

Clatsop County Recreational Lands Planning Advisory Committee

MINUTES

Thursday, January 28, 2010

Members Present: Lynn Hacklin, Michael Hinton, Zack Bolitho, Kim Kines

Members Absent: Larry Sprouse

Staff Present: Steve Meshke, Sirpa Duoos (Clatsop County Property Specialist), Tom Bennett, and Duane Cole

Others Present: Carolyn Eady, Linda Dygert, Barry Sims and Scott Ferguson (Trout Mountain Forestry)

Chair Michael Hinton called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. at the Judge Guy Boyington Building in Astoria.

Minutes of December 17, 2009 Meeting: Chair Hinton asked if there was reference in the minutes to Parks staff working with students from Knappa High School at Big Creek Park and the answer was yes. *Kines made and Hacklin seconded a motion to approve the December 17, 2009 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

Public Comment: Carolyn Eady said she read the executive summary of the Clatsop County Parks Natural Resource Management Plan and said that it is well put together. She asked about threats to ecological integrity of properties. Sirpa Duoos talked about timber trespass and said it can be an issue. Eady and Bolitho asked if the ownership objectives and resource policies (section I.8) are spelled out in the master plan. Meshke said that once the plan is adopted, it will become policy.

Parks Report: Steve Meshke said the new dock and ADA accessible access ramp at Cullaby Lake, a State Marine Board project, are complete. He said a new front gate at Cullaby Lake has been purchased in accordance with the sign and design plan. He said he is working on the stewardship plan and that Cory Johnson, with the assistance of the Juvenile work crew, are removing holly and ivy. He said there are plans to work on blackberry removal at Big Creek and he is trying to coordinate a project with Knappa High School students for riparian restoration.

Review of By-Laws: Meshke distributed copies of the RLPAC by-laws and noted a recommendation changing the current membership from seven to five members. Hinton asked if officers should be lay members of the committee and not working professionals. Zack Bolitho said he probably wouldn't be allowed to hold an elected position on the committee anyway. After discussion, *Hinton made and Kines seconded a motion to reduce membership of the Clatsop County Recreational Lands Advisory*

Committee from seven members to five and that elected officers are to be lay committee members. Motion passed unanimously.

Natural Resource Management Plan: Barry Sims and Scott Ferguson of Trout Mountain Forestry presented the draft Clatsop County Parks Natural Resource Management Plan and Meshke suggested it be reviewed page by page by the committee. Comments were as follows:

Bolitho asked about the policy of Clatsop County and Meshke said that when adopted, the plan will be policy. Ferguson said that policy statements should be general. Meshke said that the phrase "following best management practices" could be added to the invasive species section. Sims said that invasives are a big issue and it may be a good idea to set up an informational working group (i.e. CREST, Dave Ambrose, etc.) to discuss implementing control measures for grant funding. Bolitho said it would be a good idea to have an emergency direct rapid response watch group.

Sims read the property disposition statement and Hinton asked if it is the intent of the County to limit development. Ferguson said the section gives guidance for disposition of property. Sims asked if any other policies need to be addressed and the answer was no. Sims said that the findings are in section 2 and that each property description includes findings and analysis listing key habitats, special features, and threats as well as recommendations for stabilization, restoration and recreation. Bolitho asked if there is a way to put percentages of erosion for each indicator. Ferguson said there is more explanation in the second part. Sims said that at the end of section one there are summaries of wildlife habitat types on Clatsop County properties (figure 1), ecological threats (figure 2), ecological health and risk of degradation (figure 3), and invasive species (figure 4). An overlay grid can be added to figure 3 and Meske suggested adding captions at the top. Bolitho asked how low and high ecological value and risks were determined and Sims said they worked with Consultant Dean Apostle. Sims said that figure 4 is a refinement on figure 2 and a simple scoring system and grouping was developed showing high, medium, and low invasives. He said this information will be helpful in applying for grants.

Sims referred to figure 5 ('how to manage invasives') and said that a small amount of maintenance can keep property virtually weed-free. Meshke recommended removing the Smith Lake picture because the property is managed by a homeowner's association. Sims talked about staff skill development and said it would be helpful if the county could record areas that have been treated for weeds so that the knowledge isn't lost thus making the county more successful in getting grant funding. Ferguson read from section I.16 regarding an invasive control approach and Sims said to 'protect the best' and get rid of infestations quickly. He said there would be different strategies for different infestations. He said that under 'property status/disposition recommendations' the North Fork Nehalem is the only property listed for potential sale or trade. Meshke

said the County can hold onto the property and may be able to find a use for it in the future.

Meshke distributed the 2007 guidelines for acquisition, sale, exchange or retirement of county park lands. Hinton asked if the document was adopted and Meshke said he is not sure. Sims asked if it would be useful to talk about specific properties, i.e. Battle Creek Tidelands. He said he talked to the Columbia Land Trust but they weren't interested. Duoos said the property could be offered at public auction. It was suggested the document wording be changed to '*sealed bid offer*'. Sims said he would recommend keeping the Claremont Road tracts and Kines asked if there could be an easement for people to hike in. Duoos said the terrain is rough. Sims said that the Twilight Eagle Sanctuary is a good reserve for wetlands. Hinton asked if there is interaction with the Eagle Foundation and Duoos said they do flyovers and report back through OSU. Sims said that the property east of the Astoria Column and Williamsport Road have potential for tying in with the city-owned property and would suggest exploring the potential for cooperating with the city in the future. Sims said that the Cedar Street wetlands is a remarkable property in Warrenton and that it could be transferred to the city with deed restrictions, transferred to the Nature Conservancy, or used for mitigation. Chair Hinton asked about revisions and Sims said that some of the summaries are new including Sigfriedsen which now deals with invasives. Hinton asked about an overlay on some of the maps showing fish areas and Sims said he will work with staff on that.

Chair Hinton said that the project is nicely done and thanked Trout Mountain for their work. *Kines made and Bolitho seconded a motion to recommend the draft Clatsop County Parks Natural Resource Management Plan for adoption by the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners at their February 24, 2010 meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.*** Meshke and Duoos will work on a staff report to be presented to the Board of Commissioners. There was a consensus to change the title of the plan to *Clatsop County Parks and Recreation Lands Stewardship Plan.*

Member Reports: Kines suggested tying Shively Park and Williamsport together for a bi-centennial project. Hinton said that Jones & Jones are working on a visioning plan for a natural history park.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for the last Thursday of February, 2010. Hinton recommended tabling discussion of the HDR plan until that meeting. As there was no further business, Chair Hinton adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Approved by:

_____ Date Minutes Accepted by Committee _____
Chair Signature