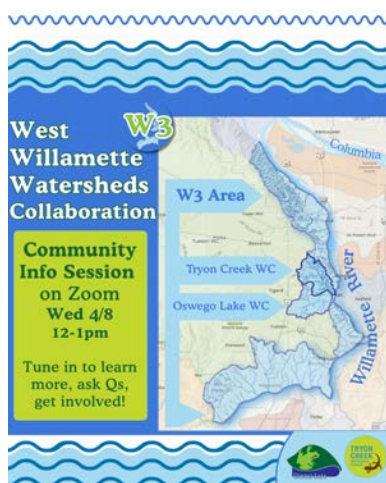


Hello!

It's a pleasure to send out some exciting updates around the West Willamette Watersheds Collaboration (W3). A big thank you to all of you who have shown interest and enthusiasm in being a part of this exciting new initiative. We are building community, gathering forces together to extend much-needed watershed council governance to uncovered areas in our region, and are thrilled to do so in partnership with you!

Those of you who participated in Tryon Creek Watershed Council's recent Watershed Wide Event may have already heard the news - we have officially unveiled the [brand new W3 website](#)! Peruse, get involved, and share with your networks of friends, neighbors, and communities.

We would like to invite you to join our upcoming **W3 Community Info Session this Wednesday April 8th, 12-1pm** to learn more about this collaboration between Oswego Lake Watershed Council and Tryon Creek Watershed Council.



Come to learn more about why this is needed, ask us your valuable questions, and meet others getting involved in this growing coalition of neighbors and partners. As a new joint-collaboration, we need your input to guide us forward in the early organizing and decision-making phases. Plus your ideas, brainstorms, and thought partnership is a crucial part of our community-led vision!

We can't wait to build this with you. [Please register](#) for access to the Zoom link and be sure to invite your neighbors and communities.

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We recently brought on a new addition and are excited to welcome Ruth Howell to the team! Ruth has worked at the intersection of people, their environment, science, policy, and communications for over 20 years. She is passionate about bringing people and resources together to advance ecosystem protection and a high quality of life for humans and non-humans alike.



Ruth joined the West Willamette Watershed Collaboration as Development Manager in January 2026. Prior to this role, she spent 15 years leading communications for the NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region (in Portland, OR) and Northwest Fisheries Science Center (in Seattle, WA). She also worked in Washington DC in NOAA's Office of Budget, Outreach and Communications, and with the National Marine Sanctuary Program in San Francisco. At W3 Ruth is working to develop sustainable fundraising for the emerging effort through establishing and deepening relationships, developing systems, and securing funds. If you have any ideas for groups, people, programs, funders, or businesses who might be interested in supporting W3 monetarily or otherwise, please reach out to her. We are certainly lucky to have her. Welcome, Ruth!

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One way we are currently asking for valuable community involvement is through outreach into your own communities and networks. **Are you connected with any groups or upcoming events throughout the West Willamette watershed range that may have interest in inviting us to present on this new community partnership?** Examples could include faith groups, professional networks, HOAs, local organizations you are involved in, or tabling at farmer's markets, from the southernmost region of these watersheds in Wilsonville, up through West Linn, Lake Oswego, areas of Southwest Portland, South and Northwest Portland, and Linnton. We hope to connect, build partnerships, and gain crucial community input as we develop this burgeoning collaboration. Please email us to begin this brainstorm—we truly value and appreciate your assistance to help this partnership grow.

alexis@westwillamettewc.org

jack@westwillamettewc.org

ruth@westwillamettewc.org

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Thank you for already being a vital part of this community, here at the beginning. We look forward to growing together, learning from your thoughts and questions, and connecting our communities closer to each other and to our waterways throughout the West Willamette region and beyond.

Warmly,

Alexis, Jack, & Ruth

Alexis Barton Castro, she/her, [Tryon Creek Watershed Council](#) Executive Director;

Jack Halsey, he/him, [Oswego Lake Watershed Council](#) Executive Director; and

Ruth Howell, she/her, [West Willamette Watersheds Collaboration](#) Development Manager

Volunteer shout-out: Thank you to Natalie Condon Bans who's been a fantastic contributor to W3's communications and engagement work!