

SOUTH SLOUGH RESERVE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

AGENDA

South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
South Slough Interpretive Center
61907 Seven Devils Road - Charleston, Oregon

December 8, 2016

146th REGULAR MEETING 1:00-4:00 P.M.

- I. Call-to-Order**
- II. Introductions**
- III. Review of the 145th regular meeting minutes**
- IV. Public Input***
- V. Old Business**
- VI. New Business**
 - 1. Management Plan Revision update – Hannah
 - 2. Property Acquisitions to include within Boundary of SSNERR
 - 3. Use of Herbicides on South Slough – Hannah
- VII. Presentations**
- VIII. Information Reports**
 - 1. Administration/Facilities
 - 2. Education
 - 3. Science
 - 4. SSNERR Host Site Update- Jim Paul
- IX. Adjourn**

*Limited to 5 minutes each unless arranged in advance of the meeting.

** This meeting is being held in a facility that is accessible for persons with disabilities. If you need some form of assistance to participate in this meeting due to a disability, please notify Rebecca Muse at 541-888-5558 ext. 134 at least two working days prior to the meeting.

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

Oregon Institute of Marine Biology
Charleston, Oregon

Minutes of the 145th Regular Meeting
March 17, 2016

Commission members present:

Jim Paul, Chair

Lonne Mays

Trent Hatfield

Toni Ann Brend

Dr. Alan Shanks

South Slough NERR staff and others present:

Gary Cooper, Manager

Cynthia Wickham, DSL

Rebecca Muse

Bree Yednock

Deborah Rudd

Hannah Schrager

Ed Oswald

John Bragg

Kathy Andreasen

Don Smith

Jenni Schmitt

Ali Helms

Laura Mays, FOSS

Mike Allman

Eric Dean

Joy Tally

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Jim Paul Director of the Department of State Lands and Chair of the Commission.

INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone present at the meeting introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Chair Paul asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Commissioner Mays moved to approve and Commissioner Shanks seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

NEW BUSINESS

Management Plan Revision

Hannah Schrager gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission highlighting aspects of the 2016 - 2021 management plan revision for the Reserve. Components of the plan include the Reserve Strategic Plan, Reserve System Program Foundations, the Administrative Plan, the Resource Protection Plan, Public Uses of the Reserve, and Facilities development as well as the Land Acquisition Plan. An extensive review in draft form has been sent to NOAA and staff are waiting for their feedback on the document. Ms. Schrager explained that NOAA gives specific guidance for the development of the plan. NOAA has indicated they would like to bring the recently acquired lands purchased by SSNERR into the Reserve boundary; however, current Legislation precludes acquisitions that are located north of Valino Island from being included.

Ms. Schrager asked if the Commission could see any “red flags” in the Reserve’s strategic plan. Commissioner Brend asked if staff were going to address Swiss needle cast (SNC) in their efforts to restore the uplands. SNC is a foliage disease that is specific to Douglas-fir. Ms. Schrager responded that the Wasson project upland restoration will include some thinning of healthy and diseased trees.

Ms. Schrager concluded by saying once the management plan has been reviewed by NOAA, the plan will be open for public comment. Chair Paul thanked Ms. Schrager for the presentation.

Use of Herbicides on South Slough

Gary Cooper asked the Commission for their opinion on the possible use of chemical herbicides within the Reserve on a case by case basis to facilitate research projects or to combat invasive species. The Reserve’s administrative rules preclude the use of herbicides without prior approval of the Management Commission.

Commissioner Mays replied that any collateral or unintended damage resulting from their use is a consideration.

Ms. Schrage asked what kind of information the Commission would need from staff. Commissioner Mays said information from the MSDS charts would be helpful as well as the findings from any independent studies. He added that amphibians are much more sensitive to chemical agents than what might be included in the charts or research studies. Commissioner Brend said it would be helpful to consult the EPA, and to also look into using organic herbicides or biological agents.

Commissioner Shanks suggested looking at possible alternatives to the use of herbicides and also finding what the Europeans consider an acceptable risk in each case. Commissioner Hatfield said the potential value of the research should be weighed in with the possible risks and that he was not in favor of giving a blanket “no” to the idea. Chair Paul recommended looking at the status of the label requirements as some are not as up to date as others. The Commission agreed that it would be very important to consider how the herbicides might affect the local aquaculture.

Staff Reports

Rebecca Muse gave a brief update on the progress of several grant applications and the status of facilities and new staff hires. She expects to hear from NOAA shortly regarding the renovation grant for the research lab and the operations grant for the Reserve will be submitted in the next week.

Joy Tally briefed the Commission on recent activities and workshops for the education program. Estuary Explorers has been a very successful after-school learning opportunity thanks to Astrea; and Eric Dean is building new partnerships and featuring popular new events for the calendar. Joy has been busy with OCEP, a NOAA teacher training workshop program that is in its sixth year of funding at South Slough.

Deborah Rudd along with FOSS has the internship program up and running in full swing. Joy concluded by handed the Commission copies of the new Coastal Training Program Needs Assessment from John Bragg.

Bree Yednock and Hannah Schrage pulled out some highlights for the research and stewardship programs. There are many “hands-on science” opportunities for staff, volunteers and school groups with all of the monitoring and sampling fieldwork. The weather station is up and running in its new location. Adam and Ali are busy with the maintenance and data download of the pH and *p*CO₂ sensors. Jenni Schmitt is heading up the local stakeholders collaborative effort: [Partnership for Coastal Watersheds](#). Staff is waiting to hear the status of the NERRS Science Collaborative proposals that are pending.

Hannah continues to serve as a participant on the Coos Watershed Association’s restoration projects team and she is making progress on the Wasson Creek Watershed Restoration Plan. The Coquille Tribe granted funds to restore the culturally significant shed on the old Fredrickson homestead. The Tribe will provide specially milled period lumber (late 1800s) from their portable sawmill for the restoration. Commissioner Brend thanked FOSS and all others who helped on the grant.

Chair Paul asked if there were any questions and Commissioner Brend asked if staff had seen any lamprey. Staff acknowledged that a lamprey was sighted near the Port’s Distant Water Fleet Facility. In late July staff plan to borrow equipment to determine the abundance of lamprey in South Slough.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Paul adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.