

UPPER NEHALEM WATERSHED COUNCIL

CHARTER

Purpose

The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council was formed to share information, reduce duplication of activities, help address watershed management issues in the Upper Nehalem Watershed and provide a framework for coordination and cooperation among key interests.

Mission

To foster better stewardship and understanding of the Upper Nehalem Watershed resources, deal with issues in advance of resource degradation, and ensure sustainable watershed health, functions, and uses.

Vision

A balanced ecosystem that supports a healthy watershed, provides for an economic base and viable communities.

Relationship to Decision-Making Bodies and Communities of Interest

The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council is an advisory body to established decision-making bodies and communities of interest. As such, the council makes recommendations concerning the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the quality of the Upper Nehalem Watershed.

The agencies, organizations, and interests represented on the council are not obligated to adopt or carry out the recommendations of the council, but will give due consideration to the recommendations and take actions they consider appropriate. These agencies, organizations, and interests will report back to the council on any actions taken in response to council recommendations.

The council welcomes and will respond to requests for advice on actions affecting the watershed that are proposed by local, state, and federal agencies; organizations; or interests.

Council members will keep their respective agencies, organizations, and interests informed about the work of the council and will bring their concerns to the council.

Goals and Objectives

- Encourage coordinated efforts to increase education programs
- Improve communication among effected private individuals, interested citizens business/industry, and representatives of local, state, and federal agencies
- Establish a framework for coordination, cooperation, and citizen involvement
- Provide a forum for resolving problems and conflicts related to the council's mission when all parties to the problem or conflict agree to refer the matter to the council
- Provide ongoing program evaluation during implementation
- Promote ongoing monitoring of the health of the Upper Nehalem Watershed

Specific Tasks/Responsibilities

- Establish a public involvement program to ensure an appropriate level of citizen participation in the council's work
- Use available resource information to determine the current condition and uses of the watershed
- Identify the desired condition and uses of the watershed
- Encourage ongoing monitoring of the conditions of the watershed
- Help resolve issues among diverse interests in the watershed
- Seek funding to support program development and implementation, including funding from agencies represented on the council
- Address the needs and concerns of the respective agencies, organizations, and interests represented on the council
- Adopt and implement a work program, monitor work program progress and budget
- Identify ongoing education programs in the watershed

Council Members

The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council shall at all times include representatives from the following interests: See Attachment (B). A majority of members shall reside in the Upper Nehalem Watershed.

Technical Assistance, laws and regulations may be provided by the Technical Assistance group and they will serve as non-voting members.

The members shall serve at the pleasure of their respective agencies and organizations. Council members may designate an alternate who will participate on the council in their absence.

The council will act to replace members who resign or are unable to continue serving on the council. The council will strive to maintain continuity and the balance of interests by giving preference to representation from the same agencies and organizations at a similar or higher level position. The council will request the agency or organization to nominate a replacement representative. If the agency or organization is unable or unwilling to do so, the council will seek representation from another agency or organization of the same community of interest.

Organization and Procedures

The council will use a consensus decision-making process.

Roberts Rules of Order shall be used as a guide

The council will select a chair or co-chairs to serve as spokesperson(s), prepare council agendas, call and manage council meetings, enforce ground rules, and perform other tasks as assigned by the council. The council may select other officers as needed.

The council may form subcommittees of its own members and task groups that include individuals not on the council to perform certain functions or focus on specific issues. The council also will identify technical advisors who can provide technical data and assistance and call on these experts as needed.

Council will seek funding for on going operations.

Amendments

A council member may propose amendments to the ground rules at any time. Amendments will become effective at the time proposed if all council members are present and approve.

Otherwise, amendments will become effective at the meeting following the proposal upon consensus of those present.

UPPER NEHALEM WATERSHED COUNCIL
PROPOSED GROUND RULE

Council Members agree to the following ground rules:

Council Decision-Making

- *The council will use a consensus decision-making process. Periodically during the process, the chairman will check-in with members to determine the level of consensus for a decision. If the level of consensus is low, the council may decide to delay discussion of the item to a later date.*
- *Robert's Rules of order will be used as a "guide" for conducting business*
- *When one or more members are absent from a meeting, the members present will determine if they feel comfortable making a decision or deferring it to a later date.*
- *When a decision is reached by consensus, council members will advocate to their respective bodies support for the adoption or implementation of the decision.*
- *The watershed council may select a person to serve as facilitator. A facilitator will conduct the meeting, help ensure participation of members, help members stay on track, and reach consensus.*

Participation

- The council will hold regular meetings and follow the provisions of the Open Meetings Law. At least ten minutes will be set aside at each meeting for public comment.
- A majority of the council members or their alternates must be present to conduct business.
- Council members will keep their respective agencies, organization, or interests informed about the work of the council and bring concerns of their groups to the council.
- Council members may designate a representative of their group to serve as an alternate. Designated alternates will be listed on the membership list of the council.
- Each member will brief his/her alternate on all issues and proceedings prior to the alternate's attendance at council meetings.

- Members will make every effort to attend all council meetings themselves; and if they are unable to do so then will notify their alternate.
- Members will notify the council chair if both the member and his/her alternate will be unable to attend a council meeting.
- If the member and his/her alternate are unable to attend a meeting, the member may provide written comments or ask another member or the Chair to represent his/her position on a particular issue.
- Members will notify the council if he/she must vacate his/her position.

Behavior

- Members will treat each other with respect, will not monopolize meeting time, and will listen to and try to understand one another views. Members are discouraged from placing blame for past practices.
- Members will search for opportunities to develop group solutions and to resolve conflicts.
- Members will strive to adhere to the ground rules and will be responsible for their enforcement.

Terms of Office

- The term of the chair(s) will be for one year. Following the year, the council may elect to re-appoint the chair(s) for another term or select a new chair(s).

Public Information and Media Contacts

- Public information and media contacts will be coordinated through the Chair of the Council.

UPPER NEHALEM WATERSHED VISION

“Attachment A”

A BALANCED ECOSYSTEM THAT SUPPORTS A HEALTHY WATERSHED, PROVIDES FOR AN ECONOMIC BASE AND VIABLE COMMUNITIES.

EXPLANATION

THE UPPER NEHALEM WATERSHED CONSISTS OF THE RIVER, ITS TRIBUTARIES, ITS GROUND WATER AND THE LAND THAT DRAINS TO THEM. THE COMPONENTS LISTED BELOW MUST WORK IN HARMONY FOR THE VITALITY OF THE RIVER TO BE REALIZED. THE BASIN IS FAR LARGER THAN THE RIVER, ENCOMPASSING A LARGER PERCENTAGE OF LAND WITH IN CLATSOP AND COLUMBIA, AND SMALLER AREA OF TILLAMOOK AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, THE RIVER MAY COME FIRST TO MIND BUT THE ENTIRE DRAINAGE AREA IS VITAL TO THE HEALTH OF THE RIVER SYSTEM.

Water Quality: A watershed that contributes water of such quality that people can use it for consumption, recreation, work, and the support of terrestrial and aquatic life. A river and its tributaries that contain the highest achievable water quality that surrounding soils, rocks, natural vegetation, wildlife, ground water, and wise use of land resources will allow.

Natural Resources: A balanced ecosystem that supports its component parts throughout the Upper Nehalem watershed including a varied habitat that thrives along the banks of the watershed's streams and river.

Use of Resources: Wise stewardship of the resource of the watershed to maximize their renewal and minimize permanent loss.

Land Use: Recognize that owners of property within the watershed have land use rights, as well as responsibility to protect the welfare of the ecosystem through the use of their land.

Recreation: A watershed that provides various types of recreation and an experience that fosters an appreciation of the watershed's natural resources including its river and streams.

Economics: A watershed that provides water quality and quantity sufficient to support a viable and healthy community in which its citizens are proud to live, work and recreate.

Education: An informed populace that understands and appreciate the river, its ecosystem, and needs – and works to achieve them.

**Upper Nehalem Watershed
Council Members**
“Attachment B”

Agriculture Community

Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District
Clatsop County Soil and Water Conservation District
Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District
Agriculture

Technical Assistance

State Government
Federal Government
Research/Technical
NRCS
SWCD
BLM
ODF
ODFW
DEQ
ODA
DSL
OR Water Research Institute
GWED
NE Oregon RC&D
OSU
ODOT
American Institute of Hydrology
OR Trout
OR Dept. of Water Resources
Gov.’s Coastal Salmon
Restoration Team

Business Industry Community

Local Business
Real Estate
Economic Development

Education Community

Environmental Groups

Forestry Community

Forest Industry
Small Woodlands

Citizens Community

Citizen Groups
Citizens At Large
Fishhawk Lake
Private Property Owners

Conservation Community

Izaak Walton League
Conservation Groups

Local Governments

City Municipalities
Counties

UPPER NEHALEM WATERSHED COUNCIL
LIST OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS
“Attachment C”

1. Develop an action plan for the Council.
2. Pursue recognition from Oregon’s Strategic Water Management Group.
3. Compile and construct an information database on information, data, and activities occurring in the watershed.
4. Sponsor a “:Status of the Upper Nehalem Watershed” conference to initiate interest and information sharing about the watershed and the Council.
5. Sponsor/Coordinate erosion control classes.
6. Sponsor display at County fairs.
7. Acquire more river access for water-based recreation activities.
8. Compile list of activities within the watershed that influence the water quantity and quality.
9. Promote “ Stream Friendly” development project to demonstrate compatibility of land use and water
10. Advocate positions on various water management issues.