

Minutes of the Badfish Creek Group - June 28, 2007

Present: Hans Noeldner, Al Schroeder, Jeff and Patty Ellsworth, Tom Murray, Lynne Diebel, Doug Brethauer, Colleen Lorigan, Caroline Werner, Lisa Hustad, Sally Franz, Jane Sheffy and Suzanne Wade

The focus of today's meeting was on the vision and name for the group.

We began by reviewing the group's "Needs" statements, which were determined at the March 31st meeting. These include:

Top Short Term Needs:

- Learn about the creek today. (6 short-term)
- Learn what needs to be done. (5 short-term)
- Find out what the area once was like. (4 short-term)
- Learn what research has been done. (3 short-term)
- Preserve wetlands. (3 short-term, 3 long-term)

Top Long Term Needs:

- Develop a vision for the creek. (8 long-term)
- Improve riparian habitat. (3 long-term)
- Build political effectiveness. (3 long-term)
- Work with the DNR to target areas and help. (3 long-term)

1 of 3

Next, we discussed what we envision this group accomplishing in the next 5 years. (Looking back in the year 2012, what would we like to see that the group has accomplished?) Suggested ideas include:

- Stream monitoring (database with 5 years of data).
- Money raised to purchase wetlands.
- Healthy habitat along waterway--no erosion along banks, no invasive species.
- Have the trust of landowners along the creek.
- Landowners are involved in creek and bank maintenance.
- Pond/wetland/park area in downtown Oregon (where the creek originates).
- Space along creek for a park with trails.
- Map available for public showing access points along creek. Development of a trail guide and signs to highlight areas with public access.
- People take responsibility for properly using the creek and knowing what is legal and non-legal use of water and land. This specifically includes respecting the property rights of landowners along creek.
- Anglers can catch and eat fish throughout the watershed that are safe to eat.
- Group hosts an annual tour/clean-up of the watershed--with less clean-up needed every year.
- Education of the community about the Creek and its watershed.
- Students are learning about our water and are participating in and completing creek improvement projects. (This would include school groups as well as scout groups.)
- Communicate with Madison Metropolitan Sewage District to revisit MMSD's commitment to actively maintain areas within their responsibility, and renegotiate for an improved stream.
- An inventory of wetlands and springs and aquifers. As a result, we have been able to reduce the impact of development and high capacity wells.
- Supported state-wide efforts, such as reinstating the position of State Intervener.
- All research and documents are accessible to the public via library, schools, and internet.
- Increased public participation in "Creek" issues.
- Decisions by elected officials reflect and consider environmental issues.

After considering the various ideas for the vision of the group, several suggestions were considered for naming the group. The name that was chosen is

"Friends of Badfish Creek".

The next tasks to be accomplished in formation of the group include:

*Deciding on the structure of the group; for example:

- incorporation with limited liability (LLC),
- incorporation as a non-profit corporation;
- incorporation as a tax-exempt charitable organization (501C3);
- ad hoc organization.

*Drafting a purpose/mission statement.

*Drafting a budget to determine financial needs.

*If incorporating, developing bylaws and choosing board members.

A small group has been meeting on Sunday mornings at 8:30 at the Firefly Coffeehouse in Oregon to strategize, plan for speakers, and just talk about how things are going. Anyone who wishes to come is welcome.

At the next meeting, Pete Jopke will speak. After his talk, if time, we will begin to develop our goals based on the discussions from the past meetings.