



# LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

March 2006

Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 28, 2006 6:00 - 8:45 p.m.

Veneta Community Center

Directions on back page.

*Please bring snacks to share - we'll do the drinks!*

## AGENDA

- 6:00 **Sign in, review info, meet & greet**
- 6:30 **Welcome & Introductions**  
*Will Bondioli, Vice-Chair, Steering Committee, and Mark Wilkening, Facilitator*
- 6:40 **Community Announcement—**  
**Fern Ridge Strategic Planning effort**  
*Ric Ingham, City Administrator, City of Veneta*
- 6:50 **Non Profit Development—**  
**Decision on corporate structure**  
♦ **Discussion and Decision regarding Steering Committee recommendation to use a “non-membership” corporate structure**  
*Will Bondioli, Steering Committee and Chair, Non-Profit Working Group and Corey Johnson, Non-Profit Intern*  
**Break**
- 7:45 **Council Restoration Priorities**  
♦ **Water temperature and stream shading**  
*Pamela Wright, Water Quality Specialist, DEQ*  
♦ **Restoration priorities for water temperature and riparian areas**  
*Cindy Thieman, Projects & Monitoring Coordinator*



Kids learned the basics of nature photography at a March workshop in the wetlands along Amazon Creek, a tributary to the Long Tom.

**! \* ! Inside ! \* !**

- ⇒ Restoration priorities
- ⇒ Non Profit - corporate structure decision
- ⇒ Job Announcement

## Our Mission

*The Long Tom Watershed Council serves to improve water quality and watershed condition in the Long Tom River basin through education, coordination, consultation, and cooperation among all interests, using the collective wisdom and voluntary action of our community members.*

# Council Business

## Developing the Council as a Non Profit Corporation

*By Corey Johnson, Intern, and Will Bondioli, Chair, Non-Profit Working Group*

Dear Council members,

At the February Council meeting in Monroe, we heard that you would like the Steering Committee to show you their intent for the incorporation of the Council, and to make a recommendation. After careful consideration of the options, and consultation with the thoughtful attorney retained to help the Council with this important step, your Steering Committee would like to suggest that the Long Tom Watershed Council continue its practice of inclusiveness through:

- ☒ No membership requirements
- ☒ No dues
- ☒ No “club” to join
- ☒ **Everyone is ‘in’ unless they opt out**

### *Here’s what Steering recommends:*

1. That the Long Tom Watershed Council incorporate as a non-membership organization, which is the corporate structure that will allow us to achieve the list above.
2. That we include language to address the following provisions in our Bylaws, in order to keep the Board inclusive and in touch with the Council:

### **Selecting Individuals to Serve on the Board of Directors**

- A. The selection process will include a provision whereby individuals who are interested in serving on the Board can self-nominate during some specified period prior to the Annual Meeting.
- B. Nominees to the Board will be confirmed and/or elected by the general council at the Annual Meeting. A confirmation-by-consensus process will be used unless there is more than one candidate for a particular position. In which case, the choice will be decided by majority vote.
- C. A recall process will be prescribed whereby the final say on the recall of a director will rest with the Council.
- D. The geographic diversity of the Board will be modeled after our current provisions for the Steering Committee, with a fourth of the directors coming from each of the three main sub-areas of the watershed – Upper Long Tom, Lower Long Tom, and Amazon – and the remaining quarter serving “at large.” This will help ensure a range of interests and perspectives.

**Continued on next page**

# Council Business

Continued from previous page

## Amendments to the Bylaws

- A. Amendments to the Bylaws or Articles of Incorporation may be recommended by either the Board or Council.
- B. Any change to those documents will be presented for ratification at the Annual Meeting.
- C. The decision-making process will be like the one the Council has now, which is: consensus tried at two meetings, then a super-majority vote.
- D. Advance notice must go out in the newsletter prior to the Annual Meeting if a Bylaws or Articles amendment is going to be presented for approval.



*It's time to decide the  
incorporation structure!  
Please come be a part of the  
discussion and decision, and lend  
your support to this important step  
in the growth of the  
Long Tom Watershed Council!*

# Council's Restoration Priorities

## Selected portions: Riparian Areas and Water Quality

From Full Draft, Version 4, December 15, 2005 (full draft available at [www.longtom.org](http://www.longtom.org))

Contact: Dana Erickson, Watershed Coordinator, 683-6578

### AQUATIC: Watershed Process & Function

#### **Restore Riparian Area Function**

*Status and Priority:* Significant limiting conditions to proper riparian zone function in the watershed include: loss of large conifers in the upper reaches, loss of bottomland hardwood forest, replacement of trees and native shrubs with invasive species, grasses, or bare soil, and an overall reduction in the density and number of trees in riparian areas. In some cases, the loss of function is due to a streamside wetland or prairie area being overgrown by forest. Almost 60% of riparian areas had moderate to high loss of ecological function due to one or more of these causes. Loss of shade contributes to warmer stream temperatures, which has had a significant impact on cutthroat trout. In addition, many species depend wholly or in part on riparian habitat and have been negatively affected by this loss in function (see also, Terrestrial section)

Restoring riparian area function is a high priority throughout the watershed. Healthy and well-functioning riparian areas provide a host of water quality and habitat benefits, and creating and sustaining these areas is a relatively simple and cost-efficient restoration option. In addition, restoration actions taken to achieve this goal directly benefit others, especially channel complexity and water quality. Restoring riparian function is important especially in areas where channels have been straightened and loss of stream-flood plain interaction has occurred, and/or where channel migration has been limited, and therefore natural formation of channel complexity is limited. And in areas where channels have not been straightened or banks have not been armored, riparian restoration is important because it will be easier to achieve healthy riparian function.

#### **Geographic Priorities:**

*Along the lower Long Tom the areas without levees are more important than those with levees.*

*Other priorities will be determined by site characteristics that make a potential action higher priority.*

#### **Some site characteristics to be considered higher priority:**

- Links existing riparian habitats
- Restores riparian areas that lack any other channel complexity because they are straightened
- Restores riparian area at a site where focal or at-risk<sup>3</sup> species can be benefited
- All things being equal, project sites are considered higher priority relative to other projects as they affect longer stretches and on both sides of the stream and/or achieve larger riparian zone widths (in proportion to stream size).

# Council's Restoration Priorities *continued...*

## AQUATIC: Water Quality

*Status and Priority:* Limiting conditions caused by water quality include 1) high summer water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen levels in the mid and lower portions of the watershed, 2) high nutrient levels in streams running through the urban and heavily irrigated agricultural lands, 3) high turbidity levels in the Long Tom River below Fern Ridge Reservoir, some portions of Coyote Creek, and upper Amazon Creek, and 4) high *E. coli* levels in the upper Amazon, Ferguson, and Bear Creek sub-watersheds. These water quality conditions limit cutthroat trout and other native fish production in many parts of the watershed, negatively impact Spring Chinook rearing habitat on the lower Long Tom, and, in the case of *E. coli*, pose a risk to human health. No instream water rights currently exist in the Long Tom Watershed, however anecdotal information from long-time residents suggests that summer stream levels are lower than historically. Low summer flows contribute significantly to high summer water temperature. Poor water quality can have not only a local impact, but a downstream impact on the Willamette River and further.

This category focuses on efforts to improve water quality not already addressed by restoration of watershed processes and functions. It highlights specific water quality goals that need to be addressed to meet water quality standards set by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Our geographic priorities were developed from Council water quality data as well as DEQ water quality limited streams in the watershed. The priorities address limiting factors to aquatic life and human health. Notably, two municipalities obtain their drinking water from sources within the watershed – Veneta and Monroe. Both rely on wells. Veneta currently faces issues relating to quantity. Monroe is located within the Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area and contamination by nitrates is of primary concern.

### **Decrease water temperature and increase dissolved oxygen**

*Status and Priority:* Temperature is the primary limiting factor to cutthroat trout productivity and this makes all fish-bearing streams a priority. Due to Fern Ridge Reservoir acting as a heat sink, sub-watershed improvements may not contribute significantly to cooling in the Willamette. Individual sub-watersheds are prioritized based on fish populations and use. This is based on ODFW data showing that trout will use streams with poor physical habitat as long as temperature is suitable. See also the previous section on ensuring adequate water flow.

**DEQ Water Quality Limited Streams:** Ferguson Creek (temperature); Coyote Creek (DO), Amazon Diversion (DO).

**Additional Water Quality Limited Streams for temperature and DO (per Council data):** Long Tom River below the dam, Lower and Upper Amazon Creek, and the lower sections of Upper Long Tom, Elk Creek, Bear Creek, Spencer Creek and Fern Ridge tributaries.

### **Geographic Priorities:**

*None of the major tributary streams meet the state temperature standard along their middle and lower reaches. The upper, forested stream reaches meet the standard all or most of the time. Dissolved oxygen data follows a similar trend compared to the state standard for cold-water aquatic life.*

#### **Ferguson, Bear sub-watersheds**

*High priority for resident and fluvial trout, chinook salmon*

#### **Upper Long Tom, Elk, Coyote sub-watersheds**

*High priority for resident and fluvial trout*

#### **Spencer (seasonal), Upper Amazon, Fern Ridge Tributaries, Lower Amazon, Lower Long Tom sub-watersheds**

*Medium priority*

# Council's Restoration Priorities continued...

## AQUATIC: Water Quality (continued)

### Decrease bacteria levels

*Bacteria is primarily a problem for human health. Excessive levels also imply riparian degradation, nutrient loading and subsequent oxygen depletion of streams, which impacts the vitality of trout. This is often caused from livestock access to streams, and manure.*

*Note: It is not known how much of a problem the delivery of bacteria from septic sources is. Assessment methods to determine bacteria source are prohibitively expensive and still produce unclear results. Funding for assessment and repair of individual systems is not known to be available. Professional opinion is that domestic livestock are a significant source based on a) the land use patterns in sub-watersheds with high bacteria levels, and b) the bacteria levels at headwater sites that set a probable "background" level for the wildlife contribution.*

**DEQ Water Quality Limited Streams:** lower Long Tom River, Coyote Creek, Fern Ridge Reservoir, Amazon Creek, Amazon Diversion.

**Additional Water Quality Limited Streams (per Council data):** Bear Creek, Ferguson Creek, Spencer Creek.

### **Geographic Priorities based on Council *E. coli* monitoring data:**

*Viewing high bacteria as an indicator of riparian degradation, high priority areas affect both humans and fish.*

#### **Bear, Ferguson, Coyote, and Spencer sub-watersheds**

*High Priority*

**Upper Amazon Creek sub-watershed; Fern Ridge Reservoir** (human health issue; probable sources include inflow from Coyote and Amazon Creeks, and septic); **Lower Amazon Creek sub-watershed** (seasonal issue; probable sources include sheep, nutria, Upper Amazon inflow); **Lower Long Tom River sub-watershed** (probable sources are upstream, some domestic livestock)

*Medium Priority*



***For the full draft of the Council's Restoration Priorities  
please go to [www.longtom.org](http://www.longtom.org)  
and we'll have maps at the meeting***

# Watershed Events & Announcements

## Projects and Monitoring Update

### Riparian Planting

During our 2006 Riparian Tree Give-Away, our partner Roseburg Forest Products donated 200 western red cedars and 160 grand fir. The Council arranged for 6 landowners to plant them alongside streams in the watershed.

**Thank you  
Roseburg Forest Products!**  
*For donating the trees we used for this  
year's Riparian Tree Give-away.*

### Macro-invertebrate Monitoring

This spring we will collect macro-invertebrate samples on the final sites in the watershed, and then send the data in for analysis and report by the end of this year. For once we do not need additional volunteers on this effort but please stay tuned or call Dana, 683-6578, to describe your interest in volunteering on other projects or committees!

### Considering a project with the Council?

Call Cindy at 683-2983 to discuss possibilities!

## Bring More Income to the Farm Through Certification and Marketing



**Thanks  
to  
Monroe Telephone Company  
and  
John Dillard, President**  
[www.monrotel.com](http://www.monrotel.com)

*For providing matching funds this year  
for the Council's  
high priority work!  
And for sponsoring our web site!*  
[www.longtom.org](http://www.longtom.org)



### Workshop sponsored by Cascade Pacific RC&D

Learn about a growing market for products using sustainable agriculture practices  
Learn about certification programs including Food Alliance, Oregon Tilth, Salmon Safe  
Learn about the buyers and the products they are looking for  
Learn about the technical assistance and funding to meet certification criteria  
Learn from a grower with experience

**To inquire, or register, call 757-4807 or [cprcdjim@qwest.net](mailto:cprcdjim@qwest.net)**

# Watershed Events & Announcements



## Job Announcement Assistant Coordinator - Monitoring & Education

We are seeking a key third staff person to assist with monitoring, volunteer coordination, and education/outreach through the member involvement program and council meetings and tours.

The person best qualified will be versatile, able to work independently, organized, excellent with detail, and interested in working with people. The position will be at least 24 hours per week up to full-time and \$11-\$13 per hour, DOE.

If you are interested in receiving a position description, please send an email to

*coordinator at longtom.org,*  
or call Dana at 683-6578.

Position will remain open until filled.

**Council Members: Please think of your friends and neighbors  
and help to connect us with a good candidate!**

## FERN RIDGE AREA STRATEGIC PLAN

A project by the City of Veneta

The Fern Ridge Area Strategic Planning Committee is in the process of updating the 1997 Adopted Fern Ridge Area Strategic Plan. Applications to serve on the committee are in and the City is processing those. The Committee will take part in the process of looking to the future and planning for a healthy, vital community.

A wide range of community members will be a part of this Committee and have a voice in planning for the future. The planning effort will involve participation in three to four meetings, oriented towards small group activities and discussion. The four main meetings will take place from April through June.

Ric Ingham, City Administrator for Veneta will be at this month's Watershed Council meeting to outline the project and take questions.

# Watershed Involvement Opportunities

## Calendar of Events

Tuesday, March 28th , 6:00pm, Veneta

### Watershed Council Meeting

See agenda in this newsletter

Saturday, April 8, 9:00—12 noon

### Bird Monitoring Training

Public Works office, 1820 Roosevelt

Contact Lorna, 682-4850

lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us

### Fish Monitoring Training, 1-4pm

Saturday, April 15th, 9:00—10:30

### Eggs & Nests

At the West Eugene Wetlands with WREN staff. Free of charge!

Contact Holly, 683-6494

Tuesday, April 25th , 6:00pm, Eugene

### Watershed Council Meeting

- Restoration Priorities for Water Quality (pesticides) *w/ guest speakers*
- Non Profit— recommended principles for our bylaws & update on application

Date TBA (likely Saturday, April 22 or 29):

### Stormwater Demonstration Home:

### Tour with Habitats, Inc.

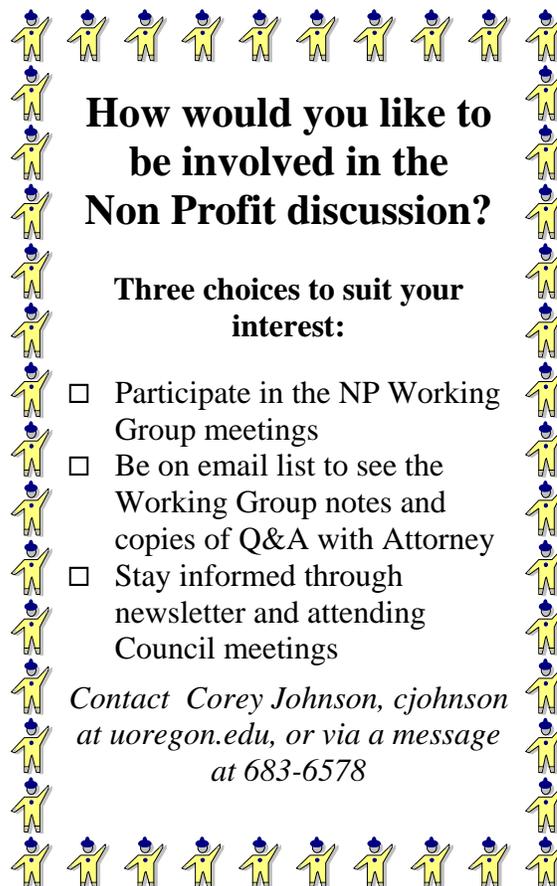
Contact Dana, 683-6578

Sunday, April 30, 12 noon- 4:00 pm

### Native Plant Nursery Open House

Alton Baker Park

Contact Lorna, 682-4850



## How would you like to be involved in the Non Profit discussion?

Three choices to suit your interest:

- Participate in the NP Working Group meetings
- Be on email list to see the Working Group notes and copies of Q&A with Attorney
- Stay informed through newsletter and attending Council meetings

Contact Corey Johnson, [cjohnson@uoregon.edu](mailto:cjohnson@uoregon.edu), or via a message at 683-6578



Boys netting and panning for insect life in a vernal pool in the watershed. One of the many opportunities to engage kids in wetlands that WREN provides.

***Interested in other watershed councils in Oregon?***

***Network of Oregon Watershed Councils [www.oregonwatersheds.org](http://www.oregonwatersheds.org)***

# Our Watershed & Council

## Long Tom Watershed Council Meeting Monroe February 21, 2006

Guest Presenter: Pat McDowell University of Oregon  
Stream Complexity  
Base, High and Overflow  
Move to create a more natural state

Presenter: Cindy Theiman, Long Tom Watershed Projects Coordinator  
Criteria used to prioritize watershed enhancement needs  
Fish populations Fluvial / Resident

Fish Passage Barriers on the Long Tom  
Ferguson drop Structure  
Stroda Drop Structure  
Monroe Drop Structure

Drops are for controlling velocity not to provide Irrigation (Jim Beal)  
Question: Is Amazon diversion into Fern Ridge a fish barrier

Guest Presenter: Jim Beal, Corps of Engineers  
Compared 2006 high water event to that of 1996  
2006 a 16 day event 1996 a 9 day event  
Concern over loss of capacity in the channel.

Presenters: Attorney Janice Mackey, Intern Corey Johnson, re: Non profit Development  
Member or non-Member:  
Reported on current member status of other watershed councils both member  
and non member.  
Council members present would like to know if Steering and working group  
have come to consensus either way and asked them to discuss pros and cons  
involved and bring forth a recommendation. Would also like to have an idea of  
what the bylaws will include so as to see if it fits better with either choice.

Recorded by  
Eric Freepons  
Co-Secretary

Edited by  
Dana Erickson  
Coordinator

# Our Watershed & Council



*Action  
Through  
Understanding*



**Steering  
Committee**

**Lower Long Tom**

Brent Skiles  
John Reerslev  
Eric Freepons  
*Co-Secretary*

**Upper Long Tom**

Will Bondioli  
*Vice Chair*  
Dennis Capps  
Gary Nolan

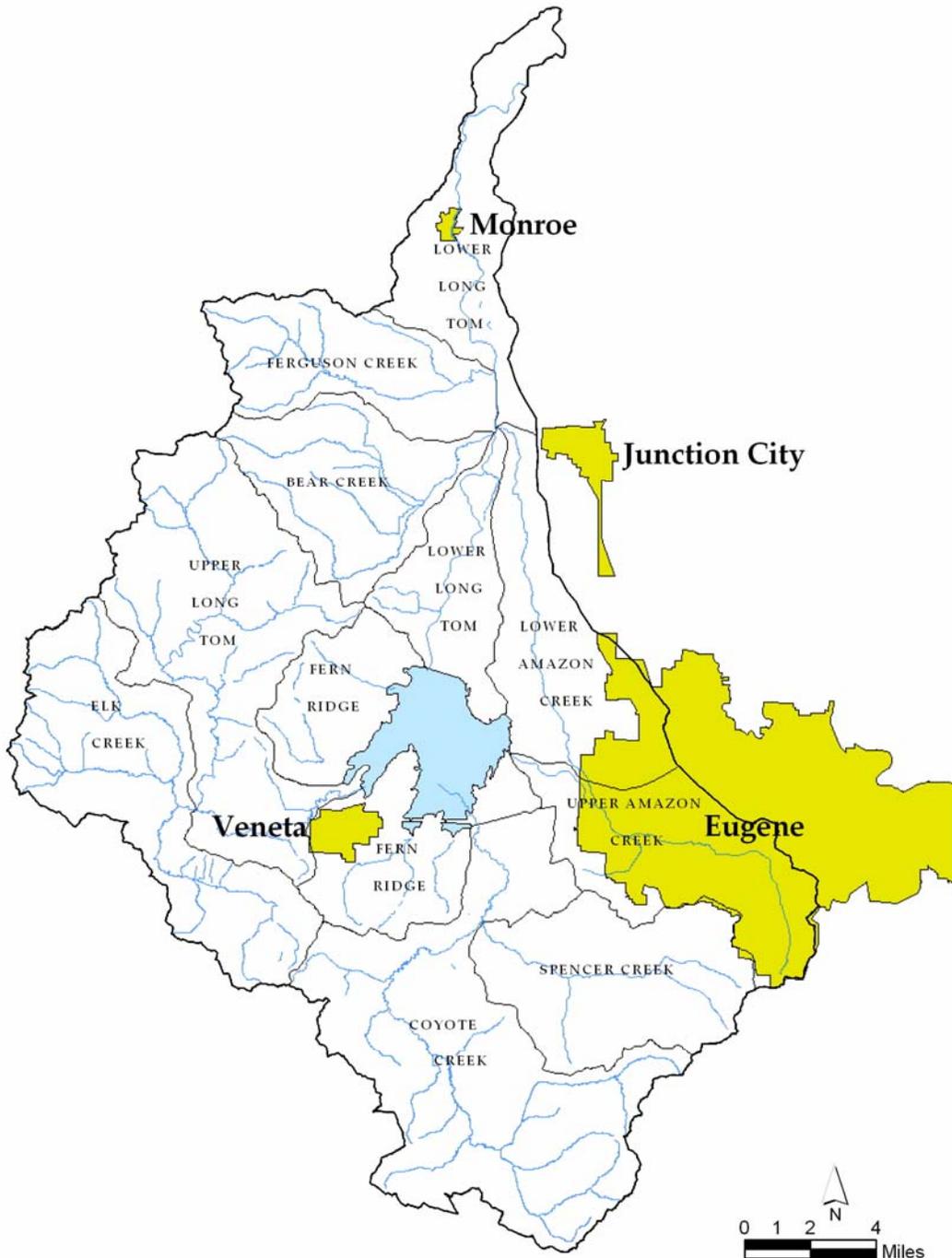
**Amazon**

Sarah Medary  
Tina Fenley  
*Treasurer*  
Rich Margerum,  
*Chair*

**At Large**

Ryan Collay  
Desiree Tullos  
*Co-Secretary*

## Long Tom Watershed Ten Major Subbasins



Source: Long Tom Watershed Council, Brian Isaac 9/03

**Staff**

**Coordinator**  
Dana Erickson  
(541) 683-6578

**Projects and Monitoring**  
Cindy Thieman  
(541) 683-2983



**INSIDE: Meeting Tuesday in Veneta! Job Announcement! Watershed Calendar! And more!  
Please get the word out—Invite a neighbor, friend or colleague!**

*Long Tom Watershed Council*  
Phone: 683-6578 *e-mail: coordinator@longtom.org*  
[www.longtom.org](http://www.longtom.org)  
751 S. Danebo Avenue  
Eugene, OR 97402

**Veneta Community Center    6:00 p.m. this Tuesday—March 28**

**★ Directions to Veneta Community Center  
25192 E. Broadway (east off Territorial Rd)**

You can easily find the Community Center.

Orienting from Eugene:

- ⇒ Take W.11th/Hwy 126 to Veneta.
- ⇒ Turn left/south at the stoplight onto Territorial Road.
- ⇒ Cross the RR tracks.
- ⇒ Take your next left/east onto E. Broadway.
- ⇒ Continue to the end of the street and turn right into the parking lot.
- ⇒ If you enter the park you've gone a bit too far.

**Meeting Tuesday!**