

Network of Oregon Watershed Councils-Summer 2009 Update

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Changes Coming at the Network

From [John Moriarty, Executive Director](#): Since 2004, I have had the privilege and pleasure of working with extraordinary people throughout Oregon to build the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils. Based on a foundation laid by volunteers prior to 2004, we have built an effective non-profit organization dedicated to supporting watershed councils and their partners as they enhance watershed health and benefit their local communities. Councils, legislators, county commissioners, local, state and federal agencies, tribes, and universities have expressed their appreciation for the work of the Network. The organization is financially healthy, has an engaged board of directors, a strong staff, and is poised to offer even more support to councils in the years ahead. So, I can't think of a better time to say goodbye and offer the reins to a person with the skills necessary to lead the organization from this founding period into the next stage of its growth and development.

In late April, I initiated work with our board, funders, and key partners to resign my position and hire a new director in time for the [Network of Oregon Watershed Councils Gathering](#), October 27-30, 2009. We hope to introduce our new executive director to councils and partners at the Gathering. My tenure will officially end at the close of the Gathering on October 30th (though I've offered to make myself available to the new director during November and December).

We have had strong interest in the position, and our Transition Team and Board of Directors will be selecting a candidate from among many well-qualified applicants. The Board is determined to identify a candidate who possesses not only the administrative and fundraising skills necessary for ongoing success, but also the leadership characteristics that will enable the new director to continue reinforcing trust in the Network's mission to serve councils and maintain our integrity with funders and partners.

My wife, Kit, and I plan to stay in Oregon. We're blessed with the opportunity to reflect a bit on the incredible experience of these past five years, as well as make up for some lost time with family. Over time, I look forward to staying involved in the important conservation work of which councils are so much a part.

Thank you to our terrific staff, Board of Directors, Advisory Council, and our many partners for your support, both personal and professional. I have learned so much in this position and have been fortunate to be the hub of an amazing wheel of activity. The individuals to whom I owe a debt of gratitude are far too numerous to list, but know that I am eternally grateful to each of you for your support and mentorship. Between now and the Gathering, it is business as usual at the Network, so drop a line or give a call. Meanwhile, onward to the Gathering!

4th Biennial Watershed Council Gathering: October 27-30, 2009

[Water in a Changing World: Sustaining Oregon's Ecosystems and Local Communities](#)
[Running Y Ranch – Klamath Falls, Oregon](#)

Registration opens August 10th. Check the website for updates. If you're involved in watershed restoration work in Oregon, then **you won't want to miss this signature event!** Join watershed councils, non-profits, businesses, tribal representatives, elected officials, and natural resource agencies from around the state to help us build community for healthy watersheds. Expanded workshop opportunities will include sessions on **advanced project management, organizational development, and emerging topics in watershed management.** In addition, this year's Gathering will feature a panel discussion and project tours examining the people and process behind the [Klamath Settlement Agreement](#). **Thank you to the [Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board \(OWEB\)](#) and the 15 additional businesses, agencies and non-profits who have already signed on as [sponsors for the Gathering](#).** Sponsorship and exhibitor

opportunities are still available. Please contact [Ben Lubbers](#), Program Associate (541-682-8365) or [John Moriarty](#), Executive Director (541-682-8323) for details.

State Legislature Wrap-up: Council and District Support

Thanks to the efforts of coordinators, council members, and our partners in the conservation, agriculture, and forestry communities, we were able to work with the [Oregon State Legislature](#) to **maintain \$5 million in support funding** for [watershed councils](#) and [soil and water conservation districts](#) for the 2009-11 biennium. As everyone knows, there have been significant state budget cuts during these difficult economic times. The legislature recognized the value of watershed council and SWCD conservation work for employment and the environment. While the legislative funding allocation did not increase this biennium, it was a tremendous accomplishment to keep it from being reduced. Thank you to the many people who told the story of watershed restoration success, and to the legislators who voted to support this important work.

On a less positive note, Oregon Lottery revenues were down significantly from last biennium, so capital restoration and acquisition funding in the OWEB budget was reduced from about \$60 million in 2007-09 to about \$46 million for 2009-11. With more restoration project proposals than ever being submitted for funding, this will mean a far more competitive process for OWEB project funding.

Update: 2009 New Watershed Council Coordinator Workshop

On May 7 & 8, the [Network of Oregon Watershed Councils](#) hosted a two day workshop in Eugene for new council coordinators. This year's [New Coordinator Workshop](#) featured experienced coordinators, tribal and agency experts, and River Network staff working together to guide participants through sessions exploring board relationships, action planning and time management, budgeting, OWEB grant writing, project prioritization and implementation, cultural resources, permitting, contracting, and more. An informal barbeque dinner, held after the first day of the workshop, provided participants with a chance to socialize and network outside of the "classroom" environment. The two-day workshop was attended by 11 council coordinators and one council board member—representing 11 different councils from around the state. The presentations and handouts from the full workshop are available on the Network's website at: <http://www.oregonwatersheds.org/newcoordinatorworkshop>.

The Network would like to thank the following sponsors and partners for their invaluable contributions, which make these events possible: [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.](#), [Winzler & Kelly](#), and [Environmental Science and Assessment](#).

The New Coordinator Handbook: A reference for Oregon's watershed council coordinators

Building on an idea first proposed by several coordinators, and bolstered by the lessons learned at this year's and previous years' New Coordinator Workshop, the Network worked with OSU Extension Service and Sea Grant to develop a reference book for new watershed council coordinators. After two rounds of intensive peer review, the New Coordinator Handbook went to print on July 20, 2009. The roughly 90-page handbook covers topics falling under the headings: Getting Started, Organization and Outreach, Finances and Funding, Projects and Permits, and Resources and References. While the information in the document is intended to ease the adjustment of new coordinators to the challenges of the position and is therefore mostly "the basics," initial feedback from more experienced coordinators cites the continued usefulness of the Handbook beyond a coordinator's first year on the job. Copies of the Handbook will be mailed to councils and other interested parties beginning in August. The full document will also be available for download from the Network's website following its physical distribution.

More One-on-One Work with Councils

The Network is pleased to announce that **we are working one-on-one with several councils around the state**. Alone and in partnership with River Network, we are currently working to facilitate strategic planning and council self-evaluations for councils on the North Coast, in Northeastern Oregon, and the Willamette Basin. Also, with support from OWEB and private foundations, we are working with several councils to **organize project tours for the public, media, and elected officials**. The Network is sharing tour costs, outreach, and organizing responsibilities with each council. We plan to work with additional councils to organize several more tours in 2010. If you would like information about these opportunities, or would like to discuss the possibility of working one-on-one with the Network to help accomplish your council's goals (in any part of the state), please contact [Alethea Gallman](#), Education & Training Coordinator (541-682-8481).

Driving for Change:

SeSequential Biofuels in Eugene Teams Up to Support the Network

The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils would like to announce a new and exciting opportunity to **support our work through the SeSequential - [Driving Change in Your Community program](#)** here in the Eugene/Springfield area. Stop by the [SeSequential fueling station](#) at 86714 McVay Hwy, near I-5 & Lane Community College and tell them you would like to support the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils with your purchase of fuel or items from the SeSequential store. Or, just provide us with your receipts and we will drop them off at SeSequential for you. For every gallon of fuel purchased, SeSequential will donate 5 cents to the Network. In addition, for every store purchase SeSequential will donate 5% of that purchase. All of the biofuel sold at SeSequential is manufactured in Oregon.

So, whether you live nearby, or you're just passing through, please support the Network and help drive change in your community!

Thank you to our most recent individual donors:

Denise Lofman, Garibaldi, OR

In honor of Jamie & Kristin Stebbins:

Lily J. Moriarty, East Longmeadow, MA
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Dan & Mary Moriarty, Taunton, MA
Kara & Chris DeVoie, East Longmeadow, MA
Shauna & Greg Dobek, East Longmeadow, MA
Kit Kirkpatrick & John Moriarty, Eugene, OR

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. If you'd like a gift, let us know your preference when you send your donation to:

Network of Oregon Watershed Councils
PO Box 40061
Eugene, OR 97404

Support the Network Online

Now, it's as easy as a click of the mouse to [donate](#) to the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils! Please visit our website to learn more about watershed councils and consider making a **secure, tax deductible contribution** to help us support their efforts. We envision strong, resilient watershed councils throughout Oregon sustaining healthy land, water, and economies. Oregon watershed councils are the pride of our local communities and a model for our country and the world. Oregon is unique in its commitment to community-based restoration of our natural systems and local economies. **Join our effort to maintain and expand this extraordinary model.** Thank you.

Enjoy a healthy, happy summer!