

Conservation Committee Minutes
July 6, 2015

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

A) The committee approved its 5/18/15 minutes

B) Working Groups Reports

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

Members: Jan Burkhart (group coordinator), Scott Huff and Cheri Calvert.

Cheri Calvert has posted two emails to Riverhouse HOA members providing them links to water conservation resources. Briefly:

- The Water Bureau is currently offering \$50 rebate for replacing your old toilet with a WaterSense labeled toilet. Down load Residential Toilet Rebate Form at: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/water/article/459226>.
- The Portland Water Bureau also is offering **free** Water Conservation kits that include a showerhead, shower timer, bathroom faucet aerator, kitchen faucet aerator, toilet fill cycle diverter, and toilet leak detection tablets. See: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/water/article/402953>.

Cherie also sent out a notice regarding energy efficient devices being offered through the Energy Trust of Oregon. See: <https://energytrust.org/esaverkits/default.aspx>.

If HOA members want to explore greater savings through group installation and recycling, please contact her at Cheri@CheriCalvert.com

Action: Scott Huff will contact the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) to seek ways to reduce our stormwater 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. More next month.

Action: Karen Anderson will check with Riverhouse East to discover the costs of changing over sprinkler heads to more efficient ones. More next month.

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

Working Group: Marleah Llewellyn, Greg Ware.

Marleah and Greg distributed a report outlining their observations and ideas on bank conditions, planting guidelines, metrics, and desired outcomes. The report included their research to date on plants likely to survive and thrive on our hot, rocky, sandy river bank. Plants are divided into three groups:

- plants that thrive in full sun and sandy soil and grow up to 3' high,
- plants that thrive in full sun and sandy soil and grow up to 6' high, and
- plants that thrive in full sun and damp to wet sandy soil and grow up to 20' high.

For the full report see Appendix 1: [Hayden Bay Riverbank Restoration: Planting Options](#). Please note that this is a work in progress.

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.

It appears that EMSWCD offers a grant that returns 50% of the costs of rehabilitation projects – up to maximum return of \$7,500 per project. Preliminary notice of intent-to-apply needs to be sent to EMSWCD next week in order to be considered for an award in early fall. It is important that we begin some sort of implementation in the fall in order to allow plants to become established during our wet sessions. More next month.

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.

Working Group: Judy Dauchy (coordinator), Jane Harris, VeeAnn Finnemore, Sandi Mottau

Judy presented a report 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.” (June 18th Conservation Committee minutes). Her report asks us to consider “How can our landscape company assist the HOA with conservation?”, and covers the following headings: plant selection, plant placement, water conservation, alternatives to chemicals, and coordination with conservation organizations. The report also includes facts about Riverhouse and possible questions to ask potential landscape companies. This work should be extremely useful to any ad hoc committee charged to research and recommend a landscape committee. For the full report see Appendix 2: [How Can Our Landscape Company Assist the HOA with Conservation?](#)

Action: Judy will be calling a meeting of Group 3 to develop strategies that addresses their charge and goal. More next month.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Ware

The next meeting of the Conservation Committee will be on Monday, August 17, 2015, at 7:00 pm in the Pool House. All HOA members are welcome to attend.

Appendix 1:

Hayden Bay Riverbank Restoration: Planting Options – Working Draft –

Bank Conditions:

- distance between path and river edge is 50-60’,
- slope varies from somewhat steep to steep,
- no irrigation: very dry on upper and mid sections of bank, damp to soaking wet along riverbank – daily tidal changes in water height: 1’-3’, seasonal changes in water height: 4’-6’ including tidal changes,
- full sun, very hot in summer months
- soil is rock/sand, and sand

Guidelines:

- shorter plants near path segueing to taller plants further down the slope
- all plants minimal to no maintenance – no pruning, fertilizing, etc.
- all plants drought and disease resistant
- all plants self-propagating perennials or evergreens

Metrics:

- bank is 60-70% green 100% of the time – means mostly evergreen plants
- bank is 30% flowering/changing color 60% of the time – means thinking about sequence of blooming and color changes
- bank is 70% native, 30% near native

Desired Outcomes:

- significant increase in visual appeal and pleasure
- increase in property value
- significant increase in pollinator populations (birds, butterflies, bees, etc.) over a period of 3-5 years
- filters pollutants from water run off and pesticides and fertilizer from landscaping activities (no real way to measure)
- Canada geese unable to walk up riverbank to lawn and pathways, significant reduction in pathway pollution, able to eliminate the fence at some point in the future.
- eliminate annual weed whacking

Plants: Upper Section

Width: beside path, towards river about 15-20’ Growth: 1-3’	Evergreen	Attracts:	Blooming:
Oregon Grape: M. Repens, M. pumila	Y	bees, hummingbirds and other pollinators to the garden.	New growth in the spring emerges in a light green to soft coppery-red color; at the other end of the year the foliage responds to colder weather by taking on shades of bright red to burgundy - lovely in the grayed winter landscape. In mid-spring, the plant is topped with sprays of small bright

			yellow fragrant flowers in a long-blooming
Ceanothus: prostrate, pumilus,	Y	Hummingbirds, butterflies, bees	Prostrate: the flowers that appear in late spring to mid-summer are light to deep blue clusters about 1” across. Pumilus: Flowers are small umbels of white, lavender or blue, appearing in late spring to early summer.
Creeping Juniper: junperus horizontalis	Y		Small, blue, berry like fruit
Fragrant Sumac: rhus aromatica			Yellow flowers in spring, followed by red fruit.
Milkweed: asclepias syriaca	N	Attracts butterflies, supports Monarch larvae.	Pink flowers late spring into summer.
Harebell: campanula rotundifolia			Deep blue, bell like flowers from June through September.
Oregon Stonecrop (Sedum)		Attracts Butterflies,	Yellow flowers in mid-summer and again in fall Easy Care North American Native Selection, Waterwise, Year-round Interest
Cedrus deodara 'Feelin' Blue'	Y		Bright blue conifer in shrub Low profile growth makes this creeping shrub a perfect groundcover on banks and slopes

Plants: Middle Section

Width: between upper and lower sections about 10-20' Growth: up to 6'	Evergreen	Attracts:	Blooming:
<u>Kinnikinnick</u> : Media, Manzanita, Bear Berry			
Sweetfern: comptonia peregrina			Brown early spring, burrlike nut in fall. Spicy smell.
Brush Honeysuckle: diervilla lonicera			Red berries

Common Juniper: juniperus communis	Y		
Northern Bayberry	Semi		Aromatic
Oregon Grape: M. Aquifolium	Y	Birds	Cold, sun and even age, will cause leaves to take on shades of red to nearly purple, providing a rich tapestry of color when joined with the bronze-red color of its new growth, the bright yellow of the flowers and the dusky blue of the berries.
Evergreen Huckleberry 4-5' in full sun	Y	Hummingbirds	Small, pink-white flowers like fairy bells. Late in the summer, black-purple fruits form
Euphorbia characias wulfenii: shorty			Graceful, blue green foliage. Red growing tips and bright yellow flowers in late winter. Compact, strong and mounding.
Pride Maderia: Echium Candicans	Y	This plant is attractive to bees, butterflies and/or birds	Purple Late Spring/Early Summer Mid Summer Drought-tolerant; suitable for xeriscaping This plant is resistant to deer
Ceanothus (wild lilac): Blueblossom	Y	Hummingbirds, butterflies, bees	It is covered with bright, evergreen leaves and beautiful, deep lilac blue flowers in the spring which are intense. Compact form which grows rapidly to about 6' tall and 5' wide - ideal for gardens close to buildings.

Plants: Lower (riverside) Section

Width: from river edge, towards path about 10-20' Growth: up to 12'		Attracts:	Blooming:
Ceanothus (wild lilac): Vrts. Redstem, Buckbrush, Blueblossom	Y	Hummingbirds, butterflies, bees	

Common Rush: juncaceae	N		develop slowly in March and persist for many months, to September or even October
Oregon Grape: m.aquifolium	Y		
Sword Fern	Y		
Low growing native willows: Multnomah, Clatsop, Nehalem, Placer, Hookers	N	The pollen is and important source of food for honey bees early in the spring. Willows also enhance aquatic habitat by attracting insects that fish feed on.	
Redtwig Dogwood, Red-Osier Dogwood Scientific Name: <i>Cornus sericea</i> Popular Varieties: 'Cardinal', 'Bailey', 'Flaviramea' (this one has yellow twigs instead of red)	N	Fruit: showy fruit in late summer attracts birds	Blooms: white, May-June, attract butterflies A brilliant red fall color, it's truly a four-season plant. Suckers to 6'-10' wide, but can be maintained smaller Soil: medium to wet, tolerates heavy clay soil or boggy conditions
Calamagrostis brachytricha Foxtail feather reed grass	N		Species of reed grass, slowly-spreading, clump-forming, typically growing to 2' tall and as wide. Pinkish tinged flower plumes appear in late summer atop stems rising well above the foliage clump to 4' tall. Plumes mature to a light tan as the seeds ripen, but tend to disintegrate by early winter. Foliage turns yellowish beige in fall.
Elijah Blue Fescue			Outstanding, icy blue coloration to this clumping ornamental grass holds up even through the heat of summer. Buff colored flowers create eye-catching contrast. Perfectly suited for edging borders or mass planting as a groundcover. Drought tolerant when established. Evergreen.
Serviceberry: <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	N	Serviceberries are eaten by numerous bird species, including pheasant, grouse, mockingbirds,	Early springtime when the slender pinkish buds turn to white flowers blooming so profusely that the branches are obscured by their

		<p>northern flicker, blue jay, American crow, cardinals, cedar waxwings, towhees, American redstart, gray catbird, American robin, varieties of thrush, Baltimore orioles, and many others. Birds love them when they are fattening up for their fall migration. The spring pollen and nectar are an important source for bees and other insects.</p>	<p>feathery petals. The blooms are reminiscent of the witch hazel.</p> <p>In autumn the oval or oblong shaped leaves, 2-5 inches long and 1-2 inches wide, turn to wondrous shades of yellow-orange to reddish purple before they fall to carpet the ground beneath.</p> <p>Reaches 6 – 10.' Found on rocky, dry slopes and well-drained thickets, Serviceberry prefers full sun and, aside from a generous layer of mulch, will require minimal attention.</p>
<p>Pacific wax-myrtle <i>Myrica californica</i></p>	Y	Birds	<p>May to June, yellow blooms</p> <p>Exposure: full sun to shade Soil moisture: moist but well-drained Transplanting success: high Growth rate: moderate to rapid Form: broadleaf evergreen shrub to 15 feet</p> <p>typically found on the coast in sandy soils. It can do well inland with similar soil conditions. Given enough water, it is the fastest growing evergreen shrub in our inventory</p>
<p>Mock orange: 'Virginal', has a bushy upright, yet spreading form, growing up to 6 to 8 feet or more, with 6 feet wide arching branches.</p> <p>Philadelphus lewissii: is useful for streambank stabilization, including soil bioengineering practices such as live staking and live fascines, restoration of riparian areas and moist ravines, and erosion control on hillsides and drier rocky slopes.</p>	Deciduous	<p>Birds love its profuse seeds Native pollinators love its blooms Nectar rich flowers are a butterfly magnet</p>	<p>June, very pleasant fragrance, large 1 ½ to 2 inch semi-double or fully double flowers. Pure white flowers are very fragrant. Bright green leaves.</p> <p>Favors dry, rocky soils and is common only in the southern part of western Washington.</p> <p>Its tolerance for dry conditions (and probably it's heavenly fragrance) have meant that it is commonly used for revegetation projects</p> <p>Lewisii: blooms from May to July depending on location.</p>
Red-flowering currant	Deciduous	T	The trick with red-flowering currant is

Appendix 2:

How Can Our Landscape Company Assist the HOA with Conservation?

Plant selection

- natives and low maintenance
- attract pollinators and beneficial insects
- low water needs/drought tolerant
- ease of pruning for plant health and appearance
- disease resistance
- adapting to current plants in the area

Plant placement

- design
- common water needs
- beauty
- year around interest
- low pollen

Water conservation

- analysis of current practices
- analysis of current system's effectiveness
- identify problem areas
- identify improvements (rain sensors)
- planting area design
- reduce grass – attractive substitutes
- downspout disconnect - installation of attractive rain garden

Alternatives to chemicals

- healthy soil
- organic fertilizer
- hand weeding

Coordination with conservation organizations

- grant application advice
- design advice

FACTS ABOUT RIVERHOUSE PROPERTY

- residential
- 3 acres – large lawns
- x large trees (tree company)
- x small trees (landscape company)
- wide range of plants/water needs – hedges, shrubs, grasses, etc.
- many old and unhealthy plants
- very old irrigation system (battery timers, drips, individual turn keys, etc)
- 49 units - some personal gardens

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FOR INTERESTED LANDSCAPE COMPANIES

How extensive is your company's experience with:

- homeowner associations
- native plant integration into existing landscape
- design of native plant areas

- grass reduction/attractive alternatives
- IPM (integrated pest management)
- soil improvement
- organic fertilizers

Has your company coordinated with HOA's and Conservation Groups?

- design
- grant funding opportunities
- short, medium and long range strategic planning to achieve desired end state and outcomes.

What is your company's approach to:

- pruning
 - small trees
 - shrubs
 - hedges
- water conservation
 - irrigation improvements
- weeding
- plant problem identification
- coordinating with HOA landscape committee

What certifications does your staff have?

- plant identification and placement
- chemical application (non toxic)
- pruning
- pest and plant problem identification