



May 20, 2010
Grange Hall

The meeting was called to order by the president, Lora Creswick, at the Sauvie Island Grange Hall at 7:15 p.m.

In attendance: There were 22 previous members, 1 new member, and 1 guest present. A complete listing is included at the end of these minutes. Attendees introduced themselves.

Minutes: The April minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Past treasurer, Beverley Westlund, submitted a report of treasury activity since the last meeting. All but four sponsorship renewals have been received, and two new sponsorships are in the process, bringing the total to 24. There is a current balance of \$7121.25 in the checkbook.

The guest speaker for this evening, Scott Gall from the West Multnomah Soil & Conservation District (WMSWCD) was introduced by member Dick Springer. Scott touched on a few general topics of interest before addressing his primary subject of restoration of Sturgeon Lake.

- Control of invasive weeds is a current hot topic with the WMSWCD, and if a resident and/or property owner needs help in identifying and getting rid of invasive weeds, they can call the WMSWCD at 503-238-4775. Information is also available through their website at www.wmswcd.org.
- WMSWCD has tried to take up the slack since the OSU Extension Service withdrew from Multnomah County approximately seven years ago. They offer Master Gardener programs and are monitoring Sauvie Island wells for nitrate levels. With regard to the latter issue, while nitrate levels vary around the island, none are above the recommended levels of DEQ. More information is available at www.wmswcd.org.
- A WMSWCD sponsored island collection of hazardous material is being planned for late fall 2010. The idea is to provide an opportunity for residents and farm owners to get rid of toxic chemicals without having to travel far. More information will be available on the Sauvie Island website (www.sauvieisland.org) when it is available.

While the restoration of Sturgeon Lake has been studied for some 25-30 years, the most recent study became stalled following the 1996 flood. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to fund a feasibility study for the flushing of Sturgeon Lake, and once a plan is agreed upon, they will pay 75 percent of the implementation cost up to \$5 million. The WMSWCD will be partnering with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and will ultimately be responsible for the 25

percent cost share on the implementation of the project. Scott pointed out that these funds would likely come from outside grant sources. Given the location of Sauvie Island at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers along with new policies at State, Bonneville Power, EPA and others, the island and Sturgeon Lake will be a “hot bed” for restoration dollars in the future.*

In response to a question about the health of Forest Park trees at the end of his presentation, Scott stated that the WMSWCD is focusing primarily on working with private property owners adjacent to Forest Park to address the problem of invasive weeds. He further stated that they have a working relationship with the Portland Parks and Recreation Department, who oversee Forest Park. He also reported that the Lower Columbia Estuary Group is looking at increasing the habitation in and around Virginia Lake.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communication and Outreach: Linda Wisner reported that the committee is working on a lineup of speakers for future meetings. Earthquakes will be the topic for our next meeting on June 17, and an all-island potluck picnic is being planned for sometime in August. In the fall, topics of invasive weeds and well water will be addressed, and in the winter it is tentatively planned that Shari Raider from Sauvie Island Organics will speak to us about organic gardening.

Land Use Committee: Mark Greenfield reported that a few people have indicated through the website that they are interested in being on the Land Use Committee, and he asked that anyone present also let him know of their interest in being on the committee. He reported that according to Multnomah County legal counsel, it is unlikely that the Big Island Marina appeal will go much further. Also, an agreement is being considered between Multnomah County and Reeder Beach RV Park that would allow current full-time residents to stay in their trailer homes until they pass or move away. At that point, the trailer site will revert to temporary use only.

Lora Creswick announced that the board will promptly establish a Policy and Procedures Committee to primarily address such issues as committee responsibilities and accountability. She also thanked the retiring Bylaws and Nominating committees for their fine work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Lora Creswick announced that the 5-year tax levy for the Sauvie Island Fire District was approved by votes on Tuesday.
- Diane Kunkel reported that a local committee is currently involved in an 18-month process to establish a charter school at the Sauvie Island school. She added that every year someone on the Scappoose school board suggests closing the Sauvie Island school as a cost-saving/income-generating measure, and the removal of this constant threat is one of the main drivers behind the charter movement. Currently, about one-half of the student population comes from off island. In response to a question, Diane explained that under a new charter, all island children would have preferred access to the school, with off islanders filling in empty slots. Charter schools are allowed to actively market for students.

The meeting was adjourned by the president, Lora Creswick, at 8:15 p.m..

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 17, at 7:00 p.m. at the Grange Hall.

The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 1, at 4 o'clock at the home of Lora Creswick.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverley Westlund
Recording Secretary

*Comments in this section largely taken from the May 10, 2010, minutes of the Sturgeon Lake Planning Group.

List Attendees

Frank Bagon
Michelle Burger
Mark Greenfield
Todd Huson
Harriet Lovin
Dick Springer
JoAnn Waters White
Linda Wisner

List Attendees

Leslie Bagon
Yvonne Cieloha
Phil Harris
Dave Koennecke
Donna Matrazzo
Beverley Westlund
Skip White

List Attendees

Julia Bergren
Lora Creswick
John Huffman
Diane Kunkel
Barbara Scot
Harold Westlund
Rob Wiley

New Member: Ross Nelson

Guest: Scott Gall, WMSWCD