

# Bylaws of the Willits/Outlet Creek Watershed Group

## ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the group will be the Willits/Outlet Creek (WOC) Watershed Group.

## ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

**Our Vision** is a healthy Outlet Creek watershed supporting an economy based on a vibrant and functioning ecosystem for current and future generations.

**Our Mission** is to restore the ecological and hydrological integrity of the Outlet Creek watershed and to protect the land and water through careful stewardship.

**Our Guiding Principles** are to follow a wholistic approach, to respect the precautionary principle, and to raise awareness through education.

### **Goals:**

*To achieve this mission we will*

- work to eliminate illegal water diversions and pollution;
- restore healthy instream flows;
- identify critical biological indicators such as fish, wildlife and vegetation for measuring the health of the watershed;
- enhance groundwater recharge;
- restore the healthy functioning of the Little Lake wetlands;
- educate ourselves and the community about the watershed, including its carrying capacity;
- work to institute water conservation;
- work with landowners, water districts and any relevant agencies.

## ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to any person who has attended one previous meeting as a guest who supports the purpose of the group and pays the annual agreed-upon fee as determined from time to time by the Steering Committee. All members agree to the vision/mission statement and bylaws as demonstrated by signing a membership agreement.

## ARTICLE IV - DIRECTORS, GOVERNANCE, MEETING STYLE

A steering committee will be elected annually by the general membership. The steering committee will consist of 7 members, a quorum being 5. Ideally, decisions will be made by consensus; however, if consensus is not reached, then consensus of members present minus one is the rule. All steering committee meetings and discussions will be open to the public.

Subcommittees will be formed to undertake projects based on the goals of the group as defined in Article II. Each subcommittee will designate a chairperson

who will report back to the steering committee.

At all meetings, definite responsibilities will be assigned; thorough minutes will be taken so that assignments are clearly defined.

Steering committee members who are willing will rotate in and out of the facilitator position. The member who takes minutes at one meeting will set the agenda for the following meeting and will be the facilitator for that meeting.

#### **ARTICLE V - MEETINGS**

Annually, there will be a minimum of 4 steering committee meetings and 2 general meetings, 1 to elect the steering committee. The membership shall be notified at least two weeks prior to the general meeting at which the steering committee is elected.

#### **ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS**

The bylaws may be amended at a meeting of the membership by a two-thirds majority of the members in attendance. Any member can make a proposal for an amendment to the steering committee in a timely manner. The steering committee must notify the entire membership of the intention to vote on a bylaw amendment at least two weeks in advance of the respective meeting.

#### **ARTICLE VII - TERMINATION**

The watershed group may be terminated at a meeting of the membership by a two-thirds majority of the members in attendance. Any member can make a proposal to terminate the group to the steering committee in a timely manner. The steering committee must notify the entire membership of the intention to terminate at least 30 days in advance of the respective meeting.

In the event of termination, any assets belonging to the group shall be distributed to another organization that is engaged in similar activities, as determined by the steering committee in advance of the respective meeting.