

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR BENTON COUNTY,
OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION)
TO FORMALLY RECOGNIZE THE LONG)
TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL AS THE)
VOLUNTARY WATERSHED COUNCIL)
INTENDED TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT) Resolution No. _____
A WATERSHED ACTION PROGRAM TO)
PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE NATURAL)
RESOURCES OF THE LONG TOM)
WATERSHED)

WHEREAS, ORS 541.347(2)(a) encourages the initiation of voluntary programs at the local level to protect and enhance the quality and stability of watersheds; and

WHEREAS, ORS 541.350(7) defines a watershed council as “a voluntary local organization designated by a local government group convened by a county governing body to address the goal of sustaining a natural resource and watershed protection with a watershed;” and

WHEREAS, ORS 541.388(1) encourages local government groups to form voluntary local watershed councils; and

WHEREAS, ORS 541.388(2) states that local watershed councils shall consist of a majority of local residents, including local officials, and that the council represent a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed and assure a high level of citizen involvement in the development and implementation of a watershed action program; and

WHEREAS, the Long Tom Watershed Council began an citizen-driven organizational process early in 1996 and held meetings themselves until hiring a coordinator in January 1998, who continued to organize well-attended monthly meetings; and

WHEREAS, after organization, the membership of the Long Tom Watershed Council affirmed a fourteen-member Steering Committee at their Annual Meeting and Celebration on September 29, 1998; and

WHEREAS, there are currently over 450 members on the Long Tom Watershed Council mailing list and the membership includes landowners and residents throughout the Long Tom Watershed representing myriad perspectives as well as representatives of local, state and federal government agencies, non-government groups, public interest groups, business and industry; and

WHEREAS, the charter of the Long Tom Watershed Council states that “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. The Council will provide opportunities for people who live, work, play, derive benefits from, or are affected by the Long Tom watershed to cooperate in promoting the health of the watershed and communicating the social and economic benefits to the community. [We envision a] healthy watershed that ensures water quality and riparian and wetland habitat for fish, wildlife, and native plants while recognizing the importance of people’s economic livelihood and quality of life.”

WHEREAS, The Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC) serves as a voluntary community forum for local watershed residents, landowners, managers, and users to: understand, educate, and exchange

watershed ideas, investigate watershed needs and concerns, keep current on watershed plans and actions, solicit help on how to maintain and improve this local watershed environment, and facilitate the implementation of on-the-ground projects;” and

WHEREAS, membership in the Long Tom Watershed Council is fully inclusive, open to any individual supporting the purpose and mission of the Long Tom Watershed Council, living within the watershed or representing a group or organization with interest in the watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Benton County Board of Commissioners and its staff have examined the charter and organizational activities of the Long Tom Watershed Council to date and finds that they are consistent with ORS 541.345 to 541.400;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Benton County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes the Long Tom Watershed Council as the watershed council which will serve the entire Long Tom Watershed; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Benton County Board of Commissioners encourages the Long Tom Watershed Council to maintain an organization which represents a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Benton County Board of Commissioners encourages the Long Tom Watershed Council to develop and implement watershed action program intended to protect and enhance the quality of stability of the Long Tom Watershed both for the health of the watershed and for the economic and social betterment of the individuals, organizations, and communities in the watershed; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Benton County Board of Commissioners request the Long Tom Watershed Council to make progress reports to the Board of Commissioners on at least an annual basis.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 1998

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Orville R. (Bob) Adams, Chair

Bob Speaker, Commissioner

Kent Daniels, Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

County Counsel