

Environmental Issues Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday April 8, 2013, Noon to 1 pm
Alsea Room, EMU

MEMBERS PRESENT

- Alan Dickman – Environmental Sciences/Biology (chair)
- Peg Gearhart – Oregon Humanities Center
- Ellen Ingamells – student
- Meg Mattson – Academic affairs
- Erin Moore – Architecture
- Mark Reed – Geology
- Bitty Roy – Biology
- Fred Tepfer – Campus Planning and Real Estate
- Kristin White – student
- Louisa de Heer – Student Sustainability (ex officio)
- Steve Mital – Office of Sustainability (ex officio)
- Christine Thompson - Campus Planning and Real Estate (ex officio)
- Shelley Deadmond - Office of Sustainability (note taker)

MEMBERS ABSENT

- Doug Brooke – Environmental Health and Safety (ex officio)
- Nick Hughes – student

WELCOME, SELF-INTRODUCTIONS, AND REVIEW OF MINUTES

Alan welcomed the committee and members introduced themselves. The committee approved the March minutes.

BART JOHNSON, GUEST SPEAKER, UO PROFESSOR OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, RIPARIAN ECOLOGY ON THE WILLAMETTE

Bart explained that a healthy riparian (river-bordering) ecosystem is one that is complex and diverse and that 93% of all native plant and animal species in the valley rely on riparian habitat for some portion of their life cycle. He highlighted the areas of exciting habitat on the UO-owned riverfront property, including a backwater slough and stressed the ecological necessity of at least a 150 ft. set-back for development off the river bank. Bart's powerpoint deck is saved to EIC archives.

JEFF KRUEGER, GUEST SPEAKER, LCOG, WILLAMETTE RIVER OPEN SPACE VISION

Jeff talked about the Willamette River Open Space Vision, which was a public design and planning process that envisioned a healthy and vital future for the river 30 years out. Jeff's powerpoint deck is saved to EIC archives.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

There was about 2 minutes of dialogue after the presenters finished. A question was asked about the possibility of the millrace returning to functionality beyond stormwater catchment and another question about the potential of the riverbanks to move in the future, reducing the ability to meet standards for development setback.

Steve mentioned the plan to establish a sub-committee to look at these issues further and report back at the end of spring term. Steve said he was finalizing the sub-committee charge with Jamie Moffitt. EIC members interested in the opportunity agreed to get in touch with Steve about it by end of the week.

NEXT MEETING

The May meeting will take place on Monday May 6th from noon -1pm in the Coquille room.