

INFORMAL MINUTES

August 25, 2008

2:00 p.m.

Oval Office

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

Staff: Rick Sanai, Laura Tschabold, John Krawczyk, Steve Mikami, Sherrie Mathison, and Bill Gille

Guests: David Bates, News-Register; Tim Stieber and Sam Sweeney, Soil & Water Conservation District; Mikki Collins, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Lillian Frease, 14025 SW McCabe, McMinnville; Ramsey McPhillips, 13000 SW McPhillips Rd, McMinnville; and Kris Bledsoe, candidate for commissioner.

* indicates item forwarded to formal agenda

Mary called the meeting to order.

* Contracts/Grants - See agenda for details.

Discretionary Spending - The commissioners declared the following expenditures to be divided equally from their discretionary accounts:

\$150 for the McMinnville Lions Club mobile health screening unit;

\$250 for the Drug Court Recovery Fair.

Power Outage - The group discussed the power outage scheduled to take place the following day at the Commissioners' Office while electrical service is transferred to the new utility pole. John K stated that this would be a good emergency exercise for getting the phones transferred to other locations.

* Habitat Conservation Plan - Authorize a grant application to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services through the Oregon Department of Agriculture for funding to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan, approximately \$390,000.

Mikki Collins stated that the Oregon Department of Agriculture is interested in working with the county to seek grant funding to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan. She recommended that the county do so in order to be compliant with the Federal Endangered Species Act. She discussed the Fenders Blue Butterfly and four plant species found in Yamhill County that are all federally listed and state listed as endangered species.

She said that the county could have potential contacts with the species as a result of issuing building permits, but there are some minor things that can be done to reduce secondary liability in county activities. She proposed doing county-wide surveys and developing a management and permit plan for roadside activities. She estimated that this process would take two to three years. Tim Stieber stated that after the process is completed, the plan should be operational, although there may be some potential grant money available for management.

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Mikki said that she would provide a letter of support and would work with Tim to get everything he needs for the grant package.

* Rural Recycling - Consideration of approval of a request from Western Oregon Waste (WOW) to initiate a rural recycling collection pilot program.

Sherrie Mathison distributed handouts from WOW showing the proposed zone for the pilot program. She explained that WOW is not proposing to increase the rates initially. She agreed to get more information about potential rate increases if the program is implemented permanently. Leslie expressed her support of extending recycling out to the rural areas.

* Newberg Garbage - Consideration of denial of a request from Newberg Garbage Service to add a new line item on its rate sheet for de-ink reject landfill material.

Sherrie stated that the number of de-ink boxes being hauled from SP Newsprint has increased tenfold in the last year and Newberg Garbage Service would like to adjust its rate sheet to include a separate line for this item, although the rate would not change. She said that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) recommended not adding a line item until the next rate adjustment period, since the rate sheet was just adjusted on July 1, 2008. She pointed out that this may be a moot point by next year anyway, since Agriplast is looking into the possibility of burning the de-ink boxes. The commissioners agreed to deny to request.

Riverbend Landfill - Sherrie presented a request from Riverbend Landfill for a CPI adjustment to its rates and to not take the deduction this year because the rates are not up to the level they would have been if the CPI increase had been taken each year. She explained that this would only affect those coming in at the gate, not the license agreements with cities, and there would be no impact on revenue to the county. She stated that after much discussion, SWAC members were not able to agree on a recommendation. She agreed to call SWAC member Gerry Koschal for his opinion, since he was not able to vote on the issue.

* Fees - Adopt the following Public Works fee schedule for special event permits:

0-100 participants	\$50 deposit
100-500 participants	\$500 deposit
Over 500 participants	\$1500 deposit

Bill Gille stated that the original \$1500 deposit requirement was based on a worst-case scenario and, although it is not an issue for bigger organizations, it can pose a problem for small groups. He presented the suggestion for a graduated fee schedule, noting that even the smallest groups ought to have some kind of deposit requirement.

* Economic Development - Authorize a payment of \$5000 from the Economic Development Fund to the McMinnville Downtown Association in lieu of economic improvement district assessments.

* Authorize a payment of \$150 per bus shelter from the Economic Development Fund to

cities for installation costs.

John K suggested offering funds to each city for the installation of bus shelters if the shelters are put in the original locations. He explained that if the location is changed, the money would cover administrative costs for all of the grant paperwork that Tonya Saunders would be required to complete. Laura suggested working with cities that need to change locations due to an ADA-compliance issue.

Fairgrounds Security - Mary stated that her reason for calling the emergency session last Wednesday to rescind the contract for Joseph McGanty was because of the liability risks associated with having someone with an extensive criminal record working at the fairgrounds unsupervised at night and driving county equipment without a drivers license. She said that the Board has a responsibility to look out for the best interest of the county and she would be fine with having Mr. McGanty work at the fairgrounds after his probation officer signs off that he has completed treatment. She said that this is a policy decision that could have been made without getting Mr. McGanty's name on the front page of the newspaper if a background check had been done by the Fair and if Leslie had shared the information she knew about his criminal history with the rest of the Board. She stated that her motivations were in no way political.

Rick Sanai stated that the information given him by Al Westhoff before preparing the contract included the fact that Mr. McGanty was an inmate worker who had been convicted of a DUII involving property damage, but he was not given the correct last name or the details of the criminal background. He said that he had advised Al to clear it with Leslie if there was a criminal record.

Kathy expressed her dismay at the negative publicity this has caused for Mr. McGanty and stated that Al's communication with Rick had clearly not been adequate. She said that more information would be helpful at this point. She suggested sending the issue back to the Fair Board for reconsideration.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Anne Britt
Secretary