilot project to explore the potential for watershed councils to participate in large-scale infrastructure improvement projects. In recent years, infrastructure projects such as highway bridge replacement have often included a sustainability component as part of the permitting process. Good Company is contributing significant in-kind resources to assess the potential and obstacles for watershed council participation in such projects. The theory is that in certain situations council participation could improve the sustainability performance on the project, while potentially providing a new source of revenue for councils. While not all councils will have the interest, the organizational capacity, or the right geographic location to work on large-scale infrastructure projects, the pilot project is designed to assess this potential in a couple of key locations— the Upper Deschutes, Crooked River and Coos watersheds. Depending on the results, future research in other areas may be indicated. Good Company will present their initial findings at the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils 2008 Annual Meeting and Reunion, 6:45 – 9:00 pm, November 5, [Eugene Hilton and Conference Center](#).

Thank You to Our Newest Business Partners!

In September, [ENTRIX, Inc.](#) and [Winzler & Kelly](#) each made an important financial commitment to the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils for 2008-2009. ENTRIX became a Silver Sponsor and Winzler & Kelly became a Bronze Sponsor of our work in support of watershed councils. Thank you, both!

Business sponsorship of the Network represents a win-win-win for business, the Network and watersheds throughout the state. In return for their sponsorship investment, businesses receive a range of benefits aimed at increasing their visibility among potential clients and all Oregonians committed to healthy ecosystems, vibrant communities, and strong local economies. Business sponsorship enables the Network to increase our services to watershed councils. And stronger councils mean increased stewardship of watersheds throughout Oregon. **For more information on the benefits of becoming a business sponsor or individual contributor, call or email [John Moriarty \(541-682-8323\)](#).**

Have a great Fall!