

INFORMAL MINUTES

July 20, 2009

2:00 p.m.

Oval Office

PRESENT: Commissioners Leslie Lewis, Kathy George, and Mary P. Stern.

Staff: Laura Tschabold, John M. Gray, Jr., Mike Brandt, John Phelan, and Ken Huffer.

Guests: Tim Stieber, Soil & Water Conservation District; Rollie White and Steven Smith, 2600 SE 98th Ave, Ste 100, Portland, OR 97266; and Rebecca Currin, 2082 Cordley, OSU, Corvallis, OR 97331.

* indicates item forwarded to formal agenda

Leslie called the meeting to order.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Grant - Rollie White and Steven Smith, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, discussed the grant opportunity and invited the county to participate in the HCP program, which provides non-federal entities a permit to “take” an endangered species. Rollie stated that the program is a collaborative approach to mitigating takes and protecting species such as the Fenders Blue Butterfly. He specifically discussed the need to prevent or mitigate takes of the butterflies along roadsides, which can happen during road maintenance. Leslie stated for the record that Public Works has only had one such incident and has taken steps to ensure that it doesn’t happen again.

Rebecca Currin, Oregon Department of Agriculture, stated that the issuance of building permits can be construed as county action, and any county action that results in a take is prohibited. She said that other counties have taken the approach of having land owners sign a statement and agreeing to take responsibility for any potential take on their property.

Rebecca discussed the mitigation requirements for planting new lupine plants in a different location. Tim Stieber stated that the county has a lot of good habitat on private lands that would be good potential for mitigation and the owners are interested in participating in this project.

Leslie expressed concern about the long, arduous process of doing a full NEPA, which would be required as part of the grant, and about the cost of long-term management of mitigation sites. She noted that the county has no control over the many farmers that spray their crops.

Following the presentation, the group had further discussion about the HCP program. Ken Huffer stated that long-term management of mitigation sites can be labor-intensive. Laura stated that the commissioners first need to decide if they are going to accept the grant; if so, then they can discuss changes to the allocation of funds and submit a revised project proposal. She said that she would request suggestions from Mike Brandt, Ken Huffer, and John Phelan regarding these changes and would work with Tim Stieber.

* Personnel - Leslie presented personnel requests from various departments. See agenda for details.

* Contracts/Grants - See agenda for details.

* Committees - See agenda for details.

Party - John G briefed the Board on a party that had taken place in Whiteson the previous weekend, with an estimated 600 to 700 people in attendance. He said that the Sheriff's Office had made several visits to the location after receiving complaints, but had made an executive decision to withdraw and issue citations later. He said that 700 people is not enough to require a mass gathering permit, but some sort of zoning approval would probably be needed for an event of that size, as well as OLCC permits for serving alcohol.

Appliance Policy - John G discussed concerns raised by YCEA after receiving a recommendation from the Safety Committee to adopt a policy regarding the use of appliances in the workplace. He stated that YCEA wants the policy to be bargained. He agreed to e-mail the recommended policy and the response from YCEA to the commissioners for their review and response. Laura requested that the Board consider the policy in terms of the county's new green goals. She offered to have Pat Anderson do some research about OSHA guidelines and recommendations by the fire marshall.

The meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Anne Britt
Secretary