

SOUTH SLOUGH RESERVE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

AGENDA

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

November 30, 2017

149th REGULAR MEETING 1:00-4:00 P.M.

I. Call-to-Order

II. Introductions

III. Review of the 148th regular meeting minutes

IV. Public Input*

V. Old Business

1. New Staff Introductions - Bree
2. Coal Bank Slough Donation Update – Bree
3. Younker Point Easement Application – Bree

VI. New Business

1. Indian Point (Presentation and Action Item) - Hannah
2. Baiting animals on Reserve managed lands – Hannah/Bree

VII. Presentations

1. Wasson Creek Watershed Restoration - Hannah

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 148th Regular Meeting
July 20, 2017

Commission members present:

Jim Paul, Chair

Lonne Mays

Trent Hatfield

Kris Wall

Alan Shanks

David Kronsteiner

Bob Cowen

Bob Main

South Slough NERR staff and others present:

Bree Yednock

Rebecca Muse

Jesse Gilfillan

Kyle Marenger

Deborah Rudd

Hannah Schrager

Ed Oswald

John Bragg

Kathy Andreasen

Jenni Schmitt

Laura Mays, FOSS

Mike Allman

William Owen

Patrick Barnes

Adam DeMarzo

Erika Alvarado

Jonathan Forth

Ali Helms

Tim Nagle-McNaughton

Patrick Huff

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.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

New Hires

Bree Yednock gave an update on the new hires at the Reserve. By August 16, all open positions will be filled and the Reserve will be fully staffed.

Yunker Point

The Reserve was recently informed by the Department of State Lands that the owner of Yunker Point has requested an easement through Reserve managed lands. At this time, the land owner has proposed two possible easement routes, both crossing Reserve managed land parcels that were acquired in 2011 with funds from NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Lands Conservation Program (CELCP). Reserve staff are working with DSL, Coos County, and the federal agencies concerned with the affected parcels to source the information needed to address the request. The Management Commission may be asked to weigh in on this request in the future.

Bree Yednock explained that at present, the application from the landowner is incomplete, and shortly a letter will be sent. Once the landowner submits a completed application, the application will go through a public review. The Reserve is in the

process of gathering input on the application. Part of the review process is to determine if the Reserve has the option to say “no”. The Commission discussed the map from the briefing packet. Commissioner Wall mentioned the NOAA requirements involved since the lands were acquired with CELCP funds and restricted for conservation; money could be owed back to NOAA if an easement were granted.

Staff will provide the Commission with further information on the issue. Bree Yednock said that staff may request a formal response from the Management Commission at a later date. Chair Paul said that he would have the general council at DSL look at the governing statute to determine the possible role of the Management Commission in a decision.

Bree Yednock said that prior to this easement request the Reserve had been exploring the option of vacating old roads in the Reserve, including the road involved in the easement request. Commissioner Main clarified that the Reserve would need to request the county to vacate the road, as the road is a county right of way. It would be a county decision. Chair Paul asked if vacating roads was addressed in the Reserve’s management plan. Ms. Schragger replied that the management plan only pertained to lands within the boundary of the South Slough NERR.

Chair Paul requested staff provide future updates to the Commission regarding road vacations. He added that he is separating the two issues, and more research is needed.

Coal Bank Slough

Local landowners have approached the Reserve to inquire about donating approximately 41 acres of tidal wetland located on Coal Bank Slough in the Coos estuary. Reserve staff see the potential for using the property for education programs, restoration work, and/or a field research site. The Reserve would need to spend approximately \$5,000-7,000 for property assessments and due diligence review. The land acquisition process can take several months and requires approval from the State Land Board.

The Commission discussed some pros and cons of acquiring the property, such as an additional work load on staff. Commissioner Kronsteiner added that the property is not contiguous to the Reserve. Commissioner Mays commented that the acquisition would be good for outreach and educational purposes. Bree Yednock said that staff would have to come up with funding for any due diligence work involved. Commissioner Main cautioned staff to invest in a title search to look for any deed restrictions. Bree said that as no objections were noted, staff will continue to explore the acquisition and update the Commission further.

Information Reports

Staff shared highlights and progress within their program areas.

Erika Alvarado, William Owen, Patrick Huff, Jesse Gilfillan, and Tim Nagle-McNaughton all gave interesting presentations to the Commission on their recent work at the Reserve. Bree presented for Katie Frame, currently at Padilla Bay NERR working on the Blue Carbon Stocks Assessment.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Paul adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.