Metro Waterways Study Public Workshop Summary

Amazon Creek Planning Area Workshop (February 15, 2006)

Location: Eugene Public Library
Attendance: Approximately 40

Meeting Notes:

- Think about impacts that infill development is having on alleys such as more traffic and more soil being tracked into the streets and ultimately the waterways.
- Update flood maps
- During development review, look at potential impacts early in the process
- Look at headwaters first. Preserve the pristine locations.
- The fairgrounds project is a great place to start enhancement effort. It is a great multi-objective project.
- Place a priority on invasive species management.
- Consider modifications to concrete channel to slow down flow (roughen). Consider placing large boulders and debris.
- Add meanders and capacity to Amazon and Westmoreland Parks – good flood storage areas.
- Nuisance vegetation position should also look at waterways/easements along Amazon Creek.
- Consider projects: Laurelwood PUD is willing to lay back banks and introduce native planting. It's located on City View (1200 block) between two public properties.
- Include public involvement with individual projects as well as this process.
- Wherever possible, bring the water to the people, especially in more urbanized areas).
- Develop a whitewater park.
- Use cost benefit from sustainable practices to inform development community to change their practices.
- Consider high flow bypass systems to alleviate scouring during storms.
- Address invasive species on private property. Consider using public information fact sheets and incentives.
- Use native plant species in CIPs.
- Consider working with private property owners where willing.
- Look at preserving areas outside of the UGB before any UGB expansion occurs.
- Increase evergreen tree canopy along waterways (shading).
- Improve water quality as part of the projects.
- Consider alternative solutions in alternative segments.
- Use a green approach for addressing issues.
- Improve City coordination between programs and divisions, including PUD approvals.
- Address existing runoff thru curb-cuts into bio-swales.
- Examine use of Amazon Park and Fairgrounds to increase stormwater/flood capacity.
- Reevaluate approval criteria in steep hillsides such as those in the South Hills Study.

- Phase construction to small segments for wildlife preservation.
- Continue to improve water quality including at the planning and development stage.
- Find incentives for developers to go beyond existing requirements for water quality.
- Implement good ideas quicker than through regulatory avenues.
- Reduce impervious surface.
- Increase detention or retention on site.
- Develop fees to cover cost of developments impacts to the community.
- Consider erosion from steep banks.
- Leave wildlife corridors in newly developing areas wherever possible.
- Develop project finance goals with water quality impacts.
- Involve neighborhood input on project proposals.
- Provide access to private property if owners are agreeable.
- Minimize lighting or wildlife friendly lighting (hooded)
- Control public access to minimize wildlife disturbance.

Other comments received by e-mail:

- I am writing to express my concern for development of the land surrounding the Amazon Headwaters area. We can best improve the quality of the Amazon by first saving the headwaters. I support efforts to purchase & conserve the headwaters as a 1st step toward improving urban water ways. I urge you to do so as well. -Christina Salter
- It is with hope that we voice the need to protect the Amazon Creek Headwaters in south Eugene and encourage those involved with the Metro Waterways Collaboration to include protection in the planning. As you may know, several developers own and want to develop land in the Amazon Headwaters area. Purchasing and conserving the headwaters as a first step toward improving urban waterways makes sense. If we don't conserve the headwaters, won't it be more difficult to improve the health of the urban waterways? -Jane and Ernie Rimerman

Cedar Creek Planning Area Workshop (February 16, 2006)

Location: Springfield City Hall
Attendance: Approximately 25

Meeting Notes:

- Numerous revetments along the McKenzie River have begun to fail in recent years. The Corps or the County needs to react to this in an expatiated fashion before serious property damage occurs.
- The Morriss revetment is in the process of “peeling away” as of the last flood (January 2006). Cutting behind the revetment on the upstream end.
- Above the stockade revetment, erosion and downcutting is rapidly occurring. With the river level dropping, the intake to Cedar Creek may be in danger of becoming non-functional.
- The study needs to understand the channel migration zones and develop comprehensive solutions that allow the river to utilize these areas.

- Room needs to be provided to allow the McKenzie River to migrate as it has in historic times.
- The Hart revetment is failing in numerous locations.
- Determine if gravel recruitment is a problem on the McKenzie River. Several old gravel pits upstream have been captured by the river recently and may be capturing much of the sediment.
- Many levees along the McKenzie River are nearing the end of their 50-year design life.
- The Gosler property contains approximately 3,200 lineal feet of revetment along the McKenzie River and it is rapidly failing. Who is responsible for repairing this?
- Make the most critical issues the highest priority when implementing projects.

Guiding Principles

As part of the public workshops, participants were asked to provide input on guiding principles that will be used to help provide direction during the next phase of the study, which is the identification of potential solutions and projects. The list of guiding principles below incorporates this public feedback.

Metro Waterways Study
Guiding Principles for Projects and Solution

- Focus on most critical areas first.
- Use a "multiple-objective" approach while ensuring projects are integrated and complimentary to other projects within the influence of a project site.
- Design for self sustainability, to ensure long-term viability. Avoid creating high-maintenance systems.
- Maintain or improve flood capacity where necessary to protect property and ensure safety.
- Use innovative and natural resources, bioengineering techniques, and local, native vegetation as a primary approach when feasible.
- Provide recreational access (on public lands) where feasible, but avoid significant impacts to the resource.
- Include or restore natural habitat conditions where possible.
- Consider aesthetics (how it will look when complete and over the long-term).
- Look for ways to minimize wildlife disruption during construction activities.
- Update existing conditions of watershed and evaluate effects of projects as they mature.
- Adapt a variety of innovative contracting and funding approaches to achieve goals.
- Collaborate within and outside agencies and organizations to develop ownership.
- Track and monitor project successes and failures to ensure that future projects will be more successful. Ensure funding for this is available.
- Celebrate and showcase our successes.