

Network of Oregon Watershed Councils

Winter 2009 Update

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2009 Legislature Returns to Salem this Month

Oregon's watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts play a crucial role in putting important restoration projects on the ground in local communities throughout the state. With the economy struggling and our nation's new focus on infrastructure development throughout the country, **it's important not to lose sight of the "green infrastructure" restoration work accomplished by councils, districts, and their partners** with Measure 66 lottery funds distributed by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). **Councils and their partners leverage this state investment with millions of dollars in additional federal and private funds. Watershed restoration projects employ local contractors at living wages; help Oregon farmers and ranchers manage their land more effectively; and improve ecological conditions, all while enabling local people to participate directly in natural resource management decisions.** However, projects cannot be implemented without sufficient funding for council support, technical assistance, project design and development, outreach, and monitoring. We work with the [Oregon Legislature](#) to assure sufficient funding in the OWEB budget to enable councils, districts, and their partners to effectively carry out our work. And, we appreciate their support.

Watershed Council Atlas of Accomplishments 2009

The *2009 Oregon Watershed Council Atlas of Accomplishments* is expected to roll off the press on February 5th. This year's Atlas is produced in partnership with the [Oregon 150 Celebration](#) and provides a wonderful snapshot of community projects from watersheds throughout the state. We'll be delivering copies to legislators, councils, and partners throughout the state beginning next month. The Atlas will also be available online after February 5th at www.oregonwatersheds.org/publications.

Council Support Grant Conference Calls

The [Network of Oregon Watershed Councils](#) facilitated a series of conference calls in December and January to assist council coordinators with preparation of the OWEB council support grant application. The workshop calls were particularly designed for those coordinators who have not previously submitted a council support grant application, but were open to any and all council coordinators who wanted to participate. **More than 20 coordinators joined the calls.** To provide guidance, two former council coordinators who are now volunteer grant reviewers participated in the call, as well as an experienced coordinator who has submitted several successful applications over the past years. We appreciate their assistance. Click on the link for [workshop information](#) generated before and during the calls.

Thanks to Meyer Memorial Trust, Spirit Mountain Community Fund, Laird Norton Family Foundation, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, ICF/Jones & Stokes, River Design Group, Port of Portland, ENTRIX, Inc., and Winzler & Kelly for their support of these conference calls.

Risk Management for Watershed Councils: A Reasonable, Cost-effective Approach

In March, the Network will host **four regional seminars focusing on risk management questions specifically for watershed councils. The seminars bring together legal and insurance advisors** to discuss potential for risks associated with watershed council work, and affordable tools to address that risk. Discussion will be built around a hypothetical stream restoration project with design, implementation, volunteer, and education/outreach components to provide an applicable example specific to watershed councils. The two tools for addressing risk that will be presented include: (1) effective contract language; and, (2) appropriate types of affordable insurance (including OWEB Watershed Council Self-Insurance). The seminars will address some of the diversity of watershed council operations such as 501(c)(3) status (or not), working with fiscal sponsors, working with soil and water conservation districts, employees vs. contracted staff/coordinators.

[Registration materials](#) are on our website. We invite council coordinators to note the date of the seminar occurring closest to you and encourage at least one or two key council members to join you. Cost per council, including all materials, is just \$20.00 for one person, \$30.00 for two, and \$35.00 for three or more. Participants not affiliated with a watershed council are invited to attend at \$25.00 per person.

All seminars will run from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, and will be followed by an optional no-host lunch with the seminar leaders and Network staff. Seminar dates & locations:

Thursday, March 5, 2009 - Salem
Friday, March 6, 2009 - Medford
Tuesday, March 10, 2009 - La Grande
Wednesday, March 11, 2009 - Bend

Thanks to Meyer Memorial Trust, Spirit Mountain Community Fund, Laird Norton Family Foundation, Compton Foundation, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, ICF/Jones & Stokes, River Design Group, Port of Portland, ENTRIX, Inc., and Winzler & Kelly for their assistance in making these seminars affordable.

Council Member Recognition & Leadership Seminars

Later in March and early April, the Network will host **four regional events aimed at recognizing the work of volunteer council members, as well as tackling the challenges of leadership and participation on watershed council boards and steering committees.** These evening sessions are designed for new and experienced council members and coordinators alike. **We'll provide dinner and beverages** to kick off the evening, then make sure we get everyone back on the road home by 9:00 pm at the latest.

Registration information will be on our website soon, so please note the date of the seminar closest to you and make plans to attend the most convenient session.

All seminars will run from 5:30 - 9:00 pm, and will include pizza dinner and beverages. Seminar dates and locations:

Wednesday, March 26, 2009 - McMinnville
Thursday, March 27, 2009 - Medford
Tuesday, March 31, 2009 - Tillamook
Thursday, April 2, 2009 – Pendleton

Once again, we offer our sincere appreciation to Meyer Memorial Trust, Spirit Mountain Community Fund, Laird Norton Family Foundation, Compton Foundation, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, ICF/Jones & Stokes, River Design Group, Port of Portland, ENTRIX, Inc., and Winzler & Kelly for their support in making these seminars possible.

New Coordinator Orientation Workshop

In early May, the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils and [River Network](#) will hold our **Second Annual New Coordinator Orientation Workshop in Eugene**. This workshop is **specifically designed for those coordinators who have come on the job since May 2008** (though other recent coordinators are welcome). The workshop offers the opportunity to explore challenging issues with your peers (i.e. other new coordinators); experienced coordinators; and organizational management experts from River Network's staff. **Specific workshop topics include project management, financial management, and organizational development.** [Presentations and resources](#) from the 2008 workshop are available on our website. As one coordinator said of last year's workshop, **"I learned so many interesting things I can do to be more successful at my job."**

Stay tuned to our website for specific date and time information for the New Coordinator Workshop.

Compton Foundation Invests in Network and Councils

We're thrilled to announce the [Compton Foundation](#) has made a one-year commitment of general support to the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils to enable us to continue to expand our capacity building efforts with watershed councils throughout the state. The Foundation recognizes the importance of strong, resilient community based watershed councils. This partnership reflects an excellent opportunity to advance the Foundation's mission of supporting responsible stewardship that respects the rights of future generations to a balanced and healthy ecology, while enabling the Network to more fully serve the needs of Oregon's watershed councils. We're tremendously grateful to the Compton Foundation for their support, and we look forward to deepening this partnership in the years ahead.

Save the Date! Watershed Council Gathering in Klamath Falls: October 27-30, 2009

If you're involved in watershed restoration work in Oregon, **you don't want to miss the Fourth Biennial Watershed Council Gathering October 27-30, 2009**, at the [Running Y Ranch](#) in Klamath Falls. Plan to join us for several days of technical and organizational workshops, networking opportunities, friendship, policy discussions, tours, and more in the beautiful and active Upper Klamath Basin. In-depth conference organizing is just getting underway, so if you'd like to participate, contact [Ben Lubbers](#) or [John Moriarty](#) at the Network.

Thank You to Our Newest Business Partners!

In December, **Environmental Science and Assessment, LLC**, made an important financial commitment to the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils for 2009. Thank you! **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 becoming a business sponsor, call or email [John Moriarty](#) (541-682-8323).**

Thank you to our most recent individual donors:

Matt Clark & Abigail Sarmac, Portland, OR
Lily J. Moriarty, East Longmeadow, MA

Contributions in any amount to the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils help us serve councils in communities throughout the state. Contributions of \$100 or more are eligible for a Network coffee mug or canvas tote bag (apologies to our friends at public radio!). If you'd like a gift, let us know your preference when you send your donation to:

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Enjoy the returning light,

-John

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Visit us on the web: www.oregonwatersheds.org

Building community for healthy watersheds