

**SOUTH SLOUGH NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE  
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

South Slough Reserve Interpretive Center  
Charleston, Oregon

**DRAFT** Minutes of the 127th Regular Meeting  
March 18, 2010

**Commission members present:**

Richard Hamel  
Craig Young  
Robert Emmett-via phone  
George Boehlert-via phone

Louise Solliday, Chair  
James Fereday  
Kevin Stufflebean  
Mark Ingersoll

**Commission members not present:**

Ron Stuntzner

**South Slough NERR staff present:**

Mike Graybill  
Pam Wilson  
Craig Cornu  
Don Smith  
Tom Gaskill  
Adam DeMarzo  
Deborah Rudd

Kathy Andreasen  
Steve Rumrill  
Alicia Helms  
Hans Klausner  
John Bragg  
Jenna Kulluson

**Others present:**

Nora Terwilliger, SSNERR Advisory  
Bessie Joyce, Coos Watershed Association  
Jody Hamel, public

**The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by the Chair of the  
Commission, Louise Solliday.**

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Solliday introduced and welcomed Coos County Commissioner Kevin Stufflebean as the latest executive appointment to the South Slough NERR Management Commission. Everyone present at the meeting introduced themselves.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Chair Solliday asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. **Commissioner Hamel moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and Commissioner Boehlert seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.**

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Recognition of Volunteers**

The Commission recognized the contributions of the South Slough NERR volunteers. The Volunteer Service Award nominees for year 2009 were named by Louise Solliday. Thank you letters to volunteers who had contributed more than 10 hours of service were signed by Chair Solliday. Certificates were also given and the names of volunteers who had contributed three or more years of service were added to the volunteer recognition plaque displayed in the Reserve's Interpretive Center. Chair Solliday expressed gratitude to all who have donated their time and care to the Reserve; and she thanked Deborah Rudd for her work with the volunteers and the local community. Refreshments were served after the recognition event.

### **Clarification of Public Meeting Laws**

Mike Graybill provided an update regarding Oregon public meeting law and procedures for staff to solicit comments from the Commission. With the assistance of SSNERR Commission chair Louise Solliday and Mr. Mark Shumock at the Oregon Department of Justice, staff researched the issue regarding whether e-mail communications between members of the Commission would constitute a public meeting for which formal notice would be required.

The Attorney General's office stated that, if deemed necessary, the Management Commission may give a Not less than a 24 hour notice to hold a public meeting. Also detailed in the briefing packet were the appropriate steps from the Attorney General's office for staff to solicit input from Commissioners. E-mail exchanges between Commissioners and staff are subject to disclosure under the public records law. If there

is a need or desire to keep interactions confidential, it is permissible for staff to discuss the individual views of Commissioners in confidence by telephone.

Commissioner Hamel commented that according to Oregon law, the minutes of a public meeting held on short notice need to state the reason for convening the emergency meeting. He asked the Chair whose responsibility it is to retain e-mail records in the case of Commission members corresponding between each other. Chair Solliday said she would check on whose responsibility it is to retain records if neither of the corresponding individuals is a public employee.

Chair Solliday asked if the Commission would like to formalize a process for dealing with the issues that were raised. Mike Graybill said that he was comfortable with the instructions he received from the Management Commission at the last meeting in November 2009.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Commercial Clam Harvesting**

Chair Solliday introduced a new business agenda item. Representatives from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon State Police have recently called attention to staff regarding possible commercial clam harvesting in the Reserve. Staff is currently looking into the administrative rules that govern activities within the boundaries of the Reserve. Some of the rules were revised several years back and while it is known that recreational shellfish harvest is permitted subject to Oregon's Fish and Wildlife regulations, law enforcement officers have asked staff to provide them with the current version of the rule that specifically precludes new or increased commercial activities such as clam harvesting. **Staff will provide an update on the matter at the July meeting.**

### **State Budget Process**

Chair Solliday distributed the Department of State Lands Internal Budget Development Schedule and the Department's Budget Presentation Preparation Schedule to the Commission. She said that the budget forecast looks dismal and the state economist expects a long, slow recovery. The Department of State Lands, which chiefly operates with Common School Funds, has been asked to provide cuts of 10% for the Legislature to consider. Agencies funded by General Funds and Lottery Funds have been asked to submit 25%. Chair Solliday said State Lands

will submit their budget to the Governor on August 1, 2010. She added that she will be able to provide more specifics at the July meeting.

## **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **Oregon Coast Education Program**

Tom Gaskill, SSNERR education program coordinator and Jenna Kulluson, Oregon Coast Education Initiative coordinator gave a PowerPoint presentation update to the Commission on the Oregon Coastal Education Initiative (OCEI). The primary objectives for the first year of the OCEI were detailed. One outcome of the project is to develop a network of educators focused on comprehensive coastal education for schools. Initial support for the effort has been obtained through a \$100,000 grant from NOAA's Bay Watershed Estuary Training (BWET) program

### **Partnership for Coastal Watersheds**

Craig Cornu, SSNERR coordinator of monitoring programs and Bessie Joyce, outreach coordinator for the Coos Watershed Association presented an update and PowerPoint presentation on the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds project. Financing has been obtained with a two year award of \$216,000 from the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technologies (CICEET). The work will focus on the local effects of climate change and changes in land use linked to the local community's quality of life and long term economic viability.

### **Oregon Solutions Project**

Mike Graybill provided an update on the current status of the Oregon Solutions project. Staff has followed up on the Commission's directive at the November meeting to work with the University of Oregon to procure the Hatzel property in Charleston. Commissioner Young set up an appointment with a number of high level administrative personnel at the University and the University seems to be interested in working with the Reserve. The UO Foundation has expressed interest in facilitating the real estate transaction that would be associated with the transfer of funds from the Reserve to the University. Commissioner Young and Mike Graybill have worked together to draft a task order that would be an amendment to the current interagency agreement and that outlines how funds will be transferred and what the Reserve's responsibilities will be to develop the property as an interim site for its administrative offices.

Since the Declaration of Cooperation has been signed for the Oregon Solutions project, Mike Gaul a representative from the Port of Coos Bay has retired and Steve Denny, the representative from Fish and Wildlife has announced his plan to retire in April.

Staff have submitted a \$150,000 proposal to NOAA for federal funds to facilitate moving the administrative facilities to Charleston. These funds would augment the existing funds available to help renovate the structures on the Hatzel property. Additionally, the Reserve has been invited by NOAA to submit a full proposal to develop "Science On a Sphere" a room sized, global display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data such as ocean circulation on a six foot diameter sphere, analogous to a giant animated globe.

Chair Solliday met with Roy Elicker, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife director to discuss the project. Fish and Wildlife will bear the primary share of the facility cost as they need to provide offices for 24 employees. A meeting is scheduled for the end of April with Senator Verger and Representative Roblan to get recommendations from them on how best to proceed with the project given the budget situation for the 2011-2013 biennium.

Chair Solliday asked if there was anything else for the good of the order.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Solliday adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.