



**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

Bill proposed changes to the Agenda. He suggested that the Port of St. Helens/Port Westward discussion and ODA update be moved to the top of the Agenda.

**Motion** Busch/Freytag to approve changes to the agenda. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Port of St. Helens/Port Westward**

Jasmine, Columbia Riverkeeper's Senior Organizer, attended the meeting to discuss the possible re-zoning of the Port Westward Rural Industrial Area. She provided copies of the Port Westward Zoning Map as well as a handout to support protecting Columbia County Farms. Jasmine explained the proposed changes to the land, stating that nearly 823 acres are to be developed into industrial zoning. Jasmine informed the board that there will be a public hearing on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Clatskanie high school where written and verbal testimony will take place.

Discussion was held regarding the proposed application for re-zoning. Jasmine added that the land is currently being used for agriculture and that farmers will be affected by the change. She mentioned that she would like to help protect these farmers and urged the board and meeting attendees to vote "no" on the rezone application and to write a letter to the commissioners.

Lona added that she believes the change would make traffic worse in the area.

Jasmine reminded the Board that the Salmon habitat could be affected by the change, and that many taxpayer's dollars have gone into the land that will be lost.

Bill added that a verbal testimony would be ideal to back up a written letter. He also mentioned that the CSWCD has always tried to protect agriculture and reiterated that this rezoning would turn this piece of agriculture into industrial/commercial use.

Randy explained the agricultural history of the Port Westward area. He explained that the consolidation of the land changed the climate of Clatskanie and that it is too bad he has to travel so far to pick up seed that he needs. Further discussion held.

Randy mentioned that he would like to see the Resolution from 1976 regarding the Beaver Drainage District and believes it should be reiterated.

KC stated that he believes some industrial development might be beneficial to the county. Randy added that the area is the only great flat land in the county and he believes there should be more farming on it. Jason asked if farmers could still lease part of the land if the property is rezoned. He doesn't believe the property is being used to its best potential now and that industrial use may be a better use. If farming is still a land use, the Port has more options for the uses of the property.

Lona stated that the CSWCD helps farmers, that that is what the district is about. She mentioned that she understands the rezoning might be beneficial for the industry but that it conflicts with the CSWCD's message.

Jasmine stated that whether or not the crops being grown right now are the best use of the land, it is the work that has been put into it by the farmers that she believes is important to protect.

KC added that there is a concern for dredge spoils in the river if the area turns industrial. Don added that he has issues with dredge spoils but believes there are tough decisions to be made and hopes there can be a compromise. Randy stated that the cost of development will be pretty high as well as there will be some work to be done on the land.

Marilyn mentioned that the best thing to do might be to continue opposing the rezoning until there is more indication of what will happen to the area if rezoned. She added that it is hard to determine the possible outcomes with so many unknowns.

**Motion:** Bergman/Pierce to approve locating Resolution from 1976 regarding the Beaver Drainage district and write a letter reaffirming the CSWCD's commitment to preserving farmland. **Approved 4, Busch and VanNatta Opposed. Motion passed.**

**ODA**

Brenda Sanchez informed the Board that ODA is currently working on selecting the next SIA areas. The final selections have not been made yet. She mentioned that there were only two compliance reports in our LAC area, one in Tillamook and one on South Scappoose Creek that were moved to water quality advisory.

She discussed the Upper Nehalem and Lower Nehalem SIA's. Discussion was held regarding riparian projects to help landowners be in compliance with ODA.

Randy asked how the knotweed is on the Nehalem, adding that it is definitely taking over the area. Brenda commented on CRYC and praised them for their work.

Brenda handed out the current compliance report and a new cannabis flyer. She mentioned that ODA has been very overwhelmed with cannabis questions and that this is their first attempt at creating a Fact Sheet. Discussion held regarding cannabis growth.

Brenda also handed out new ODA Brochures and mentioned that the North Coast summary has been re-vamped.

**REPORTS****NRCS**

Don has finished most of the contracts for this year for EQIP and RCPP. He mentioned that there were about 20 contracts in Columbia County and that there were 3 high tunnels that were turned down. He added that he has been working on the implementations strategy for next year, hoping to address a Coho strategy, plant health, soil health, elk habitat, etc. He stated there has been 14 responses already and that the CSWCD has agreed to help develop and write the new strategy.

Don also stated that the hiring freeze was actually not lifted and that there are only about 140 jobs nation-wide available and he doesn't believe Oregon will get many.

Don also presented a slideshow to the Board to discuss current and recent projects.

**LCRWC**

KC informed the Board that OWEB is most likely going to cut off funds to the council. He stated that they sent the council a questionnaire but determined the council's answers did not meet their expectations. Bill asked why there is an issue with the SWCD working with the LCRWC but not with other councils. Discussion was held. KC stated that he and Selene would be attending the OWEB Board meeting on Tuesday, July 25 in hopes of changing OWEB's mind. Randy asked if there is a "Plan B" if the council does not receive funding. Other partnerships are being looked into but the plan isn't figured out just yet.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **EWP (Emergency Watershed Protection):** Kari informed the board that construction should be finishing this Friday. Kari also mentioned that she attended the Rainier City Council meeting in attempt to get paid for their portion of the project. The council tabled the approval of payment. The IFA (Infrastructure Finance Authority) is working on the approval of the funds to reimburse the cities portion, we will hopefully know more by Friday.
- **Fairgrounds/Ag Building:** Bill stated that the AG building looks great. Kari mentioned that there has been a lot of attention from helping with the AG building. Many people have come to her to ask how they can be involved, if they can use the building, etc. She also added that when the rain gardens are put in it will open up more opportunity for community engagement. Randy asked if the building has heat in the winter. It does not. Randy added that it might be nice to have heat so that there is another building that can be used year-round. Kari stated future improvements can be discussed. The sponsorship is for 20 years.

- **RCPP:** Kari informed the Board that the Watershed Plan is almost complete. She is hoping to have a final draft ready by mid-late August and plans to have a public meeting for comments on the draft. She also stated that the Culvert projects the Districts is currently working on will be counting toward the RCPP plan.

Randy added that he does not believe that there is much for development to help the Coastal Coho and asked how the District will keep them from endangerment. Discussion was held. The Coastal Coho Strategic Plan for the Nehalem should be available later this year.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Annual Meeting Resolution:** Bill read the Resolution to the Board that states that the Annual Meeting will be held on January 17, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

**Motion: VanNatta/Freytag** to approve the Annual Meeting Resolution. **Approved Motion Passed by unanimous vote.**

- **Letter from Scappoose:** Kari explained to the Board that the District has received a lot of “Thank you’s” for the projects completed within the last few months. She mentioned that the City of Scappoose sent a Thank You letter that she would like them to hear. She read the letter to the Board that expressed appreciation for the District’s help on the Pump Station on South Scappoose Creek. The district also received a card from the families on Merrill Creek, and the Armstrong’s on the Nehalem that were a part of the SIA grouping of projects. Discussion was held regarding Scappoose’s drainage.

### **REPORTS (Cont.)**

#### **STAFF**

Kari stated that Monica has been working with the UNWC. The Strategic Action Plan for Coastal Coho was recently completed and Monica is now helping the council with GIS. Kari discussed projects and grants that were recently completed. She also mentioned that the SBWC is still working on the Greenhouse. Randy asked if Monica would strategize streams for where the District will get the most out of their money. She is working with a few agencies to determine the “hot spots”. Randy explained he is concerned for the Coastal Coho.

Kari mentioned that Nathan has been participating in the Strategic Planning with SBWC. She has also spent five days with the Clatsop SWCD, as part of the IGA, to help complete reports.

Kari also stated that files are closing up and beginning to be prepared for the Audit, which should begin toward the end of August.

Crystalyn spent 2 days on the Armstrong Plant property, near the transfer station, working with CRYC on removal of Spurge Laurel, a half-ton of this species was bagged and disposed of from this property. Discussion was held.

Knotweed treatment will start later in August along North and South Scappoose Creek and some areas in North County. Kari also explained that the Calendar Sponsorships are coming along nicely.

#### **BOARD**

KC asked the Board if they knew what was happening near the old St. Helens Hospital and explained that it will be a new Super Wal-Mart. He also mentioned more of his thoughts regarding Port Westward. Discussion was held.

***Freytag/Pierce moved to adjourn meeting***

***MEETING ADJOURNED 9:37 PM***

Respectfully Submitted by:

***Jennifer Steinke***

Jennifer Steinke, Office Assistant