

# Network of Oregon Watershed Councils—Spring 2008 Update

(NOTE: For those who responded to our recent invitation to join the Google Groups list for this Update, Google was unable to accommodate our needs and we are deactivating that list. Our apologies for the inconvenience. This does NOT refer to the Watershed Council Coordinators Listserv—that list will stay active on Google Groups.)

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## **New Coordinator Workshop – May 22-23, 2008**

[Registration](#) is now open for the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils' [New Coordinator Workshop](#) on May 22-23 in Eugene. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from experienced coordinators and key watershed partners. [Assistance](#) with travel and lodging is available. If you've come on the job as a watershed council coordinator within the last 12-18 months, don't miss this opportunity to answer new or lingering questions and network with colleagues. Thank you to our workshop supporters: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, River Network, Calapooia Watershed Council, North Coast Watershed Association, Malheur Watershed Council, Long Tom Watershed Council, North Santiam Watershed Council and Glenn-Gibson & Rickreall Watershed Councils.

## **New Service for Natural Resource Agencies**

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Network launched a new service for state and federal natural resource agencies to assist in communication with councils and the public. We've created an "[Agency Updates](#)" link on the Network [homepage](#) for late breaking news and announcements related to watershed management. With ever-increasing traffic on our website, the new page will offer a valuable communication link between agencies and councils, as well as other visitors to the site. Email Program Coordinator [Ben Lubbers](#) for details.

## **Resources for Councils**

Stay tuned as we continue to reorganize our [Resources for Councils](#) page in the coming weeks. As our collection of templates, tips and links for council technical and organizational management continues to grow, we want to move toward a more intuitive organization of the information. We have rearranged information into subject areas to facilitate the search. Additional [suggestions](#) for both content and organization are welcome!

## **Effectively Telling the Story – Experiences from the Field**

The Network is currently engaged in a fascinating and valuable project with fifteen watershed councils from throughout Oregon. We're interviewing council coordinators to learn more about their successes and challenges in communicating their accomplishments with the local media, organizations and elected officials. So far, the returns are inspiring. Councils undertake an impressive array of efforts and approaches to working with local media and building relationships

with local decision makers... and more needs to be done. During April and May, we'll compile results and share a menu of ideas with all councils. We'll also identify specific assistance that the Network can provide in support of local efforts.

## **Infrastructure Opportunities for Watershed Councils?**

The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils has entered into an exciting partnership with [Good Company](#), a Eugene-based sustainability consulting firm, to assess the role watershed councils might play in the expanding world of infrastructure development and replacement. From highway bridge replacement to stormwater management systems, major infrastructure projects have an impact on watershed health. Good Company is contributing over \$11,000 in professional services to research what role councils might play in improving watershed impacts from infrastructure projects. Pilot studies will occur in the [Columbia Slough](#), Crooked River and [Upper Deschutes](#) watersheds. Good Company hopes to share results at the OWEB Conference in November 2008. If the pilot studies indicate the potential for increased council involvement, Good Company will explore additional research possibilities and training for council participation in infrastructure contracts. Positive results have the potential to lead to improved watershed conditions and diversified income streams for watershed councils. Watch for more information in future Updates.

## **Network Receives Support from Meyer Memorial Trust and Laird Norton Family Foundation**

The Network has entered a partnership with [Meyer Memorial Trust](#) to conduct an assessment of model approaches to restoring small watersheds in the Willamette Basin. The Network, in partnership with Jones & Stokes consulting firm, will use the grant funding from the Trust to conduct background research and analysis on "whole watershed" approaches to stream restoration. This effort will result in recommendations to the Trust and its advisors regarding how best to structure and implement a small watershed restoration program under MMT's Willamette River funding initiative.

The [Laird Norton Family Foundation](#) just announced its support of the Network's new watershed council coordinator capacity building program for Fiscal Year 2009. The Foundation's funding will provide crucial support for our effort to serve new coordinators as they arrive on the job throughout the state. Increased new coordinator support is an important objective of our watershed council capacity building program.

A sincere thank you to Meyer Memorial Trust and Laird Norton Family Foundation for their investment in the Network, and their commitment to Oregon's watersheds.

## **Business Sponsorship Campaign to Launch in April**

In April, the Network will launch its 2008-2009 Business Sponsorship Campaign. We'll be inviting Oregon businesses involved in all aspects of watershed restoration to join the Network as annual sponsors. Sponsorship offers a great opportunity to increase your business's visibility with councils and other restoration organizations while helping the Network build stronger, more effective councils. Contact Executive Director [John Moriarty](#) for additional information and to discuss sponsorship benefits. We can create a sponsorship package that fits your business.

## **Watershed Council Pledge Drive – Thank you, Councils!**

Speaking of support, our inaugural Watershed Council Pledge Drive generated over \$7,700 in contributions from 26 watershed councils and 8 individual donors. These contributions match a \$10,000 anonymous donation to the Network late in 2007. We know council discretionary funds are extremely limited, and these contributions speak volumes about the value councils place on our services. A sincere thank you to watershed councils and individual donors for your support of our work. [Donations](#) to the Network are fully tax deductible, and are as easy as writing a check to NOWC, PO Box 40061, Eugene, OR 97404.

**Thank you to our most recent individual donors:**

**Barbara Bell, Portland**  
**Lily Moriarty, East Longmeadow, MA**  
**Susan Schwartz, Portland**  
**Mara Wile, Eugene**

That's all for now. Have a wonderful spring (if it ever arrives!).