

# City of Cornelius Memorandum

**To:** Tualatin River Watershed Council  
**From:** Dave Waffle, City Manager  
**Date:** November 12, 2008  
**Re:** Watershed Issues Scanning Process



Your Issues Committee has developed the enclosed work paper on “environmental scanning”. It is a proposed process that allows the Watershed Council (TRWC) to identify significant issues that need to be addressed by the council in our forums, educational efforts, restoration projects and public policy discussions with and among our stakeholders. We plan on introducing the scanning process at the November meeting and continuing through the steps at successive meetings over the next four months. We are using “environmental scanning” in the broadest sense of events, trends and changes that may affect the organization and its mission.

The Issues Committee consists of John Driscoll, Jim Hough, Michael McMahan, Tom Nygren and Jonathan Schlueter. Ron Garst and I serve as co-chairs.

The principal author of the work paper is Tom Nygren who drew on several sources on environmental scanning as a strategic planning tool. Committee members assisted in its review and we invite comments and critiques from the rest of the organization in order to make this a useful tool.

The committee believes that if we do not use a systemic method of analyzing the issues facing the watershed in the future we will follow one of several paths: responding to issues on an *ad hoc* basis (a.k.a. “flavor of the day”), pursue a topic that is a “pet” issue of one of our stakeholders or miss opportunities for sharing of information that will allow our stakeholders to shape decisions for the good of the watershed. We offer this tool recognizing the educational mission of the organization. The tool may also lead to strategic opportunities for restoration projects.

Our plan for the next four meetings is as follows:

**November** – introduce the environmental scanning process and its benefits for TRWC. We are proposing a continuous scanning process as described on page 3 of the work paper.

**December** – solicit from all the members sources of information about the trends described on page 2 of the work paper. We need to understand which of our stakeholders may have information on these trends. The topics include:

- **Economic Trends**
- **Government**
- **Legal**
- **Technology**
- **Ecology**
- **Socio-Cultural**

**January** - begin to analyze the trends using the SWOT analysis described on pages 9-10 of the work paper. The initial analysis will likely depend on existing levels of information residing with members of the TRWC.

**February** – Begin planning for 2009-2010 in order to bring issues to or from our stakeholders. Use the tools on page 9-10 about responding to issues to select the important issues.

**March →** - Continue scanning both existing and new sources of information. Consult with stakeholders using the tools on page 6-7 of the work paper. For example much of our information about the watershed is from the Watershed Assessment prepared a few years ago. CWS' work with their "healthy streams" program provided a significant update to that resource. We believe that the environmental assessment of the Haag Lake dam project will yield much more new information about the status of the Tualatin River basin.

We hope that all members of the Council will find this a constructive way of identifying some of the important topics affecting the health of the watershed. We invite your comments and participation.

cc: April Olbrich, TRWC Coordinator

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