

SOUTH SLOUGH RESERVE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

AGENDA

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

April 13, 2017

147th REGULAR MEETING 1:00-4:00 P.M.

I. Call-to-Order

II. Introductions

III. Review of the 146th regular meeting minutes

IV. Public Input*

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

1. Staff changes at the Reserve – Bree
2. Budget updates – Bree
3. Hunting map revision – Hannah
4. Reserve Management Plan update – Hannah
5. Winchester Parcel – Bree

VII. Presentations

1. Volunteer Appreciation - Deborah

VIII. Information Reports

1. Administration/Facilities
2. Education
3. Science

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**

South Slough Reserve Interpretive Center Auditorium
Charleston, Oregon

Minutes of the 146th Regular Meeting
December 8, 2016

Commission members present:

Jim Paul, Chair

Lonne Mays

Trent Hatfield

Bob Main

Dr. Alan Shanks

David Kronsteiner

South Slough NERR staff and others present:

Gary Cooper, Manager

Rebecca Muse

Bree Yednock

Joy Tally

Deborah Rudd

Hannah Schrager

Ed Oswald

John Bragg

Kathy Andreasen

Jenni Schmitt

Laura Mays, FOSS

Mike Allman

Eric Dean

Jesse Gilfillan

Talo Silver

Adam DeMarzo

Patrick Juarez

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 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.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Management Plan Revision

The draft management plan was submitted and staff has been addressing the comments from NOAA that were received last May. The Reserve's strategic plan is relevant and solid and another draft will be submitted before the end of this month. The revised plan will cover years 2017 to 2021. Bree Yednock reformatted the science section which will be used as a template by the education staff. The land acquisition section is complicated by the boundary updates. There will be a federal registry notice for the plan and for the lands acquired by the Reserve.

Commissioner Kronsteiner wanted to clarify that in regard to prior comments from the Port of Coos Bay, the Port will assume that there won't be any interference with the Port's property holdings, in particular the Charleston Shipyard. Ms. Schragger asked if there were any more questions. She said that local partners with the Reserve, such as the Tribes have not voiced any issues thus far with the proposed process of the Reserve.

Boundary Update

The State of Oregon, NOAA, and Reserve partners have supported the incorporation of ~1,100 acres into the Reserve with the finalization of the 2017-2021 Reserve Management Plan. These lands have been acquired through various conservation grants since 2008. All acquisitions were made from willing sellers and were formally approved by the State Land Board to be managed as part of the South Slough Reserve.

In 2017, the newly purchased lands will be brought into the Reserve to be included within the Reserve boundary. There will be a federal registry notice for the plan and for the lands acquired by the Reserve. Chair Paul asked if there will be a formal update to the plan when NOAA approves the boundary extension. Mr. Cooper and Rebecca Muse answered that the event will trigger a NEPA – an environmental assessment will be done on the lands.

Use of Herbicides

Ms. Schragger identified gorse as having a highly invasive presence on the Indian Point property. Prior efforts at mechanical removal have not been effective. Ms. Schragger said staff would like the flexibility to use selective herbicides if needed without calling an emergency meeting of the Commission. After some discussion the Commission agreed on a resolution.

Per the recommendation of the Chair:

Commissioner Kronsteiner moved that staff be given approval for one calendar year to apply herbicide, employing a certified technician, on gorse specific invasive plants consistent with the language of

OAR 142-010-002(3) states that “Chemical fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides will be used within the Reserve only if necessary to assure sound management of the ecosystem. Any allowed application of such chemicals shall be approved in writing by the Commission, after consultation with the Advisory Group, in accordance with best management practices so as to prevent direct application or discharge to the estuary waters. It is the intent of the Commission to preferentially utilize nonchemical management techniques of pest control. Chemicals will be utilized for pest or weed control only after it has been determined that the nature and integrity of the ecosystem is endangered by the pest or weed.

After which the decision would be reviewed by the Reserve’s Management Commission.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shanks and approved with all in favor.

The Commission advised staff to develop a Pest Management Plan in 2017 to serve the needs of the stewardship staff.

Information Reports

Staff shared some highlights and progress within their program areas.

SSNERR Host Site Update- Jim Paul

Chair Paul explained that there has not been very much new development since the last meeting at the end of August. A working agreement was signed between DSL, UO and OSU. We plan to keep the communication channels open and we have no intention of jeopardizing the work of the Reserve staff. The stewardship of the Common School Fund is of primary interest to the DSL as has been evident around the discussion of the Elliott forest. Presently the CSF provides support to the South Slough Reserve at around 1 million dollars per year.

Recently we were approached by the Coquille and the Confederated tribes regarding this issue and they indicated they would like to schedule a consultation with us for the end of January. We will keep you updated.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Paul adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.