

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOGNIZING THE) RESOLUTION NO. 97-2457
TRYON CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL AS A)
WATERSHED COUNCIL THAT MEETS THE)
STATE OF OREGON GOVERNOR'S WATERSHED) Introduced by
ENHANCEMENT BOARD (GWEB) GUIDELINES) Mike Burton, Executive Officer

WHEREAS, Tryon Creek has been declared a water quality limited stream by the State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality; and

WHEREAS, The Tryon Creek watershed lies within the jurisdictions of Multnomah and Clackamas counties, City of Portland, City of Lake Oswego, and Metro; and

WHEREAS, Public stewardship and public involvement are critical elements to protection and enhancement of water quality in the Tryon Creek watershed; and

WHEREAS, The Tryon Creek Watershed Council is a local, citizen-led organization, with a majority of local residents and local government representatives including the City of Portland, City of Lake Oswego, Tryon Creek State Park, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Metro; and

WHEREAS, The goals and objectives of the Tryon Creek Watershed Council are to assess watershed conditions, develop plans and projects to protect or improve watershed conditions, build public awareness of watershed functions and conditions, and to monitor the projects and conditions of the watershed; and

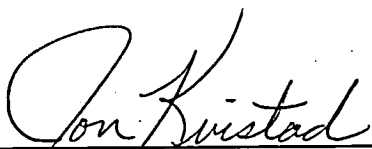
WHEREAS, The Tryon Creek Watershed Council meets GWEB and state statute guidelines for a voluntary local watershed council; and

WHEREAS, The Tryon Creek Watershed Council requests formal recognition by the Metro Council (Exhibit A); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED

- 1.) That the Metro Council hereby recognizes the Tryon Creek Watershed Council as a watershed council that meets the guidelines of the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council on this 27th day of February 1997.



Jon Kvistad, Presiding Officer

STAFF REPORT

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 97-2457, FOR THE PURPOSE OF
RECOGNIZING THE TRYON CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL AS A WATERSHED
COUNCIL THAT MEETS THE STATE OF OREGON GOVERNOR'S WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD (GWEB) GUIDELINES**

Date: February 4, 1997

Presented by: Ron Klein

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board (GWEB) was established in 1987 to promote and implement programs to restore, maintain and enhance watersheds in the State of Oregon. In addition to providing grant funds and technical assistance for watershed education and improvement projects, GWEB promotes general watershed awareness, encourages citizens and organizations to volunteer for watershed enhancement activities, encourages public agencies to work together on watershed issues and maintains a library of watershed enhancement projects.

Because watersheds often cross jurisdictional boundaries and require a regional management approach to be effective, GWEB encourages the formation of watershed councils to implement management plans, promote citizen involvement and to monitor watershed conditions. Watershed councils are able to work across jurisdictional boundaries and agency mandates to provide a more comprehensive assessment of watershed conditions and management needs. A watershed council brings local governments, natural resource agencies, businesses, local property owners and interested citizens together to address the needs of the watershed.

Under Oregon Revised Statute 541.388 local government groups are encouraged to form voluntary local watershed councils. Those councils recognized by local government groups are eligible to receive grant funds and technical support from GWEB. The Tryon Creek Watershed Council has requested that Metro Council recognize the organization to facilitate their work in the Tryon Creek watershed and to be eligible for GWEB assistance (Attachment 1).

The City of Portland Council approved Resolution No. 35577 on December 11, 1996 to recognize the Tryon Creek Watershed Council and declare it meets the criteria for a voluntary local watershed council identified in ORS 541.388.

Watersheds and stream basins were the primary landscape unit used in the development of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan. Tryon Creek State Park and its associated linkages are identified in the master plan as regionally significant. It is also one of the 14 regional target areas supported by the Open Spaces Acquisition Program. The master plan also encourages active citizen involvement in the stewardship of urban natural areas.

The Tryon Creek Watershed Council has worked to bring local governments, management agencies, businesses, landowners and citizens together for the management of the Tryon Creek watershed. A Metro representative currently serves on the council. Because Metro is involved in growth management planning and acquisition activities within the Tryon Creek watershed, Metro staff recommends Metro Council recognize the Tryon Creek Watershed Council as a local voluntary group dedicated to a cooperative management approach to the watershed.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Officer recommends adoption of Resolution No. 97-2457.

Tryon Creek Watershed Council

10750 SW Boones Ferry Road, Portland Oregon, 97219

Dennis Ades
Oregon Department of
Environmental Quality

Steve Daneman
Citizen Member

Barbara Edwardson
Metro Regional Parks
and Greenspaces

Amanda Fritz
Citizen Member

Sonya Kazen
Citizen Member

Loring Larsen
Tryon Creek State Park

Deborah Lev
City of Lake Oswego

Eileen Lipkin
Citizen Member

Tom McQuire
Portland Planning

Barbara Shearin
Citizen Member

Jim Sjulín
Portland Parks and
Recreation

Jonathan Snell
Citizen Member

Eric Strecker
Citizen Member

George Toepfer
Friends of Tryon Creek
State Park

Dawn Uchiyama
Citizen Member, Chair

Amin Wahab
Bureau of Environmental
Services

Date: January 30, 1997

To: Metro Council

Subject: Request for Formal Recognition of the Tryon Creek Watershed Council

Dear Council Members,

Two years ago, citizens concerned about the future of the Tryon Creek watershed initiated a public process to form a watershed council. We were concerned with increasing development and stormwater impacts, and sought to take a pro-active, stewardship approach to environmental issues that impact the watershed. During the process of gathering support and structuring the council, we built a commitment to: community education and participation, protection of Tryon Creek and its associated resources, and inter-agency coordination.

As a result of the gradual consensus-building and outreach conducted during the formation process, the Watershed Council secured support and participation from eight citizen representatives and eight agencies. In addition, several others have offered support including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District and the Metro Homebuilders' Association.

As you can see from this list of committed partners, the Tryon Creek Watershed Council has conducted a broad outreach campaign to include as many stakeholders as possible in our organization. We are ready to begin planning and implementing strategies to protect, enhance and sustain the health of the Tryon Creek watershed. Based upon our accomplishments, we believe we meet the criteria specified for watershed councils in house Bill 3431 from the 1995 State Oregon Legislative Session (ORS 541-375) and ask you to formally recognize the Tryon Creek Watershed Council as specified in those regulations.

Please call me at 245-7349 (h) or 823-5596 (w) if you have questions or need more information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn Uchiyama
Tryon Creek Watershed Council Chair



Frequently Asked Questions

February 1996

Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board

Recognizing Watershed Councils - Local Government Roles

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What are Watershed Councils and what do they do?

A watershed council is "a voluntary local organization designated by a local government group convened by a county governing body to address the goal of sustaining natural resource and watershed protection and enhancement within a watershed." This definition is found in state statute (ORS 541.350) and contains a number of important concepts. The voluntary local nature of a council is very important; the recent legislation emphasized this nature of watershed councils. The local group must address a "watershed" as the geographic unit of analysis/planning. The primary function of the watershed council is to identify watershed conditions and develop plans and projects to protect or improve watershed conditions, educate people about watershed conditions and functions and to monitor the projects and conditions of the watershed.

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Are Watershed Councils formal government bodies?

Watershed councils are volunteer groups that have no specific authority or ability to regulate land or water use. As a group that is recognized by local government, they incur no more or less liability to local governments than any other locally appointed advisory group (planning commission, design review board, etc.). Some watershed councils may wish to form non-profit corporations or other formal organizational structures to continue their work through time and to receive funds for projects and to pay a coordinator.

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Does the state have guidance for recognizing watershed councils?

The 1995 legislation (H.B. 3441) was clear that local governments have the role/responsibility of determining "whether to participate" in the formation of a watershed council. When multiple groups are involved in the same area, local governments must decide their respective roles and the appropriate method for

appointing members to a local watershed council. The two primary guidelines provided by the legislature are: 1) that the watershed council be a voluntary, local group, and 2) the council represents a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed. These principles are important when considering the composition and recognition of a local group as a watershed council.

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What is the benefit to local communities of forming a watershed council?

Watershed councils are able to work across jurisdictional boundaries and across agency mandates to look at the local area more holistically. They are non-partisan groups that can focus on results rather than process or mandates. The council forum provides local people a voice in natural resource management and can significantly affect decisions in the local area. The council can also be a forum to bring state and federal land management agencies and plans together with local property owners and private land managers.

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What form does local government recognition of a watershed council require?

The legislation does not specify the form of recognition required by local governments. Tillamook County recently issued an order establishing the Nestucca Watershed Council that presents findings and orders the establishment of the watershed council, identifies the work to be done by the council, identifies the legal framework for the council startup, defines membership and identifies technical advisory members. This form of recognition is the most formal. Other less formal means such as letter of recognition, resolution, etc. may also be appropriate.

For additional information, contact:

- Ken Bierly, Rick Craiger, or Vivienne Torgeson in Salem - phone 378-3589, extensions 831, 826 and 825.
- Karen Leiendecker in La Grande - phone 962-6590
- Mark Grenbemer in Grants Pass - phone 474-5385