

Molalla River Alliance Newsletter

Winter 2009

MRA has memorable and productive first year

Since our beginning last spring, the Alliance has made considerable progress and has enjoyed some early successes. Here are some of them.

We're legal

We successfully crafted the MRA Mission Statement, Key Conservation Priorities and our Strategic Goals.

We filed our Articles of Incorporation with the State, received an EIN from the IRS and are awaiting our 501c3 non-profit designation. In addition, re-wrote and expanded the Bylaws.

Board of Directors Expands

Alliance Logo and Newsletter Name Contests

Did you notice this newsletter does not have a logo or proper name? Do you have a creative side crying out to solve this dilemma? Are you looking to earn a nifty prize? We are holding a design competition to create a logo for the Molalla River Alliance and to come up with a name for our newsletter.

The logo won't just be any logo. It will highlight our website, letterhead, brochures, business cards and correspondence.

As a main source of information among members and partners, the newsletter needs a catchy name that symbolizes what MRA is about.

So, crank up your artistic and innovative side, pull out your crayons and send your best efforts to MRA Secretary Fran Taylor at btaylor@molalla.net.

The logo does not have to be perfect as the selected logo will be finished by a graphic artist.

With approval of our membership we expanded the Board of Directors to nine and established five operating committees. Members also approved a board request that it be allowed to expand the board without first seeking member approval. The rationale: if a great talent is identified or a donor comes forth who also stipulates a seat on the board, the members agreed the board should be able to act decisively.

Your Board meets regularly as do all operating committees. Regarding meetings of the



membership, based on a November questionnaire the majority of you prefer the Alliance have at least two formal meetings per year.

Opening of the Molalla River Resource Center

Motivated to become THE central clearinghouse for Molalla River-related information, along with three similarly committed conservation groups the Alliance jointly opened an office, creating the Molalla River Resource Center.

It is located in downtown Molalla at 103 S. Molalla Avenue. You are welcome to come by at any time.

In addition, we are organizing for public use a collection of information on all things Molalla River. This will include things like rafting and guiding companies, equestrian groups, birding groups, fishing groups, etc. Anything that pertains to the Recreation Corridor is welcome to be displayed at our office.

This includes information about any of our member-organizations. If your organization or any you know would like to display brochures or literature, we want to encourage you to include at the Resource Center.

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SAVE THE DATE

Members meeting: 9 a.m.-noon April 1
at Molalla Retreat

President's Message MRA accomplishes much in first year but faces big hurdles in the future

Happy New Year to everyone!

As our first anniversary quickly nears, I am pleased to provide our members and other interested organizations and individuals with a report summarizing the progress of our efforts over the past year.



As you are aware, the Alliance has grown rapidly. We have become a union of more than 45 non-profit civic and conservation organizations, local, state and federal agencies, and a growing number of individual conservationists. We are dedicated to protecting and preserving the water quality of the Molalla River and sustaining the wildlife that inhabits its watershed, while encouraging diverse enjoyment of the recreation corridor, including tourism and family-friendly activities.

We have an opportunity to take a leading role in galvanizing numerous diverse stakeholders, scientists and policy makers to protect the environment of one small part of the planet.

We have successfully forged an exceptional partnership of diverse, divergent, and frequently opposing groups and individuals. We have wild fish advocates sitting next to hatchery fish advocates; fly



fishermen sitting next to bait fishermen; hunters sitting next to hikers and equestrians; and forest preservationists working side by side with timber growers.

Our diversity works, I believe, because all of us made efforts to find the common links, the common goals, the common missions we each share. An example of this was highlighted by our spirited debate, comprehensive analysis, and consensus resolution of opposition to the proposed crossing of the Molalla River by the LNG pipeline.

Although the Alliance has achieved much

in a short time, we nevertheless face big hurdles. Today's economy is putting fund raising constraints on non-profits everywhere. The Alliance does not have much money so we must resist becoming capital intensive. We are capital poor, but people rich.

The strength of the Alliance lies in our network of member-organizations. It enables us to work as credible, community-based activists.

I hope each of you appreciates how extraordinary your efforts are and what a unique undertaking you are part of. We are in the early stages of creating an exceptional, perhaps unprecedented, form of conservation. We have crafted a vision that challenges and inspires. Implicitly, we are saying we prefer to be defined by what we create rather than by what we destroy.

Thank you for your continuing commitment and support.

Please note the next meeting of the Molalla River Alliance is Wednesday April 1st at the Molalla Retreat, 9:00 - noon. Plan to attend.

If I can provide additional information please feel free to contact me anytime.

GET INVOLVED!

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President
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FIRST YEAR, From page 1

Website Launched

The Alliance website is: www.molalariveralliance.org.

We consider it to be organic, meaning we want it to grow and expand with content contributions from our members. So, if you have ideas, photos, topics, please let us know.

We seek a member willing to be responsible for coordinating with our webmaster the updates, revisions and announcements to our website. This would take only a couple of hours per month. So, please let one of your board members know if you would be willing to oversee this.

If you would like to display your group on a banner on the Alliance website, or create a link to your group's website, please submit it to Fran at the office.

Alliance Spearheads Drop in Crime

If you recall from our very first meeting, all of us agreed none of our conservation efforts stood a chance of success if we didn't

first tackle the issue of vandalism, drugs and underage drinking, littering, etc.

Thanks to the determined efforts of Sgt. Gordon White, the City of Molalla, the Clackamas County Sheriff Department and the BLM police, the Alliance spearheaded a dramatic drop in crime and vandalism in the Recreation Corridor. The patrols implemented by these groups had an immediate and visible drop in bad behavior in the Recreation Corridor.

We recently learned that Gordon and the City plan to renew, and possibly expand, the patrol and safety program for another year, beginning Memorial Day weekend. They are looking for folks who would be willing to volunteer some time assisting them.

If you are interested in helping please contact Sgt. White at gordonwhi@co.clackamas.or.us.

Also, efforts continue by the Alliance to improve cellular and emergency communications in the Recreation Corridor as well as the viability of strategically located call boxes. The technologies exist but they are very expensive. So we continue researching alternatives for this critical issue.

Leadership Award

In recognition of the inspiration he provides all of us, at our October 2008 meeting the Alliance awarded Sgt. White a distin-

guished leadership award. You can see a photo of the presentation on our website.

Wild and Scenic River

With the transition to a new administration completed, the Alliance will renew its efforts to secure federal Wild and Scenic River status for approximately 21 miles of the Molalla River.

Last summer we found not a single group or individual in opposition to this initiative. We received much encouragement from Senator Wyden's staff and hope to renew this support and receive similarly from recently elected Senator Merkely.

Brochure to be Launched

Thanks to creative and persistent craftsmanship of board member, John Atkins, the Alliance is putting finishing touches on an informational flyer/brochure touting the Molalla River Recreation Corridor as a tourism destination.

Funding for this brochure, as well as for creation of our website, was secured by John from Clackamas County Tourism grants.



Alliance Resolution Opposes LNG Crossing of River

The Alliance, as a result of consensus among its membership, created and approved a resolution opposing crossing of the Molalla River by the proposed LNG pipeline. The Alliance announced this in the form of a press release to our elected officials as well as area media. You can read the entire press release on the next page.

MRA Collaborations

Able provided by board member Mark Schmidt, the Alliance presented at the meeting of the North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership a biological profile of the Molalla River and a summary of the conservation challenges and opportunities faced by the River. The NASSP works to direct resources to river conservation efforts which promote fish-friendly land and water practices. They lend support to effective local and regional actions that will sustain fish populations.

In December, the NASSP also asked the Alliance to participate in its funding request presentation made to the Meyer Memorial Trust.

BLM Comprehensive Management Plan

The Bureau of Land Management began their much anticipated

efforts to craft a Comprehensive Management Plan for the Molalla River Recreation Corridor. The Alliance participated in a recent BLM Open House and looks forward to playing an ongoing role assisting BLM in producing a plan which will provide wide ranging guidance to the future of the Molalla River Recreation Corridor.

Among key issues, the Alliance is endorsing replacement of dispersed camping areas and creation of full-service designated camp ground(s). The Alliance is also encouraging increased accessibility and day-use activities.

Looking For the Best and the Brightest

Grant Writer: The Alliance is looking for an experienced grant writer to assist in our fund raising efforts. If you can devote periodic time for this, let's talk. Contact Fran Taylor (fran@molalla.net) or Mike Moody (moody@teleport.com).

Website/IT Person: The MRA website was developed by 3B Web Creations in Sherwood. We continue to use them to make periodic updates to our website. We need someone to coordinate these updates, news releases, announcements, etc., with 3B Web Creations. This would require no more than a few hours each month. Please contact Mike Moody (moody@teleport.com) if you would like to help.

Photos: If you have photos of the Molalla River Recreation Corridor we will consider using them on our website and/or newsletter. Please submit them to Fran at the Alliance office. The photos for this quarter's newsletter were provided by Russell Bassett, John Atkins, Ryan Morgan and Mark Schmidt.

News release: MRA passes resolution opposing LNG crossing of Molalla River

Consensus is risks are too great to community and ecosystems

At last month's meeting of the Molalla River Alliance, its members approved a resolution opposing construction of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) pipeline through the Molalla River and its watershed. The decision to pass the resolution was a consensus of the group.

The Molalla River Alliance, a coalition of more than 45 civic and conservation organizations, local, state and federal agencies, and numerous individuals, was organized with the dual purpose of protecting and preserving the water quality and ecosystems of the Molalla River while encouraging diverse enjoyment of the recreation area including tourism and family-friendly activities.

"The Alliance has galvanized diverse, divergent, and frequently opposing, stakeholders, scientists and policy makers unified to protect the environment of the Molalla River," says Mike Moody, president of the Molalla River Alliance. "We have taken reasonable measures to objectively listen to, analyze and debate all sides of the LNG issue. The consensus among our members is the risks to this pristine watershed, and to our communities that depend upon it, are not acceptable."

In addition to concerns that the location of the proposed pipeline will degrade critical fish habitat needed by federally listed salmon and steelhead species, Molalla River Alliance members are also concerned the pipeline would pass through an area which has an active seismic history and fault lines, raising the possibility of catastrophic damage resulting from earthquakes.

The group also feels the pipeline construction will significantly increase erosion and sedimentation which will reverse years of restoration efforts by many Oregonians,

including the Alliance, to improve ecosystems of the Molalla River.

The Molalla River Alliance is made up of many individual landowners and residents, and includes American Rivers, Back Country Horsemen, Back Country Hunters and Anglers, BARK, Bee Ranch, City of Molalla, Friends of the Molalla David Moskowitz and Confluence Consulting, Ecotrust, Friends of the Molalla River, Glen Avon Neighborhood Assn., Hamlet of Mulino, Mazamas, Molalla Community Planning Organization, Molalla Retreat Molalla RiverWatch, Molalla River Anglers, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Oregon Wild, Native Fish Society, North American Salmon Stronghold, Northwest Steelheaders, Oregon Trout, Peachuck Lookout Advocacy, Sierra Club, S. H. Smith Fisheries Consulting, Todos Juntos, Trails End Campground, Western Rivers, Willamette Riverkeeper, among others

For more information on our conservation and community priorities we encourage you to see our website: www.molallariveralliance.org.

MRA PARTNERS AND MEMBERS

American Rivers
Back Country Horsemen
Back Country Hunters and Anglers
BARK
Bee Ranch
Bureau of Land Management
City of Molalla
Friends of the Molalla
Kaitlin Lovell, Environmental Services, Portland
Clackamas County Parks and Recreation
Clackamas County Sheriff
David Moskowitz, Confluence Consulting, LLC
DEQ / Karen Williams
Ecotrust
Friends of the Molalla River
Glen Avon Neighborhood Association
Hamlet of Mulino
Jo Anne Dolan, Lluvia Buena
Mazamas
Molalla Community Planning Organization
Molalla Pioneer Newspaper

Molalla Police Department
Molalla Retreat
Molalla RiverWatch
Molalla River Anglers
Oregon Equestrian Trails
Oregon Wild
Native Fish Society
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
North American Salmon Stronghold Program
Northwest Steelheaders
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Oregon Department of Forestry
Oregon State Police
Oregon Trout
Peachuck Lookout Advocacy Group
Sierra Club
South Clackamas CPO
Steven H. Smith Fisheries Consulting, Inc.
Todos Juntos
Trails End Campground
Western Rivers
Willamette Riverkeeper
Individual Landowners and Neighbors

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