

Conservation Committee Minutes  
August, 17, 2015

In attendance: Karen Anderson, Jan Burkhart, Cheri Calvert, Judy Dauchy, VeeAnn Finnemore, Marleah Llewellyn, Sandi Mottau, Greg Ware

**A) The committee approved its 7/6/15 minutes**

**B) Working Groups Reports**

**Group I: Conserve water to reduce both our water bill and landscaping bill.**

Storm Water:

7/6/15 action: Seek ways to reduce our storm water bill. Part of this effort will include working with the Maintenance Committee to redirect some downspouts away from the public storm drain in Tomahawk Island Drive towards our lawns or underground sumps.

Actions since last report.

Scott filed three documents to BES: 1) Riverhouse's Clean River Rewards Application, 2) Utility info for RH, RHE, CP, CPW, JBVC, and 3) Riverhouse's Drainage (a sketch of Riverhouse's drainage situation, which sends storm water from roof drains and catch basins in three directions).

We are now waiting for a reply from Sherri Peterson, Program Specialist, Clean River Rewards, Bureau of Environmental Services.

No further actions on downspouts as of yet.

Water usage on lawns etc.

7/6/15 action: Check with Riverhouse East to discover the costs of changing over sprinkler heads to more efficient ones.

Actions since last report.

It was discovered that Riverhouse East followed our lead in replacing sprinkler heads some years ago. It is unclear if only some areas or all areas have more efficient sprinkler heads. Judy reported that rain sensor heads were installed in the lawn above the pool, as a test sight. Further investigation needed.

New actions:

- Marleah will find out when and where new sprinkler heads were installed.
- Karen will ask Lillian if Riverhouse East has experienced a reduction in their water bill since the installation and find out the cost of rain sensor sprinkler heads.
- Discuss immediate reduction of watering times at next meeting. See attached draft agenda for 8/12/15
- Cherie and Jan will research interest in homeowners conversion to low flow toilets. How many homeowners have all ready done this? What is the estimated savings (gallons and dollars) if the remaining homeowners converted?

Grass Reduction

7/6/15 action: The Committee proposed to the Board that an area be designated as a test site for conversion to a more sustainable landscape. The Board agreed that the corner of Tomahawk Island Drive and North Hayden Bay Drive was the best prospect. They requested that a plan, including visual design concept, a timeline and a budget, be developed and presented prior to next year's budgeting process and prior to any work being

New actions:

- Judy, Karen, and Marleah will develop draft design, plants, and visuals.
- Greg will research existing watering system, location of shut off valves etc., and measure sq. ft. area:
- Cherie will secure elevations, soil conditions, and plot map.
- Cherie will continue to develop partnerships with educational landscaping programs to create internship opportunities.
- Greg will continue to be in contact with EMSWCD to track changes in HOA eligibility for grants.

**Group 2: Rehabilitate Riverhouse shoreline to support and diversify bird and pollinator species inhabitation.**

Action: Over the next few weeks the plan will be vetted and refined through working with East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD), Columbia Land Trust and others. A budget needs to be developed, as well as a strategy and timeline for seeking funding support.

Actions since last report. We have discovered that HOA's are not eligible for small grants from the EMSWCD. In light of this new information the plan to rehabilitate the shoreline has been tabled until eligibility restrictions have changed and/or other sources of funding are discovered.

**Group 3: Bring regional and native plant life into our landscape that are resilient to disease, will thrive in existing climate and soil conditions, and will attract birds and pollinators while maintaining or improving on the existing level of aesthetic beauty.**

Action: develop a document that follows up on the Conservation Committee's thinking that "its planning and work would be greatly enriched and accelerated if we were able to work in close collaboration with a landscape company with high knowledge and experience in all areas of conservation report."

Actions since last report. The document, *How Can Our Landscape Company Assist the HOA with Conservation?* is being used by the Landscape Company search committee.

New actions:

- Sandi will develop a display board of pictures showing examples of sustainable, alternative landscaping and place it in the pool house for all to see. This 'exhibition' of images will be refreshed and changed on a regular basis.
- Judy and Greg will develop a matrix of the Conservation Committee's projects, partners, needs, etc. as a visual aid to keep homeowners informed. This will also be placed in the pool house.
- A small group of committee members will be attending the FarWest convention the **largest green industry trade show in the West** to develop connections with nurseries, expand their knowledge of native plants and sustainable landscaping, and gather recommendations of possible landscape companies for the search committee.

**Other actions:**

The committee has decided it is better to work on projects together, as a group, and make assignments of work to be done, as opposed to dividing into three groups.

Respectfully submitted,  
Greg Ware

The next meeting of the Conservation Committee will be on Monday, Sept. 21, 2015, at 7:00 pm in the Pool House. All HOA members are welcome to attend.