

**SUMMARY NOTES**  
**Neskowin Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting**  
August 11, 2018

The Neskowin Citizen's Advisory Committee (NCAC) convened its regular bi-monthly meeting at 9 a.m. on August 11, 2018, at the Neskowin Fire Station. The meeting was led by NCAC Chair Richard Hook. Attending were Jeff Walton; Shelley Stoll; Susan Amort; Andreas von Foerster; Bob Hamilton; Cathy and Dave Benneth; Roger Wicklund; Earl Ingle; Roger Noble; Troy Trute; Cameron Nagel; Bill Busch, NCAC Vice Chair and Treasurer; and Jean Cameron, NCAC Secretary Pro-tem.

Adoption of June NCAC meeting notes

- Earl Ingle moved and Cathy Benneth seconded the motion to adopt the draft summary notes of the June NCAC meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The final summary notes will be available at: <http://neskowincommunity.org/cac.html>.

Update on Hawk St. North

- Richard Hook noted that a court hearing on an appeal associated with the Walton/NRSA lawsuit was scheduled for August 16. Shelly Stoll noted that all the legal documents associated with the lawsuit are available at <http://www.neskowinsanitary.com/general-information/legal/walton-vs-neskowin-regional-sanitary-authority/>.
- Jeff Walton explained that the issue of Hawk St. North had been associated with a decision by various title companies that properties north of the "S" curve could not be guaranteed access as a result of changes in the Tillamook county map, a decision which interfered with sales of those properties. This was an incorrect conclusion on their part, he stated, and most title companies are now issuing title insurance for those properties upon sale. Jeff stated that he and his family were victims of rumor and drama, and that the Neskowin community should learn a lesson and only pay attention to the facts. He feels that this is now resolved and that this item should be removed from the NCAC agenda.
- Earl Ingle noted that the title companies had indeed stopped issuing insurance, so it was more than rumor at one point. Moreover, Tillamook County still has not claimed or clarified the easements for this section of road, so some title companies may still have problems since many questions remain.
- Regarding maintenance of Hawk St. north, Richard Hook and Jeff both noted that local efforts were being made to fill potholes on that street. Approximately half of the necessary funding has been raised, Richard noted, and encouraged others to donate in support of this effort, as Jeff Walton has done.

Update on Hawk St. South

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- On June 26th, 2018 State Representative David Gomberg, Chloe Becker from the House Majority office, representatives from Tillamook County including Commissioner David

Yamamoto, Nestucca, Neskowin and Sand Lake Watersheds Council Coordinator Haley Lutz, and representatives from the Citizen Advisory Committee and the Neskowin Beach Golf Course met to review the issues preventing completion of the emergency access/egress road. The group walked the existing road, identifying flooding issues, and also walked back along the west bank of Hawk Creek, which showed the visitors the narrow roadway along the creek but more importantly, the exposure of the only entry/exit point for Neskowin: the Salem St. Bridge. The bridge is overtopped yearly by waves and is under threat in the winters from storm surges that bring root wads and other debris up the creek and against the bridge. The area around the bridge is often flooded in the winter, sometimes preventing regular vehicle traffic from passing through. Thus the need for another access point to the community.

- The group identified two main barriers to completion. First is the need to gain access to the Wayside State Park for vehicles, in an emergency, to exit or enter the road via the state park.
- The second main barrier to completion is money. The Neskowin community was told by the County Commissioners that if they put “skin in the game” in the form of \$100,000 the road would be built. Based on the need for the road and the community commitment the state contributed an additional \$150,000. This year the county has earmarked \$200,000 for this project in its budget, in addition to the in-kind work it has done over the last three years. The total cost of the project was never clearly identified at this meeting, but a range of \$1.4 to \$1.6 million was generally mentioned.

#### DISCUSSION AT THIS MEETING:

- Susan Amort reported that State Senator Betsy Johnson was working with Representative Gomberg on this issue. With their encouragement, Oregon State Parks has agreed to pay for a needed survey and will facilitate access to Rt.101. Susan noted the State Parks’ budget may be the vehicle for additional state funding for this project. Apparently another \$20,000 is needed to complete the road design.
- At this point, the County is proposing that the rebuilt road would be for emergency vehicles only; otherwise, it would be used by bikes, pedestrians and golf carts. Jeff Walton stated that his family had donated the land for use as a full-use road, so he is not happy with the emergency use only proposal. Group discussion generally supported the idea of beginning with emergency access designation, since the final road will be built to full-use standards.
- Roger Wicklund expressed concerns regarding probable use restrictions or mandates associated with any federal grants that might be used for this project.
- Troy Trute asked whether Neskowin should incorporate in order to improve access to funding for such projects as this. Richard Hook explained that this issue had been raised many times and was unresolved as a result of the complexity of the incorporation process.

#### Beach ramp maintenance

- Cameron Nagel explained that there are three beach access ramps off of Breakers Boulevard: Carlton, McMinnville and Mt. Angel. These primarily provide access for rip rap maintenance, but are also used by people to access the beach and would provide access for emergency vehicles as well. The sand used as fill around the large boulders easily erodes,

especially during winter storms, with the result that they are dangerous for people and unusable for vehicles.

- He spoke with Oregon State Parks as well as with Tillamook County Public Works Department about this, but neither agency is able to undertake regular maintenance.
- Cameron explained that the permits which contractors – who are hired to repair and maintain landowners’ rip rap – are given by these two agencies require that they restore the ramps after use. He proposed that the NCAC work with the Neskowin Community Association to propose more specific permit language to these agencies, as follows:
  1. *Heavy equipment will be unloaded and loaded on the unpaved portion of county road extensions. Metal track excavators are prohibited from traveling on paved county roads. (NOTE: This is already the law, but not clearly stated on the permit)*
  2. *At completion of permitted work, contractors will repair and restore both the County access spur road and the ramp to the beach with a gravel base and a beach-sand top layer.*
  3. *Such repairs and restoration shall be maintained by permitted contractors of record as deemed necessary for safe use and beach accessibility by the local Fire and Rescue District.*
- As discussion of this proposal followed, Bill Busch stated that winter storm erosion of both gravel and sand would be unavoidable, so this would be an ongoing burden on the contractors. Cameron Nagel replied that the cost to the contractors would be minimal, since most have access to their own gravel and the beach sand is already there. They are already required by permit to restore the ramps, but this would add ongoing maintenance.
- Troy Trute suggested that the NCAC talk with other coastal communities to determine how this problem is handled elsewhere.

#### Update on DOGAMI’s “Beat-the-Wave” mapping project for Neskowin

- Bill Busch reported that he had spoken with Laura Gabel of the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) about meeting with representatives from the Neskowin area to refine DOGAMI’s draft *Beat the Wave* map for our area. She fully intends to do so, but has been very busy finalizing maps for Reedsport and Florence. He noted that those maps include some areas designated as “will not survive.”
- Bill also noted that his neighborhood is working with DOGAMI to paint tsunami zone information on their streets, so that persons will know when they have reached a safe area.

#### Tsunami trail upgrades

- Roger Wicklund and Troy Trute, General Manger of the Neskowin Regional Water District (NRWD), reported that the “Tsunami trail” would be closed for 2-3 weeks beginning on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. This closure will allow the NRWD to add fill in order to raise the road bed, so that it will be possible to access the water line for repairs without having to do so “under water,” because the trail is often under water during the rainy season. As a result, any repair work would be less likely to add sediment to the wetland. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which controls the wetland, requires that the ditch through which the water flows be widened by 9 feet in this process, so the bridge over this ditch will be

replaced with a new bridge. This is being built by Paul Bender with help from others in the Neskowin Crest neighborhood. The new bridge will be free-standing so that it can be removed for water line repairs, but this will also make it more flexible so that it can withstand an earthquake. It was noted that the USFWS limits the amount of fill that can be used, so the new road bed may only be above winter water levels 75% of the time.

- A temporary emergency access route will be provided by the Neskowin Golf Course during this construction. The route will cross the golf course and provide access to Nestucca Ridge.
- The NCAC will send a notification email to the community prior to this trail closure.
- Richard Hook stated that the NCAC's checking account will be available to receive contributions towards this project, which is estimated to cost \$12,000. Checks should be made out to the Neskowin Citizen Advisory Committee and mailed to Richard Hook at PO Box 805, Neskowin, OR 97149.

#### Update on the Neskowin Community Plan Review (see

[http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/ComDev/documents/community/nesk\\_plan.pdf](http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/ComDev/documents/community/nesk_plan.pdf))

- Tillamook County is still working on the update to the Pacific City plan, so their planning staff are not yet available to help Neskowin get started on our plan review.

#### Status reports:

- Water quality sampling results:
  - Jean Cameron reported that the Hawk Creek water quality samples, which are collected twice a month for the Watershed Council, have recently exceeded the *E-coli* standard of 406 counts/100 ml as follows: on Jul 25th, 2018 = 517; on Jul 11th, 2018 = 548. This follows the usual late summer pattern of high *E-coli* readings associated with low water levels.
  - She noted that the readings for Neskowin Creek and for the confluence of the two creeks were still below the *E-coli* standard, and that the samples taken in the Neskowin area by the Oregon Beach Monitoring Program have shown *Enterococcus* (marine bacteria) levels below that standard.
- Cautionary sign for the Hawk Creek Beach access:
  - Earl Ingle reported that Jeff Walton has contacted the various agencies with authority for posting warning signs regarding water quality and it seems most practical to ask them to post signs when the *E-coli* levels are high, as they currently are.
  - Although it seems unlikely that Neskowin can do this on its own authority, the wording proposed is "Bacterial levels increase with low water levels; please take caution."
  - Due to beach erosion on the beach access trail this year, there has been little use of lower Hawk Creek by beach-goers.

## Other

- Jean reported that Nestucca Valley Fire District Chief Oeder said that they have had a very busy summer and encouraged everyone to obey the fire ban. This also applies to beach fires.
- Jean also made a personal plea that everyone sign a petition to make the Oregon Volunteer Fire Fighters organization eligible for a donation on the state income tax form. These petitions are available at the Nestucca Volunteer Fire Fighters' t-shirt booth at the Neskowin Farmers Market. She noted that rural areas like ours are very dependent on volunteer firefighters.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Cameron, NCAC Secretary Pro-Tem  
Neskowin Citizen Advisory Committee