Willamette Valley Broadband

Leadership Team Meeting NOTES

Thursday, January 11, 2024

2:00 pm at Peg’s

Present: Cyndi, Chandra, Peg, Beth, Nancy, Lynn

**• Debriefs & Reports:**

1/5/24 - Book Broads – Lynn read the book and enjoyed it but wasn’t at the meeting. All that read it agreed it was an excellent choice and wasn’t really a travelogue but rather a description of experiences and relationship building by the author (a former rancher) and the folks living off the land out east. Next book might be Ruby MConnell’s – she has a new one coming out. (see Broad Chat/Talk ideas at the end of notes)

**Committees** (Is this format working for us or necessary – yes/no?) We had a brief discussion here about how to represent and act on the 4 Pillars (Peg’s title idea) of the Broads in a systematic way and came to no solid conclusion.

Advocacy

Trails – Chandra attended a webinar that she will share significant info about

National Monuments – The Owyhee is front and center here and a campaign of our national organization.

Corvallis Watershed – meeting Saturday at Betsy Herbert’s that Carol will attend

Stewardship

Wilderness monitoring – Lynn reported that there will likely be another training before finishing up the 2 year project and that most of the Rec Site monitoring has been done so mainly solitude monitoring is left to do. Maya completed the activity reports with all the calculated hours and Lynn will complete a grant report soon.

Clean ups – will look at doing more in the spring

Education

Broad Chats & Talks – Peg (see ideas below)

Fun – Just a given 😊

**BRATS**

Grazing – Marjorie –“We had our re-scoping leaders meeting with two excellent attorneys from Advocates for the West, and they gave us some excellent directions as to what does and doesn't work. The quarterly meeting will be on the 17th when we introduce our new scope. I’ll be interested in how it goes down.”

Forests – Chandra

LSRD – Kelly

• Upcoming:

1/22 at 4:00 – **Advocacy Night** at Calapooia Brewing – Chandra will facilitate a meeting about the NW Forest Plan and Biden’s exec order to protect mature & old growth forests. Deadline for comments is Feb 2. Cyndi will send out a stand-alone invite. Chandra & Peg will work on a letter from our Broadband.

1/24 – **Hike across Mac Forest** w/ Maya – 19 people have already signed up for this hike to celebrate birthdays

1/27 – **Broad Chat** w/ Beth, Diana & Laura – Cyndi will send out stand-alone invite -

**February hike** w/ Pat Boleyn to Mt Pisgah – Maya will ask Pat to pick a date

**February Broadcast**

Good News Corner - Broads Rolling Their Sleeves Up – Action items- Opportunities for cultural learning

**3/1-3/3 – PIELC** (Public Interest Environmental Law Conference) Do we want to table? Cyndi said Micky Ryan organized the tabling last year that all the Oregon Broadbands co-oped. Need to tighten up the tabling volunteer schedule for this year. Chandra will be busy with Oregon Wild festivities and won’t be able to organize an evening meet-up like she did last year. Chandra will follow up with tabling situation.

**5/8 – 5/11 – PNW Leader Rendezvous** (difference between Rendezvous & Broadwalk) Cyndi explained the difference and although husbands of leaders are welcome to camp and join us for meals for the Rendezvous it is not at all structured like a Broadwalk so they wouldn’t be involved in any other way.

**Other hikes this summer that need more planning?**

• Crabtree Valley with Chandra

• Valley of the Giants w/ Ann Wichmann – Chandra will contact

• Summer hikes with Scott Bowler – Maya will ask

• Updates and Discussion

Membership-Beth processes and sends a lovely email to all new members as notifications trickle in from National. Cyndi has added a few simply wanting to be on our mailing list to our Google Group.

Field Checking – Nancy complimented Cascadia Wildlands Grassroots Organizer Madeline Cowen on her growth as a volunteer coordinator for the Wildcats but expressed frustration with not getting the type of maps Nancy needs to confidently organize trips for our Broads to do field checking. If Nancy can’t get what she needs from Madeline she’s going to have to step down from this role.

Schedule Zoom meeting w/ our new grassroots coordinator Emily -we landed on Monday, January 22nd at noon. Cyndi will set up the Zoom and send Emily’s questions to the team so they can respond in writing if they’d like or be better prepared to answer at the meeting.

Soft credit spending and merch selling – Maya (tabled)

Updating and bandana - Cyndi has been in touch with the original bandana designers (one of which is Broad Mandy Cole) about updating the design by adding Devils Staircase and our Broadband name.

Publicity – Stand alone invites, social media – Cyndi will send out as needed Chandra will work on social media

Updates from National

•Glo Call to meet Emily – 1/24 at 3 pm

•Broadwalks

•WALTS – don’t have anyone yet from our Broadband. Lynn will consider it for 2025.

Conference (Oct 14-17 in Estes Park) Some folks are interested in attending but none of us have committed to helping

•Advocacy priorities for the year – Chandra is on a national Broads committee with Sara and others. There’s a long list including: LSRD, Border Wall, Grazing, Oil & Gas, National Monument establishment and expansion (the Owyhee) Protecting mature & old growth forests, influencing public rule making. There’s a plan to update policy statements.

REVISIT

Opportunities for cultural learning

Ask Mandy to help set up tour of the Grand Ronde in February – Cyndi spoke with Mandy today and she is happy to help but doesn’t want to be considered an expert. Cyndi told her we need her connections to expand our horizons.

Reminders:

Activity reports – do ‘em!

Chandra will work on updating Facebook and set up an Instagram

• Next meeting – Thursday, Feb 8 at 2:00 on ZOOM.

Broad Chat/ Broad Talk Ideas From Peg & Joyce and Chandra

We discussed the ideas below at length – which ones are Chats (informal & interactive), which ones are Talks(formal presentation)

*How fires really get fought*, presented by Jane Kertis, USDA Forest Service PNW Lab

Fighting wildland fire can involve removing a lot of living trees, bulldozing fire breaks, and dropping fire retardant in sensitive areas. Who decides?

*Advising the documentary* Elemental, presented by Lisa Ellsworth, OSU fire and range ecologist

Fire is complicated, and Lisa’s work on *Elemental*helped explain the issues to non-scientists.

 [[My color commentary: A key point to understand is that fire in the westside rainforest is an entirely different beast than fire in the dry forests of central and southern Oregon (and throughout most of the rest of the West.) Thinning *doesn’t* work here, but it is essential south and east of the Cascades; and fire suppression *does* work here in the rainforest, but it is anathema south and east of the Cascades. It’s important to understand these (and other) differences in the two (or more!) forest ecosystems collectively referred to as the Northwest Forest.]]

*Dam removal on the Klamath River*, presented by Jerri Bartholomew, OSU microbiologist

One of the largest dam removals in history is now underway on the Klamath River. Four dams that have blocked fish migration, trespassed on indigenous culture, and harmed water quality are now being removed, and there is much we could learn from this story about community strength, advocacy, and persistence.

*How MacDonald-Dunne Forests are managed for research*, presented by Katy Kavenaugh, associate dean of research in OSU College of Forestry

These are the forests in Corvallis’s backyard. Many of us spend a lot of time in these forests and we have strong opinions about how they should be managed. They are *research* forests, so what does that mean?

*What every Broad needs to know about environmental law,* presenter TBA

A big reason why we have protected areas, protected species, clean air and water, and the right to protest when those things are violated is because of a handful of laws passed during the Nixon administration. It is important to understand ESA, NFMA, NEPA, and other laws that are more than 50 years old now, and are targeted for updates. Will they be strengthened or cut down at the knees?

*Wilderness and the American Spirit,* facilitated by Ruby McConnell, author/activist/geologist

Ruby’s new book (title above) explores our current relationship to wilderness, and seeks to draw connections between our experiences and connections to wild places and the inspiration that drives us to fight for their protection. She’ll facilitate a public conversation on this subject, and read passages from her book to prompt reflection and discussion.