

DRAFT SWNI Watershed Committee & Chair Responsibilities

12/19/18



Committee Purpose

The Watershed Committee supports efforts to protect and enhance watershed health and ecosystem services as a critical aspect of livability in SW Portland.

Committee Scope/Possible Activities

- Extend the reach of WRC staff in SW Portland by leveraging volunteer capacity to identify, promote and improve watershed projects, and assess community needs and priorities for programs to increase watershed knowledge and skills, in alignment with SWNI equity policy and action plan.
- Review and provide feedback on public projects and decision making that influence watershed health and ecosystem services in SW Portland.
- Help develop vision and guidance for SW Portland watershed partnerships and programs as a collaborative effort of SWNI neighborhoods, WRC staff (pursuant to BES work plan), Tryon Creek Watershed Council (TCWC), West Willamette Restoration Partnership (WWRP), volunteers, and other organizational and agency partners. This might include a yearly Watershed Committee action plan and/or 3-5 year strategic plan.

Expected Chair Responsibilities (FY 15-16)

- Facilitate discussion among SWNI Board, Executive Director, WRC staff and BES to define and clarify Watershed Committee purpose, scope and membership.
- Set meeting schedule, frequency and agendas. Maintain communication & solicit updates from watershed partner organizations.
- Lead meetings; facilitate discussion on topics that may include controversy.
- Help recruit participation from neighborhoods, Friends groups, people of color, and watershed partner organizations on the Watershed Committee, with WRC staff.
- Provide committee updates as needed at SWNI Board meetings.
- Suggest process and timeline for creating committee vision, action and/or strategic plan.

Considerations

- Some of this work is already being carried out on an opportunistic basis. Formation of a SWNI Watershed Committee is intended to provide greater coordination among all neighborhoods for these efforts, and to increase involvement throughout SW Portland.

- The Watershed Committee will not direct the work of the WRC Manager, as BES administers the work plan for the Manager position through the SWNI grant agreement. However, the formation of a Watershed Committee may increase opportunities for SWNI to dialogue with BES as to what is included/prioritized in the WRC Manager work plan. The Watershed Committee could provide guidance for external grant requests, such as WMSWCD Partner Funding, which currently supports the Watershed Program Specialist position.
- The WRC Manager cannot contribute any staff time toward SWNI influencing any policy decisions that affect watershed health. If at any point the Watershed Committee is led to advocate for an issue or public decision affecting watershed health, such actions must be initiated and carried out by the Watershed Committee Chair.

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