

LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL FORMAL ORGANIZATIONAL EVALUATION QUESTIONS

02/05/02

The Long Tom Watershed formal organizational sub committee presents the following chart as a summary of our evaluation process to date.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS: OWEB-Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board ELSWCD-East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District
 ODF&W-Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife CPRCD-Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development LTWC-Long Tom Watershed Council
 SC-Steering Committee IRS -Internal Revenue Service

EVALUATION QUESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS (Volunteer Group with independent contractors and CPRCD as fiscal agent)	NON PROFIT WITH EMPLOYEES (Covering both individual and as a part of a larger non profit group)
What would a non-profit look like vs. our current status?	<p>Charter, mission, goals, and actions written, reviewed, and in place.</p> <p>Steering Committee members chosen by coordinator and outgoing members to fill two year terms.</p> <p>Council members defined by living within the watershed's geographical area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Independent contractors hired to fill two positions currently: council coordinator and water quality monitoring. - LTWC uses a fiscal agent for administering grants, paying contractors, banking, and other monetary contributions. 	<p>Charter, by-laws that are written by the group (Checks and balances for structure, fundraising, policy, hiring/firing, who signs legal documents, who are members, are examples of what needs to be created in these documents)</p> <p>Attorney to represent LTWC for non profit corporation status election, review charter, by-laws, advise on employment contract law, partnership agreements with other organizations, etc.</p> <p>Board of directors created (decisions need to be made re: how much executive function board retains vs. executive director, how directors are chosen, how long they serve)</p> <p>Employees fill staff positions. Job descriptions and salary/benefit amounts need to be created.</p> <p>LTWC bank accounts, budget committee, accounting/auditing procedures would need to be established.</p>
How do these options help us with the present issues that we have concerns about?	<p>IRS tax employment issues (see article How IRS defines an independent contractor)</p> <p>Independently contracted staff purchases their own liability insurance, other benefits that they must provide for themselves.</p>	<p>LTWC could offer benefits to employees.</p> <p>Employee staff would be covered by OWEB liability insurance.</p>
Does this choice help broaden the council's funding options?	<p>Current donors rely on CPRCD tax exempt status</p> <p>Can use CPRCD tax exempt status for grant applications if necessary.</p> <p>Depends on funding sources and number of volunteer hours necessary.</p>	<p>Tax exempt status helps with securing donations and funding from foundations.</p> <p>Eligible for charitable organization grants</p> <p>May be able to host events that we can charge fees for attending depending on what type of org structure we choose.</p>

EVALUATION QUESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS (Volunteer Group with independent contractors and CPRC&D as fiscal agent)	NON PROFIT WITH EMPLOYEES (Covering both individual and as a part of a larger non profit group)
Will this choice maintain our political neutrality?	Viewed as public group widely representative of landowners in watershed made up by small groups of concerned people.	May be viewed as more of a private organization. Neutrality not guaranteed due to elected board of directors. Block voting could occur during board meetings.
What is this choice's potential to increase the council's membership?	Can keep records private. Ex: Landowners who participate in water quality testing.	Open financial records. Can keep mailing lists and landowner project information private. More volunteer effort needed to administer non-profit organization.
How will this choice effect our ability to partner with other organizations?	Current partners include large and small land owners, granges, other watershed councils, the ODF&W, the city of Eugene, The Oregon State University Extension, the Army Corp of Engineers, the Oregon Country Fair, (a non profit organization).	Partners need to get approval from the board of directors.
How will this choice provide for the future growth of the council's staff and projects? (Add your comments here.)		