

Clatsop County Recreation Lands Planning Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Thursday, October 1, 2009

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

Staff Present: Ed Wegner and Steve Meshke

Others Present: Barry Sims (Trout Mountain Forestry) and Linda Dygert

Acting Chair Michael Hinton called the meeting to order at 12 noon. He noted that Gail Galen has left the Committee and he will be Acting Chair.

Minutes of July 30, 2009 meeting:

Acting Chair Hinton asked for comments about the minutes of the July 30, 2009 meeting. Kim Kines said that the word referred to on page 2 of the minutes would be from the Knappa dock bridge instead of the Big Creek bridge. Lynn Hacklin said that she was a past docent for Henry Cowell Redwoods Park which is part of the California State Parks system. *Lynn Hacklin made and Kim Kines seconded a motion to approve minutes of the July 30, 2009 meeting with aforementioned corrections. Motion passed unanimously.*

Stewardship Plan – Trout Mountain:

Barry Sims, Trout Mountain Forestry, has been working on the Clatsop County Parks Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan. He said that draft recommendations will be available by early November and each park property will have a map and a descriptive narrative. There was discussion about noxious weeds on the properties which are noted on the maps and what type of eradication could be done. It was noted that if an adjacent landowner doesn't want property sprayed, it can't be done unless a weed control board is established. Hinton asked if there were indications of wildlife on the park properties and Sims said there were and that Sigfridson has obvious deer and elk trails. Sims said that GPS was used to type true old growth trees (500 years plus) and they were able to map small streams that don't show up on other maps. He said that the map will show a road collapsing at David Douglas. He said there will be a narrative and photos to go along with the maps. Zack Bolitho said that scotch broom is a long-term problem and should be a high priority for eradication. Ed Wegner asked if all map legends could be uniform and Sims said yes. Bolito asked if there will be a large map and Sims said it would be difficult to scale because of the size of the county. Bolito suggested putting in watersheds and location to highways. Sims said that specific issues (i.e. dumping) will include narrative and photos. Sims would like to have RLPAC review the finished product before an open house event which could be scheduled in early December. Meshke suggested that RLPAC could meet on November 19 to review the work.

Parks Report: Steve Meshke said bids have been received for the Cullaby Lake dock replacement project and a proposed contract with HDB Marine will be before the Board of Commissioners on October 14. Work is expected to begin in late October or early November. He said that a sidewalk will be added to meet ADA compliance. He said

that staff are finishing up summer projects and that attendance is about the same as last year overall although numbers have been lower at Cullaby Lake and higher at John Day. He said that seasonal workers are gone which leaves Cory Johnson working in the parks. He said a new mower has been ordered, 70% of picnic table tops have been replaced, and they are waiting for sign and design approval. Meshke talked about changing the park host at Cullaby Lake who has been there for eight years. He said that a two-year rotation may be something to consider and evaluations done before contracts are renewed. Ed Wegner said that the Knappa dock bridge will be left for a pedestrian/bike trail.

Meshke said that when the master plan was done, there was a concept to form a regional council which was determined to be too big of a commitment but there could be members from other agencies on RLPAC. He would like to approach Mike Stein from State Parks and ask to have someone from that agency on RLPAC. He said that another concept was that groups that provide other parks and recreation services be invited to come and speak to RLPAC, i.e. Steelheaders, Warrenton Trails, etc. It was the consensus of the members that it is ok to invite an applicant from State Parks and to invite other agencies to attend meetings. Larry Sprouse said that perhaps an expanded group could meet once a year.

HDR Design Standards Plan:

Acting Chair Hinton referenced an e-mail sent to members and staff regarding RLPAC comments on the design standards plan. Kines asked if the picnic tables being repaired will be what is recommended in the plan and Meshke said the old wooden ones will be eliminated and the tubular ones will be repaired. He said the tops are being replaced with Douglas fir.

Hinton noted that Thompson's Water Seal is not adequate and needs to be upgraded to marine grade. Meshke said he talked to State Parks and noted they just use Douglas fir and clean yearly instead of using sealers. He said they recommend pressure washing, using a 30-second cleaner, and replacing tops as needed. Meshke noted that tables are now moved into the shelters during the winter and then cleaned in the spring. He said that no paint is used. Hinton asked if the tables are anchored down and Meshke said it is not necessary at Cullaby Lake but may be necessary in remote locations. He noted that people who use Cullaby Lake like to move the tables around and theft hasn't been an issue. Hinton asked if the bench designs are permanent and Meshke said there aren't any sidewalks that skateboarders would use but if such a situation arises, language can be written in conditionally.

Hinton noted that new signs on Highway 26 use yellow lettering. Meshke said that letters on signs will be cut aluminum raised letters with no paint. He said that the font can be consistent in each park. He said the road crew can match the font (calibri) and that brown and white is standard. There was further discussion about sealants and it was agreed that further research is needed. Meshke asked for input from Zack Bolitho who will find out what Fort Clatsop does. Kines asked about finishes on picnic tables and Meshke said there would be none.

Hinton asked about warranties on contracted work for tables, benches, and shelters. Meshke said these could be reviewed on a case by case basis going with the implied manufacturers' warranty. Wegner said this is standard in county contracts and Meshke said warranties could be looked at as a purchasing guideline. Hinton asked about garbage cans. There was discussion about people packing out garbage and Meshke said that perhaps all cans can be together by the entrance. He said the cans are used. It was noted that the wood surround cans have a pricetag of \$1900 and it might be cheaper to construct possibly using Tongue Point students or high school/college students. Hinton asked about water fountains that have a lower basin for dogs. Meshke said he would like to see exposed aggregate water fountains instead of metal. Meshke said that the plan indicates no high pressure sodium lights should be used and he will get clarification. Meshke said he would get in touch with HDR and coordinate responses from the committee. The consensus of the committee was that the sign design is ok. Wegner said there would need to be some modification to make the signs vandal-resistant. Meshke noted that the finished plan should be received prior to the next RLPAC meeting.

Member Reports:

Larry Sprouse, ODF, said that three miles of main line trail work is complete and work is ongoing at the Gnat Creek covered shelter structure.

Zack Bolitho said that Fort Clatsop is moving ahead with plans for 1200 acres of trees blown down in 2007. He said there is a draft plan which looks at health cuts and that work should be complete by January. He said they are looking for funding for the south Clatsop slough.

Michael Hinton said he attended the ORPA conference in Seaside where he went to a seminar on dog parks and park grants noting there is only about \$1.5 million set aside for state park grants next year although there are ATV funds. He said that Seaside is getting ready to launch the Necanicum Natural History Park project which is going to include the entire watershed and will involve partnerships.

Steve Meshke said that the State Marine Board talked about an invasive weed program and are working out the details. They are thinking about having boat cleaning stations for invasive weeds and will tack a fee onto boater registration. He said that there will also be a fee on non-motorized boats over 10' and there will be enforcement. He said that State Parks is going to raise fees to \$5 for day use.

As there was no further business, Acting Chair Hinton adjourned the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Approved by:

_____ Date Minutes Accepted by Committee _____
Chair Signature