Willamette Valley Broadband

Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 22, 2021

4 PM on Zoom

Present: Cyndi A., Marjorie S., Laura O., Lynn H., Kelly B., Maya A.

Sept/Oct Debriefs:

* Beaver Day Tabling (9/12), Advocacy Night with Dylan (9/13), Hiking with Maya (9/15) all covered at the Retreat on 9/30 at the Riverhouse.
* Retreat (9/30): a great success and lots of fun!
* Potluck, Public Lands and Pickleball in Brownsville (10/3)—nice attendance, and Chandra’s talk was excellent.
* Membership Team Meeting at Beth’s house (10/5)…many membership issues, primarily what to do with the various Google docs, were figured out and results shared with all attendees. Beth was considered brilliant (!) and Katya was also very helpful. Thanks to Lynn, one of the big listserve mysteries was solved.
* History Hike with USFS (10/6) on the Santiam Wagon Trail Road was also a fun time and a huge success. There was a good turnout, the weather was great, the hike was very interesting and do-able by all. Maya will send a thank you to Anne Marie at USFS. Anne Marie seemed very open to doing this again. A wonderful and knowledgeable volunteer, Lisa, was along, who was much fun. She is an “expert volunteer” in many areas such as Search and Rescue. Lisa would be interested in doing anything else with us.
* Auto Tour (10/10): looked at QMS and USFS partial thinning and density issues; 30 year vs last year cuts were looked, many questions were raised for the USFS. Thanks to Nancy M. for putting this together. Laura was also on this, and reported that Portland (lawyer with Cascadia Wild) and Madeleine were along. She also said, Historically the USFS just clear cut, but now they do “thinning”; 30 years ago USFS was thinning re: the industrial model, but priorities have changed so there is a different model. Laura said it was collaborative and positive. We are also part of helping Madeleine (Cascadia Wild) develop and feel more confident.
* Q and A with USFS (10/14)….Cyndi will send a recording to everyone at the Broads Base Camp, or that has been out Field checking. Everyone from the USFS team (Broads Base Camp) were there. They had their list of questions that were submitted in advance. It went for about an hour and half.

Upcoming:

* Alsea Falls Hike, Maya and Chandra put this together. It filled up fast! ….regarding current COVID protocols, we should let all people attending the hike know there is an unvaccinated person in the group, ahead of time. The 6’ social distancing rule will be in effect.
* Cyndi added the Covid protocols since Nan (unvaccinated) signed up. Maya will go through the attendance list and let all attendees know regarding Covid protocols, and show to get to the National Covid Liability waiver (with the current rules). Maya will also send a follow-up email with directions to the Alsea Falls Trailhead and car pooling information. Maya feels more comfortable as long as Nan wears a mask the entire time. Laura asked if we need to get agreement that Nan wear a mask the entire time, and social distancing protocols. Maya will be upfront about it. Laura said how most recent information is that it is truly a pandemic of the unvaccinated, and studies are showing that if a someone in a group of vaccinated people gets Covid, it is typically an unvaccinated person that is brining it in.; so truly, even though they have a different belief system it is their responsibility, and that the unvaccinated person should be wearing a mask, and anyone else can bring their own mask to wear if they are uncomfortable….it’s a matter of Public Health and not politics. Maya will be going through the list and making sure everyone has signed the National Covid Liability form.
* Sign-up Genius says will be meeting at the Trailhead at 10. Carpools meet at 9.
* Book Broads: Carol is doing a great job running this. A few people are signed up for this, so far.

Calendar/Newsletter items for October/ November in addition to the above:

* Calendar every month or every other month? We were thinking we would do a calendar every other month, but Cyndi said someone contacted her that they missed the October calendar!
* We will be having Advocacy Night every other month for now, unless there is something important coming up that needs to be advocated on right away.
* Advocacy night ideas:
* Expanding Waldo Wilderness area? comment on new rules through Nov. 22 re: NEPA , and the upcoming including climate action Reconciliation Bill, Bees---banning certain pesticides is in the works and listing of the Western Bumblebee, There could be several different actions regarding bees. Beyond Toxics: Chandra will ask the B. T. people to do Advocacy night on 11/8 on this subject. This might be more appealing right now.
* Pre-QMS EA training: Nancy was thinking rather than wait for the final EA to come out on the QMS, it might be good to do a pre-training to figure out what to do with our observations that we recorded but have not sent in yet. That is, what to fill out for the EA [Environmental Assessment] was still not clear for most Field Training people. We need to figure out how to come out with something like Dave’s [Stone] comments. Madeleine or Sam would be best to figure out how to take your observed data and put it into a comment. Cyndi will check with them as to when to do this, before Thanksgiving.
* More hikes: Maya is planning on putting together a November 17 hike.

An Additional Agenda Item: A concern was brought up (email exchange with Maya by Micki with Cascade Volcanoes) regarding DeFazio not necessarily supporting breaching the Lower Snake River Dams (Time magazine…DeFazio evidently is blocking this). Cyndi suggested there might be inaccuracies in what was reported in Time Magazine regarding this. The thing about DeFazio was not definitive, according to Cyndi. Maya gave Micki Marjorie and Kelly’s names to work on this. Maya will follow up with Micki about this. Kelly observed an email that came in on Tuesday regarding DeFazio that Kelly will follow up on.

December Calendar is on its own for now.

Other Updates/reports:

* Grant issue from Wilderness Stewardship Alliance: Maya explained how and what this was all about at the Retreat. We are now members so that we can get grants, potentially. Cascade Volcanoes received a grant for wilderness monitoring. Nikki Swanson is in on this, via May, and is excited that we can do something with this, with them. We will be prepared with a grant. Whether or not we get a grant does not matter (we will do this regardless), but a grant would help with mileage, T-shirts, and other things our chapter could use etc. Maya na dlYnn are taking a leadership role with this, and will be meeting with Eric (Wilderness guy out of Detroit)…will hope to meet with him in Sweet Home.
* Forest/Rivers BRAT…are re-starting meetings on Monday. She had a nice chat with Katya about re-starting this group. This group has been giving updates, and shared advocacy actions across the region with different Broadbands. Do we want to create some focus campagins?. They will be deciding what they will be doing with Broads all across the region about this. 30 X 30? Don’t know yet, but will be meeting on Monday.
* Chandra was sig letter to Gov. Brown and cc to Congressional reps, re: 30 X 30, …opportunities at the State, Administrative and Legislative (Federal) levels….how Oregon can play into the entire 30 X 30 goals. She said Dave Stone wants to be in on this, with the Doug Fir Monument. Should be many groups signed on.
* DC Lobbying: trip was cancelled as no one is meeting in person at this point. Cyndi was signed on to go. But they still have meetings and training are still going on, Nov. 2 and 3. Cyndi (Wyden), Francis (Merkley), Bonnie (DeFazio)…specifically lobbying for the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act, with the various reps/senators people. The three of them will meet at Francis’ place in Roseburg to do the Zoom meetings together. Laura suggested thank Roger Williams, Rep from Texas, that is a good friend of Cyndi’s brother, to thank him for getting the lead out of the fish.
* Kelly said the Board of Forestry is taking comments from people about who is going to be on the next State Forester. If you are so inclined please contact them. Should we send out an email? Chandra said people would be a lot of background research for people to be able to comment intelligently. Chandra is working on this right now….there are many different choices…Chandra thought the feedback has to be in by noon on upcoming Monday. Chandra will be discussing this on the upcoming BRAT call. This person determines how private and state forests will be managed.
* Wildlife Advocacy with Sue Libby: the concern was that she was still sending out too many emails (especially to Cyndi—what to send on?) She said Sue is very prolific, and we should have pity for Cyndi. Also she has perhaps too broad of a focus. The suggestion was put forth by Maya that Sue be instructed to consolidate once a month what she wanted to report on (prioritize…say, the top 5 things she wanted to work on) into one email per month. It’s up to her to determine what is important and should be sent on to the Broads. Also most of it is National stuff. And to keep it focused for the WVGOB.
* Facebook: Chandra was still working on this. Carol, who is also signed up to work on this, is currently out of state. Carol has been putting things on the FB page. Chandra suggested we put a link to the FB page on the Calendar. Two things that can be put on are the Book Broads get-together, and the Advocacy Nights coming up. (our local events should be on FB). Hikes not necessary, as they get filled up fast. Chandra can put on a link to sign-up Genius for the above.
* Webpage for our Broads, on National’s website: we still haven’t done this. Carol said she would do this.
* Activity Reports---we are so far actually doing these---Yay!
* Get back to regular meetings: We after on the Third Tuesdays of each month at 4 PM, so the next Leadership meeting will be on November 16 at 4 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

-Marjorie Stuart

October 26, 2021