



**APPROVED**

**City of Lake Oswego  
Natural Resources Advisory Board Minutes**

**February 20, 2008**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Vice Chair Morgan Holen called the Natural Resources Advisory Board meeting of February 20, 2008 to order at 6:36 p.m. in the West End Building, 4010 Kruse Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present were Chair Sarah Asby (arrived 6:44 p.m.); Vice Chair Morgan Holen, Craig Diamond, William Gaar, Nancy Gronowski, Douglas Rich and Stephanie Wagner. Rishi Rajani (student member) was absent.

Guests in attendance were Lisa Volpel, Rosewood Neighborhood Association; Patrick Rowe, Mountain Park; and Carson Wisner and Eric Stroeble, Lake Oswego High School.

Staff liaison was Jonna Papaefthimiou, Natural Resources Planner. Other staff present were Chelsea Smith, AmeriCorps worker; David Odom, Associate Planner; and Kevin McCaleb, Water Conservation Specialist.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of November 14, 2007 were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Asby's term of service on the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) had expired, but she offered to remain in her position until her replacement was chosen. Mr. Gaar and Mr. Diamond had each completed a term of service, but they were allowed to re-apply to serve on the Board.

**V. REGULAR BUSINESS**

**Draft City Water Curtailment Plan**

Kevin McCaleb, Water Conservation Specialist, discussed the Draft City Water Curtailment Plan. He explained that it would become a part of a larger Conservation Management Plan the City had already adopted. It described what the City planned to

do in stages as water problems became increasingly severe. He said the draft plan would be presented to the City Council after the state had reviewed and approved it. He invited the NRAB to comment on the plan. During the questioning period, he explained the City had “senior level” status as one of 22 Clackamas River water users. He described the methods used to monitor water levels and what triggered each stage of concern. He said users were categorized as residential, commercial, and large turf users, such as schools and parks. He explained that in an initial stage of shortage, users would be asked to voluntarily cut back on water use by 10%. By Stage 3 there would be mandatory use restriction. He clarified that the plan did not propose penalties, but he anticipated the City would consider whether the current penalties were appropriate in some future separate process. Current enforcement of the water code involved “spot checking,” and a potential fine of up to \$1,000. He said the majority of City water use was by residential users. He clarified that the “educational” part of the Conservation Management Plan belonged in an earlier stage than the “curtailment” stage, when action was required to protect the water supply. He reasoned that smaller water districts, such as River Grove, would have to abide by the City’s plan because they pulled water from the City of Lake Oswego when their supply became low. He anticipated the City Council would consider the plan the following month.

Board members agreed to individually read the plan and submit their comments to Mr. McCaleb in case the City Council considered the plan before the NRAB met again. Ms. Papaefthimiou confirmed the Board could recommend that the City raise the fine. Mr. McCaleb offered to update the NRAB about the City’s water conservation program on a regular basis.

### **Student Water Conservation Proposal Presentation**

Carson Wisner and Eric Stroeble, students at Lake Oswego High School, presented a water conservation proposal they had fashioned as a political action class project. They explained that the City Council had suggested they discuss it with the NRAB. They proposed that the City adopt a community downspout disconnection program that would prevent runoff that carried oils and pesticides from flowing into City streets, the sewer system, and eventually into the river. They suggested the City and other property owners could “harvest” rainwater so it could then be used for irrigation and washing vehicles. They suggested using some sort of incentive program to achieve that. They suggested the City could install rain barrels at the new maintenance facility, and use the harvested water to water the hanging flowerpots along the streets. They reported that they had surveyed twenty community residents and most of them said they would agree to install rain barrels if there were some sort of monetary incentive to do so.

The Board clarified that the Lake Oswego Chamber of Commerce owned the flowerpots. Staff explained the City had not allowed downspouts to drain into the City sewer system for many years and new development was required to submit a stormwater management plan that addressed runoff on site, so there were not many downspouts to be disconnected. The students worried that water did eventually drain into nearby low topographic areas and then into the lake. They suggested it should be stored in a rain barrel, or some kind of storage chamber. The advisors explained that might not be practical because it typically took 650 gallons to water 1,000 square feet of

lawn for a week in the summer. However, they said the City of Portland allowed it in order to reduce the amount of runoff impacting their sewer system. The Board generally indicated they believed that rain gardens were a good idea and could benefit the community by recharging groundwater. But they cautioned there would be no environmental benefit if a property owner simply disconnected downspouts and allowed the runoff to flow into the street. They saw a need for a related educational program about runoff control using passive harvesting (rain gardens) or a cistern system, and suggested it could be part of an educational component in the City's Clean Streams Program. The students recalled their high school grounds featured a detention pond that stored runoff on site. They suggested the new City maintenance facility could utilize an underground cistern system to store water to be used during the driest summer months. Staff advised the group that rainwater should not be allowed to be used for flushing toilets unless it was in a completely separate, closed, piping system, and a backflow prevention device was necessary if it were to be used for irrigation, so rainwater did not flow into the City water system. They advised that a storage system should hold a sufficient volume of irrigation water, and above ground storage posed an issue related to insect spread of West Nile disease. NRAB members suggested the students focus on ways that property owners could use rainwater for irrigation. They cautioned that the students had to present a good case that there was a problem to be addressed if they suggested using tax money. They generally favored the concept of using the design of the new City maintenance facility to demonstrate ways to reduce water use. Ms. Papaefthimiou suggested the students could discuss that with Sidaro Sin, Senior Planner. Mr. McCaleb also offered his help. The Board suggested the students consider incorporating the ideas Board members had suggested into their proposal and then presenting it to the NRAB and asking for Board support. The two students agreed. When asked, they estimated that the majority of students at their school were not aware of water conservation issues.

### **Report on Sustainability Advisory Board Creation**

Ms. Papaefthimiou reported the City Council had voted unanimously to create a Sustainability Advisory Board of eleven members. Two positions were to be student members, and some board positions could be filled by people who worked in the City, but did not reside in the City. She recalled the Councilors had reasoned that the new board should have broad representation because sustainability was a broad issue, and they hoped this board - which would become the largest board in the City - would coordinate its efforts with other City boards and enjoy overlapping membership. She said she planned to email applications to NRAB members, and she had already received inquiries from two potential applicants who heard the City Council announcement on television. NRAB members thanked staff for their help.

### **Report on Community Forestry Plan Adoption**

Ms. Papaefthimiou announced that the City Council had adopted the Community Forestry Plan and agreed to fund it in the FY 2009/11 budget cycle. She anticipated the funds would allow the City to hire a full-time coordinator. She recalled that several citizens who did not favor the Tree Code had testified in opposition to the proposed plan, but Russell Jones had testified in support of it.

## Review Heritage Tree Applications

Chelsea Smith, AmeriCorps worker; and David Odom, Associate Planner, reported they had examined a multi-year accumulation of Heritage Tree nominations and identified six or seven trees that seemed to meet the basic code qualifications for Heritage Tree status:

A tree, or stand of trees, that is of landmark importance, due to age, size, species, horticultural quality, or historic importance.

They asked the Board to discuss which of the criteria were most important. They said some trees that might have an historic context or landmark potential were not well documented. They said a small dogwood tree at the Lake Oswego Fire House was not an exceptional tree, but had been planted to commemorate September 11, 2001. They said some trees had been nominated because of their prominence in the neighborhood in which they were located. They observed it would be necessary to choose Heritage Trees, arrange a ceremony and order Heritage Tree plaques in time for upcoming Arbor Week. Vice Chair Holen asked for more time in which to visit and examine each nominated tree, because some of the photographs seemed to indicate the trees might be in poor health. Others wanted to visit them to understand why they were considered representative of the neighborhood. Mr. Diamond suggested the NRAB select one tree that evening to be pronounced a Heritage Tree at the Arbor Week ceremony, and table further discussion of the other nominees until the next meeting. When asked, Mr. Odom recommended the White Oak Tree in Exhibit E, and Vice Chair Holen agreed. He also agreed to provide the descriptions of the 13 existing Heritage Trees for the Board to examine at the next meeting.

Mr. Diamond **moved** to designate the White Oak tree in Exhibit E as a Heritage Tree and table discussion of the other nominated trees until the next meeting. The **motion passed** by unanimous vote.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for March 19, 2008. There being no further business Chair Asby adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonna Papaefthimiou /s/  
Jonna Papaefthimiou  
Natural Resources Planner