

Molalla River Alliance
Molalla Retreat Center
October 22, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Moody at 9:20 a.m. Meeting participants introduced themselves and their affiliation.

Minutes

The minutes of the April 18, 2008 meeting were unanimously accepted as a reflection of that meeting.

Bylaws

Mike Wagner moved that the proposed bylaws change be accepted. The motion was seconded by Joseph Auth. Mike expressed concern regarding the long-term impacts of quantity and quality of water in the watershed. He proposed that water quantity, persons and businesses be included. Group discussion surrounded the purpose of the Molalla River Alliance and the future need for water. President Mike Moody recommended that the science committee study the issue. The motion was withdrawn.

Tax status

Fran Taylor reported that we are working toward 501© 3 status and have had pro bono help from an attorney to prepare the initial documents.

Molalla River Alliance Mission Statement and Conservation Priorities

President Moody read through the Mission Statement, Key Conservation priorities and strategic objectives and explained that MRA is committed to promoting a safe and healthy environment for the Molalla River Corridor.

Administrative

1. *Staggered Board Terms* – The executive board recommended staggering board terms. The membership agreed to allow the board to work on a proposal that would retain experience and knowledge on the board. MRA members also agreed to allow the board, at their discretion, to add new members-at-large as necessary.
2. *Expansion of Board of Directors* – In order to provide more diversity, the executive board recommended the addition of two new member-at-large positions. Ilene Waldorf and Gordon White were nominated and elected by acclamation.
3. *Number of meetings per year & letterhead* – A questionnaire was distributed to the membership asking them to recommend an appropriate number of meetings per year. They were also asked to indicate if their group's name could be included on the MRA letterhead.

Committee Reports

1. *New Office* – Tom Derry reported on the opening of the Molalla River Resource Center. It is hoped that this office will become the epicenter for information on the Molalla River. Groups are encouraged to leave literature in the office and it is open for any partner groups to use.
2. *Website* – The Molalla River Alliance website, www.molallariveralliance.org, is now online. Mike asked for a volunteer to work with the webmaster to keep the website up to date. A goal is to link member/partner websites to the MRA page.
3. *Recreation Report* – Bill Taylor reported that MRA is working on Wild & Scenic Recreation for the Molalla River Corridor. Although the Molalla River was not declared Wild & Scenic in this congressional session, Bill is hopeful that it will happen in the next session. A team from MRA met with representatives from Senator Smith's and Senator

Wyden's offices. Their response was positive and MRA was commended for a very organized effort. Erik Fernandez of Oregon Wild reported that retiring Congresswoman Darlene Hooley ran out of resources and staff to work on passing the Oregon Treasures bill and Wild & Scenic status for the Molalla River. The financial crisis also diverted efforts away from passage.

4. Education & Outreach – John Atkins presented a draft brochure that will be funded by a grant from Clackamas County Tourism and Development Council. He suggested that local recreational services such as tour guides and B&B's be listed on the website which is also funded by the grant. The committee drafted comments and submitted them to the BLM regarding their new management plan, and is working on a speaker's bureau and cell phone coverage in the corridor.
5. Law Enforcement/Communication – Sgt. Gordon White reported that the two main obstacles in the Corridor are communications and the gap between law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement agencies have met to identify what works and what does not. Solutions have been to swear in BLM rangers as Molalla Police officers so they can enforce law in local courts, provide new signage, mark the road with orange mile markers for location identification, give officers the ability to flex schedules, use reserve officers in the Corridor, and place Molalla River Alliance magnetic stickers on patrol cars. Fifty citations have been given and one accident was investigated. ***An award was present to Sgt. White recognizing him as a most distinguished leader.*** Bob Loucks reported that the committee will meet with Molalla Communications CEO Steve Loutzenheimer.
6. Science Committee – Mark Schmidt reported that spawning surveys have been completed and that coho salmon will be surveyed this year. It was not possible to get an accurate count of fish in the upper reaches of the Corridor, however the numbers in the lower Corridor were consistent with past years. The deadline has been moved from Horse Creek Bridge to Pine Creek Bridge. Other regulation changes including catch and release, baitless hooks, and unlimited take and size for bass will take effect on January 1, 2009. The Wild Salmon Center is considering the Molalla River for Stronghold Status.
7. BLM Report -- Usage has increased in the Corridor, Table Rock Wilderness, and the trail system. Although over 65,000 people used the corridor during the peak season, there was less abuse. The BLM held an open house to help them designate priorities for the management plan for the corridor. Public concerns surrounded vandalism, underage drinking, drug use, and the dispersed campsite. Interested persons can visit the blm.gov website. A focus group will be formed. The management plan should be completed by 2010. Adam Milnor presented a study done by Arizona State University. A copy will be available at the Molalla River Resource Center.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Bob Loucks reported that MRA has received two \$1500 grants and that he has opened an account at US Bank.

LNG Pipeline

Amy Harwood of BARK presented information on the LNG pipeline and BARK's 40-mile "Hike the Pipe". Connie Derry moved that MRA draft a resolution against the pipeline. The motion was seconded by Gerry St. Pierre of Willamette RiverKeeper. President Mike Moody recommended supporting the resolution. After discussion it was decided that the letter of resolution against the pipeline would be submitted to the membership electronically for approval. The motion passed with one "nay" and one abstention.

The next meeting of the Molalla River Alliance will be Wednesday, April 1.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

