

**SUMMARY NOTES**  
**Neskowin Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**December 5, 2015**

The Neskowin Citizens' Advisory Committee (NCAC) convened for their regular bi-monthly meeting at 9 a.m. on December 5, 2015, at the Neskowin Fire Station. The meeting was led by NCAC Chair Richard Hook. Attending were Bill Busch, Barbara Triplett, Andreas von Foerster, Ron Wojtowicz, John and Steve Ostrin, Barbara and Maurice Monroe, Stephen Dow Beckham, Cameron Nagel, Chris Silkowski, Alex Sifford, Susan Amort, Mike and James Marsh, Jeff Walton, Doug Olson, Tillamook County Sheriff Andy Long, Nestucca Fire District Chief Kris Weiland and Jean Cameron.

October, 2015 Summary Notes

The summary notes from the October 3, 2015 meeting were approved as drafted. The final notes are available at <http://www.neskowincommunity.org/cac.html>).

Discussion of South County security issues and the possibility of an enhanced Sheriff's Patrol District

Tillamook County Sheriff Andy Long addressed a number of questions regarding County police coverage for South County and the Neskowin area. He explained that there are currently eight deputies, although this does not represent full staffing. Each works four ten-hour days/week, including patrol time. The County also has detectives who cover child and elder abuse issues. The deputies cover from 7 a.m. to 3 a.m. each day; responses between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m. are only done for emergencies. He does have some reserve officers, but only two are currently qualified to work alone. Occasionally his office can access a corrections deputy from the County Jail. He also has emergency access to one contract deputy from the U.S. Forest Service and two marine deputies paid for by the Oregon State Marine Board. Except for these contract positions, all others are covered by the County's General Fund. His office is currently doing Strategic Planning and hopes to expand to 24-hour coverage and full staffing, which is not currently in the budget. Sheriff Long also noted that he's working with Tillamook Bay Community College to establish courses for reserve officers and school resource officers.

The average response time in the County is 11.5 minutes. A computer program sets up their response priorities, although deputies can respond as needed; person-to-person crimes are a higher priority than property crimes or fireworks. They get very few traffic calls in South County. Sheriff Long explained that death investigations are very time consuming; even if there are few of them, they require considerable follow-up.

Sheriff Long noted that coverage in the Neskowin area is primarily in response to calls; there are seldom active patrols in the area. His deputies will respond to panic or security alarms, but not to audible alarms that can be triggered by wind and wildlife. He noted that most demand countywide is during the summer tourist season. He also explained that property crimes tend to happen in "bunches," and noted that NIXLE can send Public Information notifications from the Sheriff's office if property crimes are increasing in an area. Such notifications are also posted on the Sheriff's Office's Facebook page. Sheriff Long further explained that his office coordinates with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office for coverage at Cascade Head. The Oregon State Police share office space with the Sheriff's Office, so coordination of responses runs smoothly.

Sheriff Long noted that the marine deputies have a boat and move around Tillamook County to cover bays and rivers. They do not do ocean rescues, which are covered by the U.S. Coast Guard. He reminded us to use the State Parks mile markers when reporting ocean incidents (38 at the Winema Beach, 39 in Neskowin).

In response to a question, Sheriff Long explained that the Sheriff's position is elected and that one of the County Commissioners is designated as liaison to the Sheriff's Office.

In response to a question regarding reporting illegal fireworks, Sheriff Long noted that his office can now seize illegal fireworks because they now have a safe storage area. They will also issue citations. As noted above, fireworks are not a high priority, but deputies may be directed when illegal fireworks are reported. He advised us to confront persons using illegal fireworks, unless they appear to be dangerous. He encouraged everyone to report drunken drivers.

Doug Olson noted that there was an effort in 2005 to increase coverage for South Tillamook County; four deputies, one safety officer, and one clerical support person would have been added at a tax rate of \$1 per \$1000 assessed value, but the measure failed at the ballot. He explained that there are two ways to get such a measure on the ballot: 1) A chief petitioner can put up a bond to cover the election costs; or 2) a group can request such a measure from the County. He recommended a spring ballot in an "off" year. Sheriff Long noted that costs must include both personnel and equipment such as vehicles. He also explained that the next budget year would begin July 1, 2017, so the taxes would begin at that time if such a measure were to pass in the spring of 2017. Such a measure would establish a "county service district" like that for the Tillamook County library. The County Commissioners would be the governing body for the service district, but a local advisory committee would also be established to advise the Commissioners, similar to this CAC. Olson and Long provided an estimate of the costs of assigning a Criminal Deputy and Sargent to South County; including overtime, uniforms and one vehicle, the total was \$213,870.

Richard Hook asked for a show of hands regarding interest in pursuing such a ballot measure; there were 11 in favor of doing so, 5 opposed, and 1 abstained pending the outcome of discussions of incorporation in Pacific City in February.

It was noted that Tierra Del Mar had a private security patrol that was paid for by homeowners at the rate of \$300/home. They could only contact the Sheriff's office, not make arrests themselves. It was also noted that Neskowin has hired off-duty police for holiday weekends.

#### Update on the Emergency Access Road

Richard Hook reported that Tillamook County had applied to NOAA for a grant to help with this project, but was turned down. The County is pursuing other funding and grants.

County representatives met with representatives from the Neskowin Golf Course to discuss wetland mitigation and the tide gate. Removal of the tide gate is favored by funders, but opposed by the Golf Course. The only agreement reached was to continue to work together to resolve this issue.

The County had determined that the historic name of the road, Hawk Street, would remain and would require no changes to records. This was also the name favored in a Neskowin Community Association

survey. There has been a petition submitted, however, to rename the new section to “Walton Way,” so the County will hold a public hearing on December 18<sup>th</sup> on this matter.

#### Status of applications to develop properties in the Cove region of South Beach and near Neskowin North

Bill Busch explained that permit applications for development on both of these properties were filed during the LUBA appeal of the Coastal Hazards Zone regulations. However, both applications are incomplete at this time and not approved. January 16, 2016 is the deadline for filing completed permit applications.

Bill further explained that the applications will be reviewed by the Tillamook County Department of Community Development and property owners within 250’ of affected parcels will be notified and given a chance to comment. The NCAC can submit comments also.

During a discussion of the South Beach proposal, concerns were raised regarding narrow access roads that would not allow for 2-way traffic and would be hazardous for pedestrians. The other primary concern for that proposal is drainage. The parcel to be developed is a natural ponding area for runoff on three sides. On the fourth side, runoff also would be directed toward the inferior of the parcel if the Coastal Hazards Zone provisions mandating drainage away from the riprap are applied. Bill Busch noted that he’d found a 2008 claim by the property owner (Fultz) that it was unbuildable; the claim was intended to reduce road association dues.

Richard Hook noted that the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition is also tracking these proposals.

#### The Hawk Creek Watershed

Jean Cameron reported that the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Neskowin Regional Water District Board had included a presentation on the Hawk Creek Watershed by Josh Seeds of Oregon DEQ. The Hawk Creek watershed is approximately 1,543 acres, of which 76% is in private industrial forest and 11% is owned by the U.S. Forest Service. The rest is in small, private holdings.

There are 20.81 stream miles in the watershed; the primary hazard to drinking water is erodible soils. Timber harvest and coastal storms represent the greatest erosion risks. Jean noted that the Water District manager had said that Nestucca Forests, LLC plans a harvest in 2016.

The average age of trees in the Watershed is 35 years old. Although clear cuts are replanted by law, simplified forest stands are less robust in facing weather, fire, or infestation risks.

Jean noted that Hawk Creek is a fish-bearing stream up to a point and the Oregon Department of Forestry is amending regulations to increase the no-cut buffers in order to protect water temperatures in fish-bearing streams. These regulations will not apply to the small, ephemeral streams at the head of the watershed.

Regarding pesticide applications, Jean explained that the current industrial operator (Nestucca Forests, LLC) advises the Water District when they plan to spray, and they also pay for water quality testing following the applications.

Over the next year, Jean said that the Water District Board of Commissioners will discuss what steps to take in order to protect the watershed; such steps might include land acquisition and/or agreements with landowners. Resources for land acquisition might include grants, donations, and/or a bond measure. Ongoing management costs would probably be covered by sustainable harvesting.

#### Vacation Rental Issues

Jean Cameron reported that the Hills of Neskowin Owners' Association recently revised their Conditions, Covenants, and Restrictions (CC&Rs) to limit rentals to a 30-day minimum. Of course, this is only possible where there are neighborhood associations. Everyone was advised to be familiar with the County's rental permit conditions, which include parking and other activities that may annoy neighbors.

#### Other

Susan Amort encouraged everyone to attend the Pacific City incorporation meeting on February 16, noting that such a move would give Pacific City access to the Transient Lodging Tax funds, 9% of which goes to incorporated areas. She favors linking Neskowin and Pacific City in one area.

Chief Weiland noted that the TLT funds are being used to promote tourism, and explained that increased tourism also increases the number of service calls for fire and police, as well as the demands on water and sewer districts. He thinks that 10% of the funds should go to special districts for this reason, but apparently such a change in the distribution formula would have to be made by the Oregon Legislature.

Issues were also raised regarding the potential formation of a special road district to fund the South Beach Road Association; further discussion on this topic was held after the NCAC meeting was adjourned.

PLEASE NOTE: The next NCAC meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2016.

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