

**SUMMARY NOTES**  
**Neskowin Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting**  
August 6, 2016

The Neskowin Citizen Advisory Committee (NCAC) convened for their regular bi-monthly meeting at 10 a.m. on August 6, 2016, at the Neskowin Fire Station. The meeting was led by NCAC Chair Richard Hook. Attending were Bill Busch, Andreas von Foerster, Ron Wojtowicz, Susan Amort, Roger Wickland, James MacPherson, Robin Crowell, John Metschan, David Kraybill, David McCall, Liane Welch, Julie and Lee Steiner, York Johnson, Jim Boyer, Mary Kimball, Joanie Blum, Joan Kingsley, Elaine Andrews, Patrick Marsh, Sarah Gregario, Stephan Dow Beckham, Cameron Nagel, Haley Blake and Jean Cameron.

The draft summary notes of the June NCAC meeting were approved as drafted.

Liane Welch, Director of the Tillamook County Department of Public Works, provided the following update on the Hawk St. Emergency Access Road:

- Ms. Welch noted that this emergency access/egress road has been a priority for the County since the work of the Coastal Hazards Committee, when Commissioner Mark Labhart became a champion of the proposal. She also acknowledged that the citizens of Neskowin raised \$100,000 toward the project.
- She clarified that this road is intended to address risks to Neskowin associated with winter storms, not with local tsunamis, and noted that the Salem Ave. bridge is vulnerable to large logs during winter storm high tide events. She later explained that the 100-year storm elevation is 15 feet.
- Oregon State Senator Betsy Johnson asked each County in her district to identify their top three transportation infrastructure priorities. This project is the top priority for Tillamook County (culvert replacement and the Cape Meares Loop are their other two priorities).
- Ms. Welch reported that Oregon State Parks, which owns the southern end of the road, is developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Parks Service, which gave the land to State Parks, that will allow them to work with the County to develop the road.
- The topographic and geologic studies are done and a preliminary hydrologic study has also been done.. The archeological study has also been completed; while it shows an interesting history of the area, no Native American village was found for this parcel. There are no hazardous material issues, either.
- The Department of State Lands (DSL) has completed the Wetlands Delineation and determined that 0.1 percent of the wetlands will be filled, so the County will need to pay \$5,000 to \$8,000 into a wetlands mitigation bank to fund creation of an equivalent amount of wetlands with similar characteristics.
- Working with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the National Marine Fisheries Service, the County has identified several fish passage opportunities that must be addressed. They plan to replace two small culverts with one large culvert that will allow fish passage up to Rt. 101. Two 12' box culverts will also be utilized. Fish passage will also be enhanced by construction of a bridge and removal of the current tidegate.
- The road will be 12' wide with 1' shoulders and will be one-way south, forming a loop with Hawk St.
- A water quality treatment facility will be installed to treat construction as well as road runoff, and there will also be opportunities for planting next to the creek to capture runoff.
- A pedestrian area will be created at the north end for golfers, and speed bumps will be places in front of the Golf Course Club House.
- Funding from Neskowin, the State, and the County has paid for this study and design phase. Approximately \$1.3 million is need for construction. IF that funding can be secured, bids will go out in March of 2017, so the earliest that construction would begin would be the fall of 2017.
- Ms. Welch outlined the next steps as follows:

- Continue negotiations with State Parks;
  - Meet with stakeholders (the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Neskowin/Nestucca/Sand Lake Watershed Council (NNSWC) Tech Team, the Golf Course Board, the Fey Family, and Nestucca Fire) to discuss the hydraulic study and design by October 2016;
  - Work towards advanced plans, 85% design;
  - Initiate permitting – this will provide another public review opportunity; and
  - Look for grants for construction funding.
- Ms. Welch’s PowerPoint presentation included a number of maps of the proposed design; this can be downloaded from the Neskowin Community Association website at <http://www.neskowincommunity.org/home.html>. For additional information, please go to the Road Department website on the Projects page: <http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/pw/Projects.htm>. Please scroll down the page and see the section titled: *Neskowin Secondary Access Project*.
  - During Q&A, Roger Wicklund noted that the USFWS had pledged in the past to help with such a road; he will provide Ms. Welch with more information regarding this.
  - It was also suggested to Ms. Welch that the county consider a “temporary” fix to the existing road that would allow an emergency vehicle to get through.

David McCall, Solid Waste Program Manager for the Tillamook County Public Works Department gave a presentation on Microplastics on the Beach, as follows:

- Mr. McCall explained that the production of plastics, which are byproducts of oil/gas processing, has increased 20x over the past 50 years, reaching 311 million tons in 2014. On an annual basis, about 14% is collected for recycling and 40% is landfilled.
- Approximately 32% ends up in the environment, where plastics make up 60-80% of marine debris, even though ocean dumping of trash was banned in the 1980s. Some of the trash, he noted, came from containers lost off cargo ships. Plastics in the marine environment can result in wildlife entanglement and ingestion. Ingestion can cause death from either starvation or from the toxic chemicals that leach from the ingested plastics (plastics can absorb 4 times their own weight in toxic chemicals).
- Much of the plastics in the oceans end up in gyres created by cold and warm currents; we see plastics on our beaches from the North Pacific gyre, which rotates clockwise.
- “Micro-plastics” refers to small pieces (0.5 mm and smaller) that break down due to the effect of ultraviolet rays; these wash ashore, where the sand, driven by tides and wind, quickly covers them, generally at the high tide line. They have the potential to leach persistent organic pollutants and PCBs, and are hazardous to marine life, healthy beaches, and tourism.
- Mr. McCall then described a micro-plastic cleanup at Neahkahnie Beach in June of 2015. More than 100 people worked together to “screen” 1.37 miles of beach. They generated 315 lbs of waste, of which about 20% was natural material.
- He then noted that he had surveyed the Neskowin Beach around the Hawk Creek/Neskowin Creek outlet near Proposal Rock, and found microplastics there. He urged the Neskowin Community to work with his Department to conduct a similar cleanup.
- Mary Kimball and Robin Crowell of the Neskowin Community Association volunteered to organize beach cleanup events. Fourteen persons attending this meeting signed up on the spot!
- Mr. McCall also reminded attendees that the Pacific City Recycling Center accepts cardboard, scrap metals, deposit cans and bottles, tin and aluminum cans, glass, mixed paper, plastics including bags, electronic wastes, clothes and shoes. Styrofoam will soon be accepted as well. The Recycling Center, 39255 Brooten Road, is open Friday and Saturday from 9 to 4, and Sunday and Monday from 1 to 4. For more information, call 503-965-6898 Friday through Monday and 503-815-3975 Tuesday through Thursday. He also noted that the County’s Recycling Trailer will be at the Neskowin Farmers’ Market on August 20<sup>th</sup> and September 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. McCall’s PowerPoint presentation can be downloaded from the Neskowin Community Association website at <http://www.neskowincommunity.org/home.html>.

David Kraybill provided the following update on the status of subdivision applications:  
(NCAC comment letters are available at <http://www.neskowincommunity.org/cac.html>)

- I. Seashore Woods
  - Dave Kraybill reported that the County Planning Commission’s hearing on Seashore Woods, which was scheduled for August 11, had been cancelled.
  - DSL’s wetlands determination has been made. This is crucial, since it appears that half of each lot as originally proposed overlaps the wetlands. This could impact placement of septic fields as well as lot size. This could also impact the location of roads in the development.
  - There is also a concern that the proposed road north from North Neskowin goes through a wetland area, which provides an inlet and outlet from the wetland to the ocean.
  - Dave also noted that the developer had one year from the initial application in January 2016 to ask for continuances.
- II. Proposal Rock Cove
  - A Planning Commission hearing is scheduled for September 22<sup>nd</sup> on the Proposal Rock Cove permit. Nine lots are proposed.
  - A permit from DSL is needed, since the application proposes to fill some wetlands, but Dave reported that, as far as he knows, no application had been made to DSL at that time. Once the application is made to DSL, it could take from two to six months to be processed. Such a permit would be required if the developer continues with his current proposal, but the County could approve the project contingent on acquiring a DSL permit.
  - If DSL does not approve a fill permit, this project would also need a new application and then would be subject to the Coastal Hazard Zone ordinance.
  - Dave also noted that County planning staff had expressed concern regarding runoff from the surrounding hillsides into the cove area, and how this runoff will be drained from this area.
- III. Another planning issue to watch is the proposed expansion of the Hawk Creek Café. The owner proposes to build the café out to where the current patio is, but the required specific plan has not been submitted to the County at this time. A larger seating capacity will also require an increase in the number of parking spaces, which may not be available.

Richard Hook and York Johnson provided the following update on the Hawk Creek water quality sampling plan:

- Richard explained that, based on historic spikes in e-coli bacteria readings found in Hawk Creek during late summer/early fall months from samples taken at the Salem St. bridge, the CAC was asked to address the problem. It’s possible that the high levels are from mammals such as beavers and are simply concentrated in the late summer as a result of low water levels.
- He had convened a conference call that included Neskowin Regional Sanitary Authority, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, York Johnson of the Department of Environmental Quality, the Tillamook County Sanitation Department and representatives of the Nestucca-Neskowin Watershed Council to discuss the problem.
- York had been asked to develop a sampling plan for Hawk Creek and its tributaries. Both funding and volunteers are needed to implement the plan as soon as possible. Costs could be as high as \$2500 or no costs, if enough partners are found to assist with the work.
- If a spike is found, that location could be tested for DNA to help target the source; DNA testing is very expensive, however.
- York reported that the July 27 samples were in compliance with standards, although a subsequent sample taken at the Salem St. bridge did show a spike. However, a sample taken at the same time seaward of the confluence of Hawk Creek and Neskowin Creek was in compliance. Concern was expressed that warnings regarding Hawk Creek need to be posted along the path to the Beach. It was noted that the Oregon Health Authority does water quality sampling at beaches and will open the warning sign in the State Parks Wayside if they detect a problem. York has contacted OHA and encouraged them to post a sign along the path as well.

Other

I. Corvallis and Hawk St. boundary issues

- At a meeting hosted by Christi Clark on July 12, Commissioner Mark Labhart and Liane Welch agreed that the County would take the lead this winter to find a way through a boundary dispute involving a county road alignment, surveying questions and land use issues on Corvallis and Hawk streets in order to clarify rights-of-way. The community members in attendance at the meeting understood that this will not be resolved quickly, but do want to see it resolved in the future, as does the Neskowin Sanitary District for the purpose of extending sewer lines to the north. Ms. Welch reiterated that her department is very busy this summer, but will try to get to this project in the fall if funding is available to support staff time.

II. Enhanced Sheriff's District

- Jean Cameron reported that there had been 138 responses from Neskowin to a "Survey Monkey" on this issue (compared with 95 from the Pacific City area). Many responders had requested more information on the issue. A meeting on this topic will be held on Sept 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Kiawanda Community Center in Pacific City.

The Neskowin Citizen Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Cameron, Secretary  
Neskowin Citizen's Advisory Committee