

Siuslaw

WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

September 2014

www.siuslaw.org

watershed@siuslaw.org

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• *Community* • *Economy* • *Environment*

Siuslaw Watershed Council

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2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: *Wesley Voth*

Vice-Chair: *Steve Elliot*

Secretary: *Eron King*

Treasurer: *Tom Burke*

Representatives:

Mark Tilton

Ray Kinney

Jim Grano

Dave Cramsey

Message From the Executive Director

Summer and autumn 2014 are proving to be yet again busy and productive seasons. The Siuslaw Watershed Camps were successful and fun. Work progresses at the large scale Fivemile-Bell Whole Watershed Restoration Project and with planning for the Waite Ranch Tidal Wetland Restoration Project. Monitoring for multiple water quality parameters continues throughout the watershed, as does surveying for the native Western pearlshell mussel. Inspection and release of native riparian plants on private and federal land is ongoing. We will have articles with project updates in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

This September issue of the newsletter is a bit different than usual as it is time for our biannual Council Self-Evaluation. Instead of the regular articles, two checklists are included for you to use to participate in this process. All councils who receive Council Support grants from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) are required to perform a self-evaluation every biennium. This is an opportunity for council members to identify what we do well and areas in need of improvement. While we regularly assess staff and projects through staff evaluations and post-project monitoring, the broader Council Self-Evaluation process takes place every other year.

We will all benefit from your involvement in the process. Please take the time to fill out the enclosed checklists and mail them in or bring them to the October General Meeting in Lorane. We will be compiling the responses and will use them for the Council Self-Evaluation and to guide and inform the strategic planning process which the SWC will be going through this year. We appreciate your participation in the Council Self-Evaluation.

Submitted by Liz Vollmer-Buhl, Executive Director/Coordinator

Come Celebrate With the SWC!

CELEBRATE
Success!

We invite you to come and celebrate this past year's accomplishments with the SWC on Friday, September 17th at the 6:00 PM at the Florence Events Center.

You have been an integral part of all the work that the SWC does and we would like to share an evening of live music, great food, and fun with you to wrap up another busy summer and carry the SWC forward.

Tickets to this year's Celebrate Siuslaw Salmon event can be purchased for \$40.00 by visiting the SWC's website, calling the SWC office or contacting anyone on the SWC's Board of Directors (see list to the left). See you there!

WATERSHED COUNCIL SELF-EVALUATION

PURPOSE: The self-evaluation tool is a means for watershed councils to assess their organizational capacity. OWEB has asked each council support grant recipient to complete a self-assessment and to address the results of the evaluation in a program action or work plan for the council. Once the evaluation is complete, your council will need to report the results and a plan of work to OWEB.

INSTRUCTIONS: Each person should fill out this form on their own. One form/submission per person. Please give your honest opinion - the form will only be turned in if you choose, you are not required to turn it in. If you choose not to turn it in, you can use it for self-reflection as to your role in the Council. If you are unsure about a specific question, please leave the question blank. Please mail in or drop the form off to the SWC Office on or by 10:00am Monday, November 3, 2014 or bring them to the October General Meeting in Lorane.

Oregon Revised Statutes (541.351 to .415) define a watershed council, the interests that shall be represented on a watershed council, and a reporting requirement to a county governing body. The following sets of questions were designed to help council members evaluate how they are addressing and meeting these requirements.

I participate in the Council in the following ways: ___ Member ___ Leadership Body Representative ___ Board of Directors Member ___ Tech Team Member ___ Other: _____

MEMBERSHIP

	How important is this to the Council's effectiveness?			How is the Council doing?			
	Very	Somewhat	Not really	Doing Great	Doing enough	Let's do better	Unknown/ Not Appl. to My Role
1 Our council has a broad, diverse membership which represents most interests in the watershed.							
2 Our membership requirements are clearly defined and communicated.							
3 Leadership Body members understand their responsibilities and roles.							
4 New Leadership Body members are provided orientation and materials.							
5 There is an active mentoring process for the Leadership Body and the Board for bringing new members into active Council participation							
6 Board composition and balance reflects the diversity of stakeholders and the community, including but not limited to interests, age, ethnic or racial identity and gender							

Comments/Ideas:

PARTICIPATION

	How important is this to the Council's effectiveness?			How is the Council doing?			
	Very	Somewhat	Not really	Doing Great	Doing enough	Let's do better	Unknown/ Not Appl. to My Role
7 Our council actively involves key people and community leaders in projects and/or activities.							
8 Our council members share a common vision and purpose in the Council Mission.							
9 Members are aware of and involved in projects and/or activities.							
10 Volunteers are recruited, trained, nurtured, and valued. A place is found for people who want to help.							

11 Members are aware of and use the process for bringing ideas and concerns to the Council Board of Directors or staff attention

Comments/Ideas:

ACCOUNTABILITY

How important is this to the Council's effectiveness?			How is the Council doing?			
Very	Somewhat	Not really	Doing Great	Doing enough	Let's do better	Unknown/ Not Appl. to My Role

12 The council reports progress and results to our county governing body.

13 The council reports progress and results to all stakeholders.

14 Community members know how to contact our group.

Comments/Ideas:

Watershed Councils generally have bylaws and a mission-statement to guide their operations. Operations generally include meetings, relationships to staff and decision-making policies. The following sets of questions are intended to help your group review its operational procedures.

DECISION-MAKING

How important is this to the Council's effectiveness?			How is the Council doing?			
Very	Somewhat	Not really	Doing Great	Doing enough	Let's do better	Unknown/ Not Appl. to My Role

15 Council members understand and use our chosen method of decision-making.

16 Council policy decisions are made fairly.

17 Board decisions are evaluated with regard to our mission and vision.

18 Members know when a policy decision has been made.

Comments/Ideas:

MEETINGS

How important is this to the Council's effectiveness?			How is the Council doing?			
Very	Somewhat	Not really	Doing Great	Doing enough	Let's do better	Unknown/ Not Appl. to My Role

19 General Meetings are well-organized and productive.

20 Board of Directors Meetings are well-organized and productive.

21 Tech Team Meetings are well-organized and productive.

22 Our process is fair, open and honest.

23 Members advocate for the Council vision.

24 Members feel free to contribute in meetings and activities.

Comments/Ideas:

How important is this to the Council's effectiveness?			How is the Council doing?			
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STAFF MANAGEMENT

		Very	Somewhat	Not really	Doing Great	Doing enough	Let's do better	Unknown/ Not Appl. to My Role
25	Board of Directors members understand the role of staff and their relationship to staff.							
26	Board of Directors members work with the staff in a supportive and professional manner.							
27	Council has and uses an objective methodology for evaluating staff performance and compensation.							
28	Council staff work with members in a supportive and professional environment.							

Comments/Ideas:

Many watershed councils also implement or manage projects and grants. The following questions address how your group handles these responsibilities and allows you to assess your capabilities related to fiscal and project management.

FISCAL & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

		How important is this to the Council's effectiveness?			How is the Council doing?			
		Very	Somewhat	Not really	Doing Great	Doing enough	Let's do better	Unknown/ Not Appl. to My Role
29	Board of Directors members are aware of the council's contractual commitments and understand their responsibility.							
30	Board of Directors members are aware of recordkeeping procedures and have access to records.							
31	Our council has a process for tracking project implementation and performance.							
32	Our council effectively carries out projects within schedules and budgets.							
33	Our council practices open and fair competition for goods and services.							
34	Our board is involved in developing strategies for funding operations and projects.							
35	Our staff engages in grant writing and developing strategies for funding operations and projects.							

Comments/Ideas:

Watershed Councils address the goal of sustaining natural resource and watershed protection, restoration, and enhancement in a number of ways (ORS 541.351(15)). The following sets of questions focus on the tasks a council may do to accomplish this goal and is intended to help you evaluate how you are working to meet that goal.

WATERSHED PLANNING & PROJECTS

		How important is this to the Council's effectiveness?			How is the Council doing?			
		Very	Somewhat	Not really	Doing Great	Doing enough	Let's do better	Unknown/ Not Appl. to My Role
36	Our council's Technical Team identifies key issues, limiting factors, and/or watershed conditions (assessments).							
37	Our council's Technical Team identifies and evaluates the major restoration priorities in our watershed (action plans).							
38	Activities and projects address the concerns identified and move us towards our desired outcomes.							

- 39 Our council actively involves stakeholders in watershed-level planning and project development.
- 40 Our council annually evaluates its priorities and plans.
- 41 Projects implemented by the council are monitored for their effectiveness.
- 42 Our plans identify outcomes for the next three to five years.

Comments/Ideas:

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT & SUPPORT

How important is this to the Council's effectiveness?			How is the Council doing?			
Very	Somewhat	Not really	Doing Great	Doing enough	Let's do better	Unknown/ Not Appl. to My Role
43 Our council and its projects are actively supported by:						
40 Citizens understand our organization's purpose.						
41 Community members feel our council is successful and effective.						
42 Our council works to increase citizen understanding of watershed conditions and concerns.						

Comments/Ideas:

Would you like to join or support
 the Siuslaw Watershed Council?
 For more membership information
 check our website at *siuslaw.org/
 membership-and-donations*

We thank the BLM for their cooperation. In order to continue our partnership, we are required to include: The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government.

WATERSHED COUNCIL MEMBER SELF-EVALUATION

A Watershed Council is made up of individuals. Please use these next two pages to identify your own priorities. You might also use this checklist to make up your own personal plan of action to address any concerns or build on successes that you have identified through the watershed council self-evaluation process. Please return this to the SWC office, either in person, or mail to SWC, PO Box 422, Mapleton, OR 97453. Please make and keep a copy of these pages (with your personal goals) for yourself.

MY ROLE IN THE WATERSHED COUNCIL

Why do I participate?

What am I proud of?

<i>Effective groups are diverse and dynamic. Please give an accurate depiction of your activity at this stage of your involvement.</i>	This is important to me			I am doing this well		
	Very	Somewhat	Not really	Most times	Sometimes	Not sure /never
1 I understand and can explain our council's purpose and mission.						
2 I am aware of the status and purpose of our current projects.						
3 I am actively involved in a project or committee.						
4 I understand our basic organization and governing rules/bylaws.						
5 I participate in council discussions and contribute to finding solutions to problems.						
6 I act as a liaison to the community by collecting and sharing information.						
7 I advocate for the council's vision and evaluate proposals with regard to the mission.						
8 I listen to other council members and respect our decision-making process.						

- 9 I play an active role in helping our council define and respect ground rules.
- 10 I help ensure that council decisions are respected and supported in outside meetings and in the community.
- 11 I encourage others to be involved with our council and help look for ways to continue bringing in new participants.

Comments:

MY PERSONAL "TO DO" LIST FOR MY WATERSHED COUNCIL

1

2

3

Native Plant Distribution 2015: Plan(t) on It!

The Siuslaw Watershed Council will be taking requests for the 2015 Native Plant Distribution in November and December. More detailed information and lists of available plants will be made available in November. You will be able to contact Tyler Pedersen at 541-268-3044 or restoration@siuslaw.org to place a request.

The plant distribution is scheduled for Saturday, February 14th, 2015.

*Submitted by Tyler Pedersen,
Integrated Watershed Projects Manager*



Native blue elderberries (*Sambucus caerulea*) are ripening now. Birds flock to them in the autumn.
Photo: WSU Clark County Extension

Calendar of Meetings

Friday, September 19

Celebrate Siuslaw Salmon

6:00-9:00 PM, Doors open at 5:30 PM

Florence Events Center

715 Quince Street, Florence

No September General Meeting

Thursday, October 2

SWC Technical Team Meeting

9:30-11:30 AM, SWC Office,

Mapleton School District Campus,

10868 E. Mapleton Rd, Mapleton

Thursday, October 2 (*Tentative*)

Siuslaw Stewardship Group Meeting

1:00-3:00 PM, SWC Office

Mapleton School District Campus,

10868 E. Mapleton Rd, Mapleton

Monday, October 6

Siuslaw SWCD Board Meeting

6:30 PM, Contact SWCD for information

(541-997-1272)

Wednesday, October 8

SWC Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 PM, SWC Office

Mapleton School District Campus,

10868 E. Mapleton Rd, Mapleton

Wednesday, October 29

SWC October General Meeting – Upper Watershed (Lorane)

*Forest Landowner Resource – Online

Forest Planner, David Diaz (Ecotrust)

6:30-8:30 PM, Lorane Grange

Monday, November 3

Siuslaw SWCD Board Meeting

6:30 PM, Contact SWCD for information

(541-997-1272)

Thursday, November 6

SWC Technical Team Meeting

9:30-11:30 AM, SWC Office

Mapleton School District Campus

10868 E Mapleton Rd., Mapleton

Please check our website at www.siuslaw.org and our Facebook page for more information.

Siuslaw Watershed Council Mission Statement

The Siuslaw Watershed Council supports sound economic, social and environmental uses of natural and human resources in the Siuslaw River Basin. The Council encourages cooperation among public and private watershed entities to promote awareness and understanding of watershed functions by adopting and implementing a total watershed approach to natural resource management and production.



What's Happening in Your Watershed?