

Clatsop County Recreation Lands Planning Advisory Committee

MINUTES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

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

Members Absent: Zack Bolitho

Staff Present: Steve Meshke, Cory Johnson, and Nicole Williams

Others Present: Neal Main; Barry Sims, Scott Ferguson and Dean Apostol (Trout Mountain Forestry); and Linda Dygert

Acting Chair Michael Hinton called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. He introduced the consultants from Trout Mountain Forestry and asked them to report on the Clatsop County Parks Natural Resources Inventory and Stewardship Plan. Copies of the plan were distributed for committee review. Each site studied was mapped showing a variety of features including invasive plants, issues (dumping, erosion, road, trails, contours, etc.), wildlife features, and vegetation types. County parks inventoried were: Big Creek, Carnahan, Cullaby Lake, David Douglas, Lee Wooden, John Day, Klootchy Creek, Nehalem, North Fork Nehalem, Sigfridson, and Smith Lake. Recreation lands were: Battle Creek Tidelands, Claremont Road tracts, Twilight Eagle Sanctuary, area east of Astoria Column, Williamsport Road area, and Cedar Street wetlands. Total acreage for both parks and recreation lands is 827. The maps and photos have been made into a slide presentation.

There was discussion about weeds on the properties. Meshke said that scotch broom is a significant problem but ivy infestation could be controlled. Hinton said that establishment of a county weed board might be considered. Dean Apostol, Trout Mountain Forestry, said that continuous improvement is a good policy goal. Nicole Williams said that the county needs to stay within available resources. She noted that the park fund is healthy (\$1.8 million) but that is the only resource with no additional funding contemplated. Meshke said that volunteers could be used for some projects. Williams said that RLPAC can make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners and put projects in the budget. She added that the Stewardship Plan will help prioritize projects. Hinton said that the committee can look at goal setting. Apostol said Trout Mountain can help set priorities about what you want to do and where you want to do it. Meshke said the plan will help with the coordination of volunteer groups, i.e. Pacifica projects, Boy Scouts, etc.

Sims asked where the committee is on the idea of expanding trail networks and Meshke said that recommendations on signage are being worked out and that development of trail standards are in the signage plan. Apostol asked if there is a trail drainage plan and Meshke said that there is a Forest Service Trail handbook that could be used as a resource.

Ferguson said that the category of property disposition is still in mapping and advise will be needed on remote parks, i.e. David Douglas, Nehalem, and North Fork Nehalem. He asked if the sites will be sold or traded and noted that they are incredible properties but have poor access. He said that one option for David Douglas would be to leave it as it is. Apostol said that the state might be interested in it as a study site. Williams said the county has had a history of transferring properties to Oregon State Forestry. She added there would be a sale of property

and that the revenue would come back to the county but if the property is low maintenance, there may be no point. Meshke said that David Douglas has been in county ownership since the 1930's. Sims said that the aforementioned properties are calling out for some kind of trail but the challenge would be to have an access point.

Sims talked about the ecological health and risk of degradation on the Clatsop properties studied. They were categorized as follows: High - Battle Creek tidelands, Klootchey Creek, Williamsport Road, Sigfridson, and radio tower. Medium - Smith Lake, Twilight Eagle sanctuary Cullaby, John Day, and Claremont Road. Low - Big Creek, North Fork Nehalem, Lee Wooden, Carnahan, Cedar Street wetlands, David Douglas, and Nehalem. He said that a summary of ecological threats to each property is shown in the report and that invasives, safety hazards and erosion were covered. Sims said Trout Mountain is open to dialogue on any of the ratings. Williams asked if "dark circles" mean that property was recently logged and the answer was yes.

Meshke said that a public meeting has been scheduled for December 1 from 4-6 p.m. at the Boyington Building. After that meeting, the plan will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners.

Sims said that each site was reviewed and findings are on the maps. Comments on some of the sites were as follows: Big Creek - much erosion, invasives, fire hazard in blowdown, would recommend reducing parking area; Carnahan - high in ecological health and low in risk, good stable shape, ad hoc trails in place, potential to expand, dock deteriorating, would recommend planting bank by road with salal, would recommend constructing a trail with an easy grade; Cullaby Lake - incredible resource, uniqueness lies in interior wetlands but problem with invasives, i.e. ivy, may be good idea to have hydrologist look at; David Douglas - interesting property, not true old growth, able to map and locate old growth by GPS, hard to get into; John Day - lots of weeds around perimeter but not too deeply into the swamp, most of use is boat ramp, dumping indicated on north side, neighbor has developed a trail through the marsh which is inaccessible; Kootchy - invasive weed issues throughout, erosion issues on riverbank, abandoned cabin, did plant trees but not good survival, it was noted that there is a new invasive plant showing up in Clatsop County called Policeman's Helmet and it should be a top priority for eradication; Lee Wooden/Fishhawk Falls - rated high on ecological health, one question would be potential expansion of rock pit, there are pockets of spruce/cedar forest that have been there for 150 years, would recommend stabilization approach and trail project tied in with road project; North Fork Nehalem - some scotch broom and holly, staff only visit 1-2 times per year, difficult to have park next to fish hatchery, Meshke would not recommend selling. The remaining discussion of findings will take place at the meeting on December 1. Hinton asked if the maps show fish passages and, if not, could they be added. Sims will call some agencies to see if there is a fish passage map available.

Acting Chair Hinton thanked the Trout Mountain staff for their good work. Sims said he will prepare an announcement for the public meeting. Comments from the December 1 open house will be provided to the Board of Commissioners.

Minutes of October 1, 2009 Meeting: *Kim Kines made and Michael Hinton seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2009 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

Next Meeting: Hinton asked that a meeting be held on December 17, 2009 to discuss the HDR Design Standards Plan. As there was no further business, Acting Chair Hinton adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Approved by:

_____Date Minutes Accepted by Committee_____

Chair Signature