

Siuslaw WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

NOVEMBER 2006

www.siuslaw.org
watershed@siuslaw.org

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

Message from the Coordinator...

On October 25, 26, and 27 staff member Liz Vollmer-Buhl, Council Chair Cricket Crowder, and I attended the OWEB biennial statewide watershed conference in Seaside. This year's theme was "Communities Working for Healthy Watersheds: Celebrating Oregon Plan Accomplishments & Looking Ahead." The conference was an opportunity to share Siuslaw experiences, learn from other watersheds, explore current trends and opportunities for working with watershed communities, and network with partners and organizations working on similar endeavors as we are in the Siuslaw.

The conference was preceded by the annual gathering of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils. The Network confirmed the recently elected board members for statewide representation. The Network strives to accomplish statewide efforts on behalf of all councils, particularly as related to outreach to state government and the general public to raise awareness of council efforts and accomplishments. If you are not yet familiar with the Network, the informative Web site is available at www.oregonwatersheds.org.

The Siuslaw Watershed Council had two direct venues to share our accomplishments with the rest of the state. Our volunteer water quality monitoring program was shared during one of the early conference sessions, and our Highway 126 road sign project was shared via a poster presentation.

Liz Vollmer-Buhl, our water quality monitoring coordinator (among other roles), was an invited speaker to be part of a three-person panel presenting on volunteer utilization. I attended the session and became more impressed with our volunteer monitoring program through Liz's excellent presentation. Her co-presenters were from Portland Metro and Willamette Riverkeepers, two entities with much different population draws and resource bases than the Siuslaw. I was not alone in being impressed with the successful

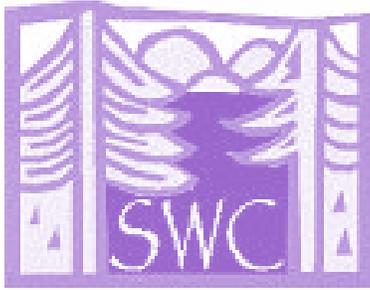


retention, training, and utilization of volunteers in the rural Siuslaw River area to maintain a cost-effective program, especially when compared side-by-side with the other organizations. Kudos to Liz and all of the volunteers! However, that is not to say we did not benefit from some of the lessons shared from the other programs. We are looking forward to exploring ways to increase volunteer participation and integration into other data collection endeavors. Depending on project needs, possibilities include bird and wildlife observations, culvert observations and surveys, and similar efforts.

Statewide council interest in watershed road signs remains high, and our poster display of the "Now Entering Siuslaw Watershed" road sign going up this summer received compliments and increased interest among other groups. Despite the interest, coordination among state agencies is lacking to promote a streamlined process to get signs on the ground. We could benefit from a universally acceptable watershed signage effort. In the Siuslaw alone, watershed entry signs could adorn Highway 101, Highway 36, and three major routes of entry in the Lorane area.

Integrating watershed health and community economic interest is always an important focus of the Siuslaw Watershed Council, and the conference proved that it is a statewide endeavor as well. An entire session track was devoted to community issues, and the sessions had the whole audience intrigued and enthused about current connections between watershed stewardship and economic networking. Building and supporting local

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**Siuslaw Watershed
Council**

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Liz Vollmer-Buhl

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Executive Committee

Chair: Paula Crowder

Vice Chair: Steve Elliot

Secretary: William Fleenor

Treasurer: Nancy Nichols

Representatives:

Barbara Beers

Dave Eisler

Jim Grano

Noland Huntington

Water Quality Monitoring News

- ★ Thank you to the WQ Monitoring Volunteers, Ginger Fincher and Cricket Crowder for the extra time and work this month while I'm on crutches. Your dedication helped the Sampling Day to go well.
- ★ In October, at the OWEB conference, I gave a presentation on using volunteers in monitoring programs. Our WQ Monitoring Volunteers contributed to the presentation by sharing the reasons why they are involved in our program. And I was able to highlight their strengths and the strengths of our program in the presentation. You can check out the presentation (and others from the conference) on OWEB's web site:
http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/2006_conf_presentations.shtml
- ★ Check out <http://siuslaw.org/drupal/?q=node/6> for the *Data in the Spotlight* from the VWQMP.

Liz Vollmer-Buhl, monitoring@siuslaw.org

Workshop about Horses and Clean Water to be Held

The Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) are hosting a two-day event that addresses clean water on lands with horses.

On December 11th, there will be a workshop starting at 1:00 pm at the Siuslaw Public Library, 1460 9th Street in Florence. A presentation will be given by "Horses for Clean Water". The second day, December 12, will be a field trip to visit a horse farm utilizing conservation techniques; details about the field-day will be announced later.

Please call the Siuslaw SWCD, 541-997-1272 to sign up for one or both of the days. Both days are free of charge, but pre-registration is necessary so that there can be enough materials for all who attend.

What do you want to know about herbicides?

We are organizing the February and March presentations at the general council meetings to feature a two-part facilitated forum on herbicides. We are seeking input on specific questions that you would like answered concerning this topic. We are asking for the questions to be submitted in advance so that we can invite the appropriate speakers and to have the meeting run smoothly with respect to the speakers.

Please email your questions to watershed@siuslaw.org and please put "herbicide forum" as the subject line. Questions are due by January 5, 2007.

General Meeting Presentation Schedule

Please be sure to join the Leadership Board and council staff every month at our general meeting. As you can see below, we always have great presentations and a good time. Meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Mapleton Grange Hall on East Mapleton Road.

November: Water Trail enthusiasts! Our November general council meeting will provide the opportunity for you to learn more about planning aspects of the Siuslaw estuary water trail and how to start getting involved. During our annual end-of-year potluck, Coordinator Todd Miller and others will be available for discussing the water trail and how a local planning group will help see the trail become reality in the Siuslaw. Estuary maps and water trail publications will be available for viewing.

December: No meeting – holiday time for everyone!

January: Annual Leadership Board elections. Start recruiting those new board members now!

February and March: Two part Herbicide Forum. Presentations and panelists will discuss herbicide uses in land management throughout the Siuslaw watershed, current knowledge about the fate of herbicides in the environment and their potential impact on stream systems, and directions to look forward to in integrated herbicide-watershed management. See page 2, to see how you can give input to this forum.

April: (tentative) Lake Systems Ecology and Water Quality – we hope to invite presenters to help us learn more about our many lake systems, including Triangle Lake, Woahink and Siltcoos Lakes and others.

Free Native Riparian Plants

Native plants and trees along streams and lakes can help prevent erosion, shade the water, provide cover for salmonids, decrease run-off, provide habitat for songbirds, and more. For the seventh year, the SWC is distributing native riparian plants and trees that are free to landowners in the Siuslaw Basin and Coastal Lakes area.

Put in your requests now, so that in February you can plant on the banks of your stream, river, or lakeside! A mailing that contains plant and planting information will be mailed out this month. Call or email Liz Vollmer-Buhl, at native2007plants@siuslaw.org, or 541-268-3044 for more information or to place your request.

***Priority Deadline for Requests:
Tuesday, December 12, 2006!***

**Distribution Day:
Saturday, February 10, 2007!**



Plant List:

Western red cedar
Red alder
Douglas fir
Western hemlock
Sitka spruce
Big leaf maple
Vine maple
Black twinberry
Oregon ash
Pacific ninebark
Black cottonwood
Mock orange
Deer fern
Tapered rush
Red osier dogwood
Hooker's willow
Douglas spiraea
Pea-fruit rose

Be a Leader for Your Watershed Council!

November is nomination time for Leadership Board positions. The Leadership Board includes 27 stakeholder positions, including an At-Large position. Alternates are welcomed for all positions, so we have potential places for 54 council members on the Board! Our 9 Executive Committee members (including the 4 officers) are elected from the Leadership Board and serve as the Board of Directors for the council. Executive members should have one or more years of experience on the Leadership Board. Nominate yourself or another member who can attend the November and January meetings and recruit other candidates to fill those slots! Below is a list of the 2006 Representatives, please let us know if you are interested in serving in 2007.

2006 Siuslaw Watershed Council Leadership Board

Interest Group Representatives:

Academic/Scientific:

Ralph Lampman/Tom Steinberg

Commercial Fishing:_____

Federal Land Management:

Karen Geary, BLM/Johan Hogervorst, USFS

City of Florence: (appointed) Dianne Burch

Lane Co. Government: (appointed)_____

Resource Recreation: Jeff Jackson

Public Education:

Jim Grano/Cricket Crowder

Small Woodlot:

Vernon VanCurler

Tribes CTCLUS: (appointed)

John Schaefer/Beth Tanner

SWCD: Ray Kinney/Johnny Sundstrom

Agriculture/Ranching: Bill Cirino

Industrial Timber:

Paul Chapman, Campbell Group

Environmental: _____

Port of Siuslaw: (appointed) Tom Kartrude

State Government: John Spangler, ODF&W

Ecosystem Workforce: Eric Nusbaum/Lori Robertson

Area Representatives:

North Fork Siuslaw: Noland Huntington

Upper Siuslaw: Steve Elliot

Lower Siuslaw: David Rankin

Indian Creek: Barbara Beers/Dick Beers

Wildcat: David Eisler/Steve Kriegh & Linda Redmon

Deadwood: Nancy Nichols/Greg Kennedy

Lake Creek: Fred Mentzer

Wolf Creek: Matt Coen

At Large: William Fleenor

2006 Executive Board

Chair: Paula Crowder

Vice Chair: Steve Elliot

Secretary: William Fleenor

Treasurer: Nancy Nichols

Representatives:

Barbara Beers

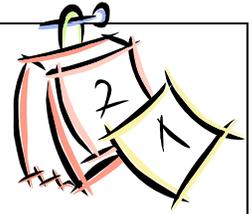
Dave Eisler

Jim Grano

Noland Huntington

(open)_____

Siuslaw Watershed Council Calendar



**November 29—Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting: 6:30 pm,
Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Road.**

**December 4—Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting: 7:00 pm, SWCD
office, Florence Business Center, 1525 12th Street, Florence** (*Use main
entrance, please call 997-1272 before coming so that the main door can be opened for you.*)

December 7—SWC Technical Team Meeting: 9:30 am, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

December 13—SWC Exec. Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

December 20—Monthly Siuslaw Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Day.

No General Council Meeting in December! Join us again in 2007!

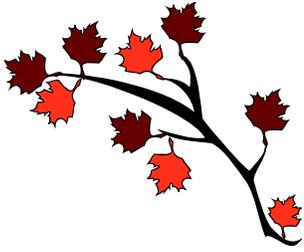
...Coordinator's Message *Continued from page 1*

cooperatives for watershed-friendly agricultural and forest products is a proven and growing trend in Oregon watersheds. In the Willamette Valley, watershed groups and agricultural interests are working on increasing the economic efficiencies of local, sustainable, and organic agriculture through networks and cooperatives that link products with markets. A similar cooperative has proven successful in eastern Oregon, where smaller, watershed-friendly beef ranches gain economic security through a coop that gives branding recognition through its products venue. These are just two examples of real efforts underway that are helping to restore watersheds and the family farm at the same time.

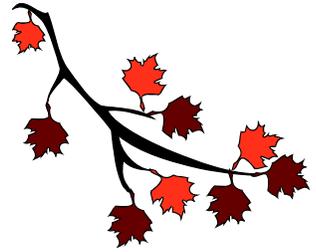
The conference became very exciting when both spirits and hackles were raised during the orations of the two invited guest speakers. The speakers were effective in illustrating philosophical differences in approaches to watershed restoration. The guests were Michael Bogert, Counselor to Secretary of Interior (Dirk Kempthorne) and Michael Shellenberger, co-director of the Breakthrough Institute. Mr. Shellenberger explored trends, reasons, and failings of environmental progress in the United States. His intent was to share the new horizon of collaborative management approaches that have proven the most effective in the long term to realizing environmental goals on the landscape. His frank discounting of beliefs and strategies of certain environmental organizations brought contempt for some of his ideas. Mr. Bogert spoke of the bigger framework of the federal role in local land management directions, including the emphasis on allowing state control of approaches to natural resources management. His most vocal critics were skeptical that strategic local control was the true intention while it appeared that a federal scale back of all resources (technical, enforcement, or funding) toward environmental issues seemed to be the case. While the messages delivered by the speakers did not have the unifying effect sought after in the typical watershed setting, my colleagues and I agreed that speakers that aroused debate also effectively made the audience think and discuss the directions in watershed stewardship for the future.

We came to celebrate and to look ahead, and we did both.

Todd Miller



**Siuslaw Watershed Council
General Meeting Agenda
November 29, 2006
Mapleton Grange Hall
6:30 p.m.**



6:00-6:30 **Open for set-up**

6:30– 6:35 **Welcome and Introductions**

6:35-8:00 **Potluck and Socializing:**

Bring a favorite potluck dish to share!

Siuslaw Water Trail Information will be displayed for your enjoyment

8:00-8:10 **Reports and Updates**

8:10-8:25 **Open Mic** *(3-5 speakers, 3-5 minutes each)*

8:25-8:30 **Announcements**

8:30 **Adjourn**

It's Time to Reflect and Evaluate: Every two years we ask that Council members answer a few questions about the Council to help us estimate how we are serving the watershed. The survey known, as the self-evaluation, is a very important tool for the board and staff. Look for the Council self-evaluation forms at the November meeting and pick one up and fill out at your convenience. The forms will be also be posted on our web site around mid-December and will be available as a hard copy by request. The completed forms will be due by the January meeting.

BYOM

To encourage reduction in waste, we are requesting that folks bring their own coffee mug to the meeting.

Big Holiday Raffle

We've been collecting some great raffle prizes for the November Holiday Potluck Meeting. You may win something nice for yourself or get an early start on holiday gifts and you'll be supporting your watershed council to boot! Tickets are \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00.

October 2006

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Nichols, Council Treasurer*

Beginning Cash	\$28,464.94	
	OCTOBER	YEAR TO DATE
INCOME		
Dues	\$20.00	\$910.00
Federal Grants		\$27,672.28
State Grants	\$156.90	\$167,812.13
Private Grants		\$12,713.99
Interest		\$802.77
Donations & Misc.	\$15.00	\$3,558.00
Administrative Funds		\$2,805.73
Project Management		
Other		\$212.94
TOTAL INCOME	\$191.90	\$216,487.84
EXPENSES		
Grant Expenses	\$16,836.63	\$220,001.62
Other	\$1,971.05	\$8,847.32
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,807.68	\$228,848.94
Ending Cash	\$9,849.16*	

*adjusted for \$3,427.74 refund on NFF grant

The Siuslaw Watershed Council is a non-profit , 501c3, organization . All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Siuslaw Watershed Council Membership Form

Type of Membership:

Landowner _____ Community Member _____ Industry _____

Government Agency: _____ Tribal: _____

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please choose any of the following:

- Tax-deductible membership enclosed (\$10 regular, \$0 students).
- Additional tax-deductible donation enclosed. Amount \$ _____
- I am interested in volunteer opportunities with the Siuslaw Watershed Council

November 2006

Please join us for a...



and General Council Meeting

November 29

6:00 pm set-up/starts at 6:30 pm

At the Mapleton Grange Hall

East Mapleton Rd, Mapleton

See page 6 for more details

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.

• Community • Economy • Environment



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What's Happening In Your Watershed?