

1 **SUMMARY OF JULY 9, 2020**  
2 **CLATSOP PLAINS CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #7**  
3 **ELECTRONIC MEETING**

4  
5 **Call to Order**

6 **The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Mary Kemhus, CPCAC Chair.**  
7

CPCAC Members Present	CPCAC Commissioners Absent	Staff Present	Public Present
Maria Pincetich	Diane Heintz	Gail Henrikson	
Mary Kemhus	Phillip Johnson		
Devon Abing			
Don Abing			
Robert Stricklin			

8  
9 **Introductions**

10 The CPCAC members and staff introduced themselves.  
11

12 **Review of Meeting Summaries:**

13 There were no corrections, additions, or deletions to either the November 14, 2019, or June 11, 2020,  
14 meeting summaries.  
15

16 **Public Comment and Input:**

17 None.  
18

19 **Review of Goal 5 Worksheets:**

20 Mary Kemhus reminded the committee members that comments from the Department of Land  
21 Conservation and Development had been received for Goals 1, 3 and 4. She asked the committee members  
22 to review those comments and be prepared to provide additional comments at the August meeting.  
23

24 Ms. Kemhus began discussion of the Goal 5 worksheet. She asked if any committee members had any  
25 comments about the goals listed on page one of the worksheets.  
26

27 Robert Stricklin stated the reservoir sites have been a contentious piece over the course of time. He  
28 referenced Statewide Planning Guideline #3. He stated that historically there has been opposition to  
29 including policies that would protect the aquifer on the Clatsop Plains as it was viewed as restricting  
30 property rights.  
31

32 Ms. Kemhus asked what point Mr. Stricklin was trying to make.  
33

34 Mr. Stricklin attempted to clarify his point.  
35

36 Ms. Kemhus asked Ms. Henrikson to verify that the County did not have any control over the state  
37 guidelines.  
38

39 Ms. Henrikson stated that that was correct.  
40

41 Mr. Stricklin continued to discuss the history behind attempts to protect the aquifer.  
42

1 Ms. Kemhus asked Mr. Stricklin what policy changes or inclusions he would recommend. Mr. Stricklin did  
2 not have any specific policies at that time to recommend.  
3  
4 Ms. Kemhus asked the committee if anyone had any comments about the policies on page two of the  
5 worksheet.  
6  
7 Mr. Stricklin discussed previous studies which determined that there was unlimited capacity for growth and  
8 that attempts to restrict growth based on resource availability should be eschewed.  
9  
10 Ms. Kemhus asked about Policy 9, which states “The county shall recognize existing surface mining  
11 operations as significant resources pursuant to Goal 5, and shall allow existing operations to continue for  
12 two (2) years without conforming to the performance standards in the zoning ordinance. Expansion beyond  
13 the limits of an existing site shall be in accordance with county zoning regulations.” She specifically asked  
14 why the two-year window had been established.  
15  
16 Ms. Henrikson stated that she did not know the answer, but would research it and report back to the  
17 committee. **[FOLLOW-UP: The two-year grace period was to allow sites adequate time to come into**  
18 **compliance with the performance standards. The performance standards were adopted on September**  
19 **30, 1980.]**  
20  
21 Mr. Stricklin discussed streamflow and water levels, citing Policy 5 on page three of the worksheet. He  
22 asked whether such things should be considered. He discussed current issues related to the provision of  
23 water and the City of Warrenton.  
24  
25 Ms. Kemhus stated that those were important comments and that it was definitely a difficult subject.  
26  
27 Mr. Stricklin stated that it could go on the committee’s list of things not to talk about.  
28  
29 Ms. Kemhus asked the committee members if there were any comments on page four of the worksheet.  
30  
31 No committee members had comments on the policies on page four.  
32  
33 Mr. Stricklin discussed how gravel mining wreaked havoc on spawning beds. He asked whether any statute  
34 had replaced ORS 541.605 as noted on Mineral and Aggregate Resource Policy #6 on page five of the  
35 worksheet. **[FOLLOW-UP: ORS 541.605 was renumbered 196.670 and subsequently renumbered 196.800**  
36 **(Definitions for ORS 196.600 to 196.921) in 1989. Section 196.600-196.665 establishes regulations for**  
37 **wetland mitigation.]**  
38  
39 Mr. Stricklin questioned whether the City of Astoria was still considering building a hydroelectric dam at  
40 Youngs River Falls. **[FOLLOW-UP: Per Nathan Crater, City Engineer for the City of Astoria, the Bear Creek**  
41 **Watershed is expected to handle the needs of Astoria for the foreseeable future. Using Youngs River Falls**  
42 **is not an option at this point in time. There may possibly be a reason in the future to release those water**  
43 **rights, but that would likely only happen if a regional group was formed to resolve a regional problem.]**  
44  
45 Ms. Kemhus asked about Wetland Policy #3.  
46  
47 Mr. Don Abing stated that the Chinook Nation does have an interest in Driscoll Slough as it is white-tailed  
48 deer habitat.  
49

1 Mr. Abing stated that the Chinook Nation would definitely be opposed to anything that would jeopardize  
2 the habitat for an endangered species such as the white-tailed deer. He stated that the members of the  
3 Chinook Nation have a traditional relationship with that species of deer.

4  
5 Mr. Stricklin asked whether the deer were showing up anywhere else in the county.

6  
7 Mr. Abing stated that there were some known white-tailed deer in the Clatskanie area, but that those deer  
8 have been routinely harvested along with the black-tailed deer, but have not been reported as such.

9  
10 Ms. Kemhus asked if there was proposed development along Driscoll Slough. Mr. Abing stated that there  
11 was apparently some kind of proposal for a bridge or other kind of transportation facility across the slough.  
12 He asked what need the county had and why the urgency. He stated that either answers should be  
13 provided or the slough should be left alone.

14  
15 Ms. Kemhus asked if he was proposing that the wording of the policy should be changed. Mr. Abing agreed  
16 that he was requested the language be revised.

17  
18 Ms. Kemhus asked staff to verify that the policies in the comprehensive plan had been written 20 or 30  
19 years ago. Ms. Henrikson confirmed that. Ms. Kemhus also asked staff whether any projects are proposed  
20 in that area. Ms. Henrikson stated that there are not proposed project at this time.

21  
22 Ms. Kemhus suggested that the language be strengthened to encourage the county to prohibit  
23 development in wetlands. Mr. Abing agreed, stating that there is no gain in reducing and eliminating more  
24 wetlands every day. Mr. Abing discussed areas, including the Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge,  
25 which were significant sites for the people of the Chinook Nation.

26  
27 Mr. Abing discussed the Natural Areas Policy #3. He questioned whether it was necessary to install a radio  
28 transmission facility on Onion Peak. He added that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has for  
29 many years dedicated this area for harvesting elk with bow and arrow. He stated that if the transmission  
30 facility were absolutely necessary it should not be in that natural area. He added that he was not sure if  
31 there was a need for a transmission facility as the site was in such close proximity to other radio towers in  
32 the area.

33  
34 Mr. Abing went on to discuss Natural Areas Policy #4, regarding the existing radio transmitter facility on  
35 Sugarloaf Mountain. He asked whether there was a problem with the facility that the committee members  
36 did not understand. **[FOLLOW-UP: The “Natural” designation for Sugarloaf Mountain was applied to the  
37 site as part of the 1980 comprehensive plan adoption. Goal 2 defines lands designated “Natural” as  
38 “those areas which have no been significantly altered by man and which, in their natural state, perform  
39 resource support functions including those functions vital to estuarine or riparian ecosystems. Publicly  
40 owned fragile and ecologically valuable areas, especially watersheds and groundwater resource areas,  
41 are most likely to be designated as Natural. Natural areas identified by the Oregon Natural Heritage  
42 Program, as well as fish and wildlife areas and habitats identified by the Oregon Wildlife Commission,  
43 should be considered for Natural designation.” The intent of the language in Policy #4 would be been to  
44 ensure that when this new designation was applied to Sugarloaf Mountain that the existing transmission  
45 facility was not required to be removed.]**

46  
47 Ms. Henrikson reminded the committee that these policies were developed 40 years ago. She stated that  
48 she was not aware of any problems with the transmitter facility on Sugarloaf Mountain. She stated that  
49 there is currently a permit application under review to construct a new tower on Sugarloaf Mountain.

1 Mr. Abing next discussed Water Resources Policy #1, which states that the county will cooperate and  
2 coordinate with state and federal agencies in assuring the maximum beneficial use of all water areas in the  
3 County. He asked if that would include the Skipanon River. Mr. Abing specifically cited the 8<sup>th</sup> Street dam in  
4 Warrenton, which is blocking the flow of the Skipanon River. He stated that it has been a very contentious  
5 issue and he does not understand why the issue is being tabled and not addressed. He stated that the dam  
6 has blocked the runs of salmon and chum that historically ran in the river.  
7

8 Ms. Henrikson stated that the Skipanon Water District is in the process of dissolution and that the dam  
9 would be transferred to the City of Warrenton. She added that because the dam is within the incorporated  
10 limits of Warrenton, it could not be addressed in the County's comprehensive plan.  
11

12 Mr. Abing asked whether anything has been done to address restoration of the tributaries on the south  
13 side of Cullaby Lake. He stated that these tributaries used to contain Coho and chum salmon and that it  
14 was a historical harvesting site for the Chinook. Mr. Abing and Mr. Stricklin continued to discuss the  
15 location of the waterways and the historical fish runs. Mr. Stricklin agreed that he also would like to protect  
16 the tributaries. Mr. Abing advocated for restoration of those wetlands and a reintroduction of the fish that  
17 historically sustained the people of the Chinook Nation.  
18

19 Mr. Abing and Mr. Stricklin continued to discuss methods that could be used to restore the wetlands at  
20 Cullaby Lake.  
21

22 Ms. Kemhus asked Mr. Stricklin and Mr. Abing to develop policy statements about how the comprehensive  
23 plan could support those goals. She asked that those draft policies be brought to the next meeting.  
24

25 **Mr. Stricklin proposed a policy that states "Provide a natural waterway between Cullaby lake and the**  
26 **drainage canal below the lake that does not require a fish ladder."**  
27

28 Mr. Abing noted that Water Resources Policy #3 was incomplete. **[FOLLOW-UP: The full policy should read:**  
29 **"Where municipalities or water district have identified possible conflicts between forest management**  
30 **practices and the maintenance of the integrity of their watershed, the County encourages these to work**  
31 **with the Northwest Region Forest Practices committee in the development of amendments to the**  
32 **Oregon Forest Practices Act that will provide needed modification and protection of state licensed water**  
33 **supply systems."]**  
34

35 Mr. Abing asked for clarification on Water Resources Policy #4, specifically where this applied and whether  
36 there was some sort of zoning issue involved? Ms. Henrikson explained that the policy would apply to all  
37 areas of the unincorporated county, but that there are certain zoning districts that specifically call out  
38 individual docks as a permitted use.  
39

40 Mr. Abing moved on to Wilderness Area Policy #1, asking where this area was located. The committee  
41 members did not seem to believe that there was a wilderness area within Clatsop County. **[FOLLOW-UP:**  
42 **There are no federal wilderness areas within Clatsop County. This was verified at the following website:**  
43 **<https://umontana.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a415bca07f0a4bee9f0e894b0db5c3b6>**  
44

45 Mr. Abing spoke about Historic Sites Policy #1. Mr. Abing stated that the Chinook Nation wants to make  
46 sure that proper recognition acknowledges the Clatsop Tribe of the Chinook Nation and their activities  
47 harvesting seafood, cedar and spruce.  
48

49 Mr. Stricklin stated that proper recognition was more than just calling it "Indian Beach."

1  
2 Mr. Abing addressed Historic Sites Policy #4. He asked where Falls Pulp Mill and Shepherd and Morse  
3 Sawmills were. **[FOLLOW-UP: The Falls Pulp Company was located at the base of Youngs River Falls. The  
4 Shepherd and Morse Sawmill Site was located in Westport, due east of the Crown Zellerbach pulp mill at  
5 Wauna, next to the Westport Ferry landing.]**  
6

7 Ms. Kemhus asked about the asterisk and double asterisks on some of the policies and what that indicated.  
8 Ms. Henrikson stated that it was to indicate that the text had been amended at some point. She added  
9 that typically a change would be followed by the ordinance number in brackets, so that changes could be  
10 trace back.  
11

12 Ms. Kemhus asked whether Historic Sites Policy #5 should be removed as it has been completed. The  
13 committee discussed whether the policy should be removed and reached a general consensus that it  
14 should be taken out of the comprehensive plan.  
15

16 **Mr. Abing next discussed Cultural Areas Policy #1. Ms. Kemhus stated that she also had comments on  
17 these policies. He recommended that the policy be changed to read as follows: "The County will review  
18 land use activities that will affect known archaeological sites. If it is determined that a land use activity  
19 may affect the integrity of an agricultural archaeological site the county shall consult with the Chinook  
20 Indian Nation, and then the State Historic Preservation Office, on appropriate measures to preserve or  
21 protect the site and its contents."**  
22

23 Mr. Abing discussed past occurrences where bones and artifacts had been dug up and removed to create a  
24 road. That incident was not in Clatsop County and Mr. Abing added that he did not want it to happen here.  
25 He stated that's why the Chinook Nation was insisting on being notified first.  
26

27 Mr. Stricklin asked whether the term "archaeological" also referred to the period post-Anglo-America  
28 invaders. He provided examples of how "archaeological" could include activities of 100 years ago. Ms.  
29 Kemhus asked for a definition of "archaeological". **[FOLLOW-UP: The Society for American Archaeology  
30 states that "Archaeology is the study of the ancient and recent human past through material remains."  
31 Staff was unable to locate a specific, universally-agreed-upon timeframe that constitutes "recent human  
32 past". Typically, structures are considered "historic" when they are at least 50 years old.]**  
33

34 Ms. Pincetich asked whether "cultural" sites could also be included, as a site may have cultural importance,  
35 but not necessarily archaeological importance. Mr. Abing stated that the Chinook Nation would appreciate  
36 that.  
37

38 Mr. Abing referred back to the hydroelectric dams at Youngs River Falls. He stated that this was a cultural  
39 site for the Chinook as it was a fish harvest site. He stated that fish spears, arrowheads and other artifacts  
40 were taken from the site. He added that the Chinook Indian Nation would be opposed to a hydroelectric  
41 dam at that location because it is a cultural and archaeological site.  
42

43 Ms. Kemhus asked if anyone had comments on Cultural Areas Policy #2. Mr. Abing stated that the term  
44 "Indian cairns" should be replaced with "Chinook Indian Nation cairns." He stated that the Chinook know of  
45 cairns and graves, but they are not in their possession at this time.  
46

47 **Ms. Kemhus suggested added the Chinook Indian Nation to this policy as well, so it would read: "Chinook  
48 Indian Nation cairns, graves and other significant archaeological resources uncovered during construction**

1 **or excavation shall be preserved intact until a plan for their excavation o re-internment has been**  
2 **development by the Chinook Indian Nation and the State Historic Preservation Office.”**

3 Mr. Abing stated that this will fall under NAGPRA, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation  
4 Act.

5  
6 Ms. Kemhus asked if members could provide additional input between this meeting and the next. Ms.  
7 Henrikson stated that there were three months scheduled to discuss Goal 5.

8  
9 Mr. Stricklin stated that he had notes regarding wildlife corridors, habitat remnants, buffer zones, complex  
10 woodlands, scenic views. He stated that he was not sure where these should be addressed. Ms. Kemhus  
11 asked whether these items could be incorporated into Goal 5 or if they would fit better in a different goal.  
12 Ms. Henrikson acknowledged that these items should be included in Goal 5. The committee continued to  
13 discuss Mr. Stricklin’s remnant phrases and how they could be incorporated into Goal 5.

14  
15 **Public Comment and Input:**

16 None.

17  
18 **Establish Regular Meeting Date and Time:**

19 The committee agreed to continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m.

20  
21 **Closing Comments and Adjournment:**

22 None.

23  
24 **There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.**  
25