



Vernonia Schools – Oregon Solutions Steering Committee
Scout Cabin, Vernonia
September 13, 2011, 2-3:30pm
Minutes

Attendees: Sharon Bernal, VEDC; Eric Block, Metropolitan Group; Dan Brown, Community Action Team; Carol Cox; Ken Cox, VSD; John Donovan, Metropolitan Group; Gretchen Dursch, Oregon Solutions; Steve Effros, Project Manager; Tobie Finzel, Hands on Art; Bill Haack, Vernonia City Administrator; Josette Hugo, Rep. Witt's office; Tony Hyde, Columbia County Commissioner; Alissa Keny-Guyer, Oregon Solutions; Greg Kintz, VSD School Board, Oregon School Boards Association; Jim Krahn, VSD School Board Chair; Bill Langmaid, VSD School Board; Heather Lewis, Vernonia Health Center Board; Kelly Marks, PCC; Rebecca McGaugh, The Independent; Aaron Miller, VSD; Betsy Miller, VSD; Leo McCloud, P&C Communications ; Vernonia Mayor Josette Mitchell; Dawn Plews, VSD; Marc Siegel, Rep. Merkley's office

Vernonia High School Leadership: Teri Willard, teacher; Alexis Baska , Crystal Ann Carreon, Jazmine Harper, Ryan Lawrence

Welcome/Introductions

Commissioner Tony Hyde

Alissa announced to the group that she is seeking an open legislative seat appointment and that she will stay on with Oregon Solutions and the Vernonia Project on a limited basis, Gretchen Dursch will now be assisting the campaign as a new Oregon Solutions project manager. Ken, Tony and audience thanked Alissa for all of her work and dedication to the campaign.

Vernonia Rural Sustainability Center (VRSC)

Aaron Miller

Aaron provided updates from the VRSC meeting held earlier today. A group of four Vernonia High School art students went to the Oregon State Fair for a mural painting workshop with the artist Wyland. They spent two hours with Wyland and brought back materials to complete a project.

Aaron reported that the school district is working with the Nehalem Conservation Action Plan project, for the entire upper Nehalem watershed, working with coalition of owners,

federal, state, local conservation. Vernonia is the only school district involved. A grant goes to submission in December to the Nature Conservancy.

US Fish and Wildlife \$25,000 grant has been awarded. Provide teacher training and materials for projects and to learn scientific methods and data collection.

Aaron will be presenting to the Vernonia City Council Monday, Sept. 19, about using trail and 80 acres above cemetery for use with VSD projects. Longview Timber, Hancock Management, City and a few private land owners have expressed interest in assisting with the forestry program.

Aaron reported that the district is developing partnerships with SolarWorld and Silk Road Solar (water heaters) and the VHS engineering class.

On Sept. 26, a school forestry summit sponsored by OSU Extension with 12 teachers around state will be held at the Scout Cabin. Topics will include: projects, curriculum and forestry classes.

A Portland Community College (PCC) Rock Creek Campus class will be held Winter 2012 and will be designing landscaping, partnering with BLM and the native plant nursery.

Tony suggested Aaron contact Earl Fisher to discuss Title II BLM grants.

ONREP will continue working with district teachers during professional development several Friday afternoons. ONREP will also work with teachers on a few workdays on sustainability projects.

Funding: changes in science classrooms to reflect OSU extension will be here Sept. 20 for a field trip. They will be looking at different projects, talking with forestry students and Mr. Brown, talking with Catherine Mater, discussing the baseline vitality study. Another emergency management services visit from OSU extension will be scheduled. Emphasis will be on what was done after the disaster.

Kelly Marks commented that PCC is turning 50, looking for community service projects for students, staff, alum, etc.

Tony Hyde made the connection with Longview Timber, Aaron and others went out with Craig Olson, Longview Timber, to see two acres at the approach to airport. When the timber gets too tall, planes cannot land. Will be allowing VSD to develop and work the land. One of the groups already sells Christmas trees as a fundraiser; this can give hands on opportunity for land sustainability and economic development.

School Project Update:**Dr. Ken Cox, Steve Effros**

Steve reported on construction updates: hiring process underway for a designer for the replacement park, there will be an upcoming event to mark capping off of roof, site effort currently is to weather-proof for wet season, Erosion control, landscape contractor will do hydro seeding, parking lots are being paved.

Wetlands (Nutter Corp project) underway. Move fast to deal with approaching wet season. Federally monitored and regulated site – must match army documents for site topography. The project will be monitoring erosion control for next six months before landscape architects begin.

Roads: The ODOT team will be presenting overall road improvement projects at the Sept. 13 town hall. Getting neighborhood impact and input. Underground utilities will be installed. Crestview construction works for P & C, already a general contractor for P & C and they won the bid for utility work.

Ongoing effort by district and Steve to make sure we are in compliance of FEMA guidelines.

Federal and FEMA update:**Dan Brown**

Money is in the bank. Pre-award draw should be to the school district shortly. Impact of lockdown on federal funding relief fund – this was a federal mitigation administration (FAM) program and the money is fine – no impact. Deconstruction process, as we understand there are limitations on what FEMA allows and we may want to talk about options to reconstitute materials in current building. FEMA does not want to pay for additional costs, they want to pay for necessities. There is wiggle room, but not a lot. One example, reusing bricks are pavers throughout the park. Once the demo contractor contracts the job, it is his to do with what he wants, but the bid should not include a duplication of benefits – that is the issue. The project must be very, very careful to follow all FEMA rules. Salvage cannot add any more to the cost.

Student Update:**Teri Willard/VHS students**

Teri reported that leadership students are invited to play a role in Oregon Association of Student Councils (OASC) fall conference – school to school challenge of fundraising, tangible focusing on student space to fundraising for. Crystal Ann will put on a clinic at the conference, presentation in front of all 1,000 students.

Community Project Updates:**Josette Mitchell/Bill Haack**

Mayor Mitchell reported that on August 30, 2011, three new Vernonia City Council members were seated, Donna Webb, Bruce McNair, and Kim Tierney. On Sept. 6, 2011

the new complete council voted to rehire Bill Haack as city administrator. He will work part time until Sept. 19 and then full time. The city is working with the district on replacement parks project. Sept. 19 Aaron will be presenting about outdoor classroom, using city lands.

Heather said clinic applied for health center public. Hazardous mitigation is buyout and is now on hold. Working on a new plan for health clinic. Working with VSD and Pacific University, meeting this Thursday to assist for school based health clinic and primary health clinic.

The summer meals program, co-sponsored by Vernonia Prevention Coalition served over 4,000 meals, school district partnered with many in community.

Community Campaign:

John Donovan

So far \$100,000 has been generated by community events, alumni, etc. Part of the campaign needs to be driven out of community itself and one way to do that is to involve the entire student body.

Timber affinity campaign: timber community leaders are coming forward, Big Horn Logging and Georgia Pacific (GP) gifts. GP is still looking for in-kind opportunities. Timber summit this fall. Just before end of the year, The Ford Family Foundation challenge match is due. 55% of goal has been reached. It gives the campaign a point of celebration for other opportunities. Clear Channel finalizing a campaign for public radio announcements to raise energy and awareness with broader public. Another celebration of roof capping and winter proofing will be held. Shirley Kalkovian, Mayor of Nehalem will be invited because of the gift from their community and challenge she sent to other communities. Maupin stepped up and donated. Challenge to other communities still open at whatever level.

Foundation front: Murdock Foundation turned us down because our project does not meet their funding strategy. John thanked Hands On Art for their efforts. Partnership that was established is something we can take to other funders.

United Way partnership connecting Columbia county United Way and Columbia-Willamette United Way, Howard Klink, working to find a way to assist.

National Foundations are next part of process.

Oregon Business Magazine article comes out Sept. 29, 2011. Wall Street Journal article noted Mist Grade School. Linear trail in WSJ two weeks ago. Tony reported that flooded communities back east have contracted Vernonia to discuss what to do after flood.

Adjourn: 3:00pm and tour of new school site

Next Meeting: January 10, 2012