

Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council

Purpose: to share information, reduce duplication of activities and to help address watershed management issues in the watershed and to provide a framework for coordination and cooperation among key interests.

Mission: to foster better understanding and stewardship of watershed resources

Vision: a balanced ecosystem that supports a healthy watershed and provides for an economic base and viable communities

GlennGibsonWC.org

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Meeting Notes for April 24, 2017

Salemtowne Breezeway Room / Salemtowne pond and fish ladder

Members present: **Ken Bierly (GGWC Chair), Linda Bierly (GGWC Secretary),** West Salem Neighborhood Association representative, **E.M. Easterly,** Salemtowne representatives **Jim Scott, Kenn Carter and Peter Gottschalk.**

Staff: **Lucas Hunt (coordinator)**

Guest Karen Hans, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Welcome and Introductions

Karen Hans, ODFW reviewed the fisheries of the Willamette, habits and habitats. She explained how fish use the floodplain, coming and going with the rise and fall of the river. Native fish can sense current and floodplain changes, non-natives are not as able and can end up trapped in off channel areas.

The field trip to the pond allowed partial views of the fish ladder. Ms. Hans explained that this fish ladder was built prior to current specifications about length and height of the steps. This fish ladder would not pass juvenile fish. During low water times, it might not pass fish at all. The area for the fish ladder is constrained. There is not enough space to allow proper length and width of the steps. The narrowness of the ladder forces the water through at high volume, making it difficult for fish to pass. The pond is shallow and algae filled. The water is warm with wide dissolved oxygen swings.

Possible solutions include removing the dam entirely, allowing the creek to find its own channel, then adding gravel as needed and planting riparian plants. Replacing the fish ladder with one that meets current specification and planting the pond with riparian plants to cool the water. A more difficult solution is artificial construction of a stream channel that makes the drop from fill to floodplain using natural materials.

GGCWSC members agreed to continue to look for solutions in cooperation with the Salemtowne community and the private landowner to the south of Salemtowne.

Thanks to Ms. Hans for sharing her time and expertise.

April 24, 25 & 26 OWEB meeting at Chemeketa Eola NW Viticulture Center

Next Meeting Information

- Tuesday, May 9, 2017
5:30pm -7:00pm location to be announced

Respectfully submitted, Linda Bierly, Secretary