

Clatsop County Recreation Lands Planning Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Thursday, October 30, 2008

Members Present: Carolyn Eady, Michael Hinton, Kim Kines, Gail Galen

Members Absent: Marc Auerbach (excused)

Others Present: Nicole Williams, Lori Lilly, and Linda Dygert

Chair Galen called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m.

Minutes of August 14, 2008 Meeting:

Gail Galen said that clarification is needed on page 4, third paragraph, regarding the enterprise zone money. She suggested changing "water district" to Westport-Wauna Water District and to change 'money' (second line) to George Pacific enterprise zone money. *Eady made and Hinton seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2008 meeting with clarifications noted.* **Motion passed unanimously.**

Big Creek Park Watershed Improvements:

Lori Lilly, Director/Watershed Council Coordinator for the North Coast Watershed Association, made a presentation regarding improvements to the Big Creek Park watershed. She explained that the formation of NCWA was a local government decision to offer residents the opportunity to provide input related to watersheds with the mission to improve watershed health and quality. Watersheds included are: Young's Bay, Nicolai-Wickiup, Ecola Creek, and Skipanon. She said that funding for her position comes from the State of Oregon and that the Board of Directors includes the chairs of each of the watershed councils. Eady asked for a copy of her presentation. Lilly noted that the budget includes \$800,000 for habitat restoration and \$30,000 for education.

Lilly said that the Big Creek restoration and enhancement project goals are: riparian enhancement in reaches 1 and 2; large debris placement in reach 2; and restoration of creek to historic course in reach 8 (this opens up three miles of Coho and five miles of steelhead habitat). She said that the major part of the project is in reach 8 where a logging company blasted a channel through bedrock diverting the stream during the 1990's. She said that the blasting created a velocity chute. Hinton asked if any property surveys had been done at Big Creek because he saw some corner markers and recent flagging at the site. He added he would ask Steve Meshke to research.

Lilly said that Big Creek drains approximately 114 square miles and the main stem, which is 13 miles long, is utilized by Coho, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, chum, and cutthroat trout as well as lamprey, sculpin, sucker, and peamouth. She said that spawning occurs throughout the creek both below the Big Creek hatchery weirs at the end of reach 2 and above since fish are passed above the weirs.

Lilly said that restoration includes increasing complexity through wood placement and buffer width through the addition of conifers in reach 1; placing good gravel where a high density of spawning has been reported in reach 2; and dealing with the velocity barrier in reach 8. She said that the large wood volume is low and riparian areas are dominated by alders or no cover at all in reach 2. Galen noted there has been a lot of blowdown there.

Lilly showed pictures of the stream at the county park and the side channel, which is the old riverbed. Galen asked if there is a risk of sedimentation when placing large woody debris and the answer was yes. Lilly showed a picture of the access road by the parking area, which could be a small stream where fish may go.

Lilly said the project was started in 2006 and she began grant writing in 2007 and 2008 with \$400,000 received from various granting agencies. She said that riparian planting began in the winter of 2008. She said that site preparation included blackberry lopping by work crews and a youth group planted 200 trees (spruce, cedar, and shrubs). She said that planting was also done behind the baseball field with about a 10% mortality rate. Hinton asked if there were more plans for restoration and the answer was yes. She said more weeding would be ideal and supplemental planting is scheduled for winter 2009 with an estimated mortality of 15-20%. She also said that in August, 2008, the culvert was replaced and wood stumps donated by Hampton Affiliates were placed. She said the velocity barrier project continues.

Galen said this project is a good partnership with Parks and thanked Lilly for the accomplishments and the update.

Parkland Stewardship Subcommittee Report: Nicole Williams noted that she doesn't think the Board of Commissioners wants to change the RFP for this project but may want to expand it. She said a better assessment of what natural resources are on these properties and what is needed for their health needs to be done. She noted a request by a developer to put up for auction the 2.8 acre Claremont Road property, which is the oldest stand of timber in the city. She said that one of the Board's goals is to maximize the utilization of county properties. Galen said the properties should be managed for perpetuity and not for resource extraction. Williams noted there are some county properties not identified in the master plan and Eady asked if a list could be obtained. Williams said she doesn't have a list. She also said the Board of Commissioners will discuss the Claremont property in an executive session. She said the property is assessed at \$71,000 which does not include the value of the timber.

Hinton asked about the formation of a Natural Resources Committee and whether RLPAC has the authority to discuss and recommend stewardship ideas for properties that are not parks. Williams said that staff can make recommendations and that the Board of Commissioners is no longer considering the formation of a committee. She said that Steve Meshke did check into grants but no money is available for this type of plan. Galen said she would hate to have the park acquisition fund used and Williams said she doesn't think the Board would use park funds. Williams said she will have staff work on the RFP and see what properties will be included as well as work on refining the language and developing a list of potential candidates for this type of study. Galen said she will wait for staff to prepare a list of properties and as soon as she receives a draft RFP, she will forward information to the RLPAC members.

Big Creek Camping Subcommittee Report: Michael Hinton said he met with Meshke and walked the site. He said that Meshke worked on a Big Creek plan two years ago and had some sketches and cost estimates. He said they walked the loop and with the new culvert and bridge, you can drive along the swimming hole. He said he came to the conclusion that RV and tent sites could be mixed within the loop. He said that a different

type of utilities would be needed including a vault toilet. He said all spaces would be by the one-way loop and that another culvert and access would be needed by the camp host. Galen said that the ballfield would be a good spot for recreational vehicles and the other area for tent camping. Hinton said that could still be considered. He said they came to the conclusion that 15-25 campsites would be available in the wooded area but thinks that recreational vehicle camping with tent camping could be a problem. He said that he and Meshke discussed power requirements and that Meshke has talked to the power company with the intention of having all power underground. Eady said there should be primitive camping. Hinton said that the ballfield area, which was organized by local volunteers, could be used for open recreation, i.e. picnic shelters, soccer, etc. He said that Big Creek deserves improvement and that public safety will be an issue. He added that the economic development aspect of the project needs to be prepared before trying to present to the Board of Commissioners. He said that Meshke has revenue figures from Tillamook County and noted that very few parks break even. He said that the economic development aspect of the park given the expense (upwards of \$500,000) would be marginal. He talked to the Seaside Chamber of Commerce who said that a park in any community could be important to local economics.

Hinton said he talked to the Sheriff about making improvements who said that development and the addition of a park host could deter vandalism. He said the Sheriff would be willing to participate in community meetings and suggested also including a Commissioner, Steve Meshke, and RLPAC members. Galen said a public meeting could be arranged and Eady said that in terms of revenue, most parks are not self-sustaining but there is recreational vehicle money available from the State, Tillamook County receives \$306,000. She said the location is prime. Kines said that many bicyclists would use the facility because there is a great water trail. Eady said that even if the facility doesn't break even, it would be a great resource for the community. Galen said that the campground doesn't have to break even and noted it is possible to get revenue figures from other communities, i.e. campers eat out, spend money, etc. Eady said you could cut expenses if you just gear up for peak seasons. Hinton said that some disabled access sites should be provided and that some sites could be open year round (self serve picnic shelters). Galen suggested finding someone who could help with design. Eady suggested considering little cabins as opposed to yurts. Kines said that Tillamook County's camp hosts don't get paid but receive utilities so their presence is year-round. Eady asked what the next step is and Hinton said a more detailed map needs to be drawn up. Galen said that Meshke might be able to come up with something more polished. Hinton said the development could be broken into phases and grant funding might be available for picnic shelters and a restroom in the parking area. Galen suggested a group exercise in a community meeting using 'stickers' to come up with a campground design. Hinton said he can provide a rough drawing and he and Kines will talk further with Meshke. He also suggested talking to the Board of Commissioners in January before having a community meeting in January or February. He said that aspects of the report should include where business would come from, i.e. fishermen, tourists, bicyclists, etc. He said that he and Kines will continue to work on the plan and have Meshke refine the numbers. Galen suggested doing a transparent overlay.

Signage and Park Zoning Issues: Marc Auerbach will be asked to report on these issues at the next meeting.

Correspondence from ODF: Eady said that Larry Sprouse, ODF, sent a letter indicating an interest in having meetings of regional recreational providers, i.e. county, city, state, federal, to discuss on-going and established recreational providers. Eady will invite him to the next RLPAC meeting.

Finalize 2007 Notable Events and Accomplishments: It was agreed that the accomplishments would be listed as 2007-2008. The list should be updated to include the DeLaura Beach trade completion. Galen will update and circulate another list and will present at the December meeting. Eady said the list should be presentation ready with pictures and accomplishments listed. Galen said she will contact Meshke about getting additional copies of the master plan. Eady noted that difficulties encountered should be mentioned, i.e. loss of members and loss of dedicated park manager.

New Membership Update: Williams reported to Galen that a request for new members has been sent to the Daily Astorian. Galen said it should be stated clearly that meetings are only held every other month. Hinton said that the meeting times should be revisited, i.e. perhaps hold monthly and later in the day (4 p.m.).

Member Report: Eady said she is planning on testifying at a meeting of the Board of Forestry regarding state timber levels and a proposal to significantly increase timber harvest. Galen said she will talk to the Commissioners' office about filling the open spots on RLPAC. She said that Meshke talked to the Board of Commissioners about Aldrich Point and she will ask him to report at the next meeting. She said that the Warrenton Trails Association had a grand opening of their 1.3 mile paved trail which has been getting a lot of use.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2008. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

_____ Date Minutes accepted by Committee _____
Chair Signature