

SUMMER 2007 NETWORK UPDATE

It's been a busy time for the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils since the last Network Update. Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers and donors who continue to help move our organization forward!

Network receives private donation of \$10,000!

- A private donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, contributed \$10,000 to the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils in late July. You know who you are. Thank you! The Network Board of Directors decided at their July 26-27 meeting to dedicate these funds to resource development needs of the organization.
- We are working with resource development experts (contributing their professional services *pro bono!*) to provide us with strategic direction for use of the funds.
- This is the most significant private donation ever received by the Network. This contribution demonstrates the belief that community members have in both the Network and the work of our member councils. **Here's hoping that this contribution encourages others to step up in support of our efforts to provide services to watershed councils throughout the state!**

Network, OACD partnership encourages additional funding for Watershed Councils and Soil & Water Conservation Districts in state budget: \$5 million each for councils and districts in 2007 – 09 budget

- The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils worked closely with the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts to reinforce the message that councils and SWCDs work closely together as local leaders in collaborative conservation throughout the state. OWEB and the Oregon Department of Agriculture were important partners in our effort.
- The Network's and OACD's job was to develop and deliver a unified message about councils and districts to the legislature and other decision makers in Oregon. We had help with that effort from an impressive array of supporters reflecting the diversity of partners who believe in the work of councils & districts statewide. Many thanks to:
 - Oregon Environmental Council
 - Oregonians for Food and Shelter
 - The Nature Conservancy
 - Oregon Forest Industries Council
 - Defenders of Wildlife
 - The Farm Bureau
 - Oregon Trout
 - Oregon Small Woodlands Association
 - Oregon Seed Growers League
 - And the many council staff and members who helped their state legislators and county commissioners recognize the work they do
- The legislature heard the message about the important work of councils & districts and voted to increase funding for each to \$5 million for the 2007-09 biennium. Though it still falls short of meeting all needs, this represents an important increase in crucial capacity funding for councils.

Come join us for the [2007 Watershed Council Gathering](#) in Hood River, OR—November 13-16, 2007

- Keynote speakers include
 - **Former Governor John Kitzhaber**
 - **Charles Hudson** of the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission
 - **Angus Duncan**, CEO of Bonneville Environmental Foundation
- Phenomenal [project tour](#) on Tuesday afternoon, November 13th starting at 1:30 pm
- Council training [workshops](#) all day Wednesday, November 14th
- Live music Wednesday night
- Network Annual Meeting Thursday morning, November 15th (watch website for agenda in October)
- [Plenary sessions](#) on the past, present and future of the Oregon Plan for Salmon & Watersheds Thursday afternoon and Friday morning
- Awards Luncheon, Friday, November 16th at noon
- [Registration](#) information is attached and also available at the Network website—Come early and stay late!
- Visit our website www.oregonwatersheds.org for more details.

Gathering [sponsorship](#) tops \$16,000!

- In addition to tremendous support from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (our Chinook sponsor), at least 15 additional nonprofit, corporate, state and federal organizations have stepped up to support the 2007 Watershed Council Gathering by purchasing sponsorships exceeding \$16,000. Thanks to their support, this promises to be the best Gathering yet! Sponsorships are still available...

Chinook Sponsor

- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Coho Sponsors (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

- Your name here!

Steelhead Sponsors

- Port of Portland
- RiverFix Northwest
- Pacific Bridge & Construction
- Oregon Lottery
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- ESA Adolfson
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Interlocking Software

Bull Trout Sponsors

- Oregon Department of State Lands
- OSU Institute for Water and Watersheds

Red Band Trout Sponsors

- River Network
- Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership
- Farmers Conservation Alliance
- Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality Brownfields Program
- Idaho Power Company

- Countless hours of volunteer time from partners, council staff and supporters have also been contributed to Gathering planning and sessions. Thank you!

Network Board adopts 2007-2010 strategic plan

- An outstanding team of volunteers from throughout Oregon partnered with the Network Board of Directors over several months to develop the [2007-2010 Strategic Plan](#) to help guide the organization in its early years. With board members closely involved in the process, and councils providing comments on an early draft, the final product was adopted by the full Board at their April 2007 meeting.
- Special thanks to the following for their assistance on the plan:
 - John Runyon, ESA Adolfson (Chair)
 - Barbara Bell, Development Consultant
 - Susan Schwartz, River Network
 - Chuck Sams, Trust for Public Lands
 - Peter Ruffier, City of Eugene
 - Diane Snyder, Wallowa Resources/US Endowment
 - Jackie Dingfelder, ESA Adolfson
 - Liz Redon, Network Board Chair
 - Michelle Bussard, Former Network Board Vice Chair
 - Jeff Oveson, Network Board Member
 - Brad Carlson, Network Board Member
 - Ryan Houston, Network Board Member
 - Jason Dedrick, Former Network Board Chair
 - Dana Erickson, Former Network Board Member

Project Management Workshops a resounding success (despite some tough weather in Klamath Falls!)

- The Network developed and delivered two-day project management workshops for watershed councils and their partners in four locations throughout Oregon during March and April 2007. Workshops in La Grande, Salem, Grants Pass and Klamath Falls attracted over 50 watershed council staff and their partners for workshop sessions aimed at developing project management skills (even though a major spring snow storm in K-Falls forced us to reschedule, and we lost some participants on our substitute date). Workshop facilitators developed a format that included lots of attendee participation in order to take advantage of the considerable experience of council staff. The workshops were well-received, with requests for more in the future.
- Special thanks to our sponsors & contributors:
 - OWEB
 - Grande Ronde Model Watershed
 - Long Tom Watershed Council
 - ESA Adolfson
 - OR Department of Fish & Wildlife
 - OR Department of Environmental Quality

Planning begins for New Coordinator Training Workshops in late April and early May, 2008

- With funding from an OWEB education and outreach grant awarded to the Network in June 2007, we have begun developing a New Coordinator Training Workshop to be held in two locations in the state next spring (sorry it won't be sooner for you newly arriving coordinators!)

- Several current watershed council coordinators are offering hands-on assistance with workshop planning to be sure we meet the most pressing needs of new coordinators
- Experienced coordinators will lead some sessions to keep the action focused on coordinator needs and begin building mentor relationships with their new colleagues
- State & federal natural resource agency field staff will also participate in some sessions to encourage the development of partnership opportunities
- Stay tuned for emerging details

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 2007 Watershed Council Gathering, November 13-16 at the Hood River Inn!