

SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2020
CLATSOP PLAINS CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #9
ELECTRONIC MEETING

Call to Order

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

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

Mr. Stricklin began the meeting by discussing a piece of county-owned property on the west side of Ridge Road. He stated that this would be prime piece of natural habitat for frogs. Ms. Kemhus stated that she would like more time to review the map of county-owned properties rather than trying to discuss each property one-by-one. Mr. Stricklin asked if he could have two minutes to talk about this issue. Ms. Decker shared a map with the members and identified the various county-owned properties along the U.S. 101 corridor.

Mr. Stricklin provided history and detail about a piece of property on the west side of Highway 101 at the intersection with Sunset Beach Lane. He recommended that the County maintain ownership of this parcel. Mr. Stricklin also discussed a property on the east side of Highway 101 adjacent to Cullaby Lake Park. Mr. Stricklin continued to discuss various county-owned properties that he believed the County should continue to retain in its ownership. Ms. Kemhus suggested continuing this discussion at the next meeting.

Ms. Heintz asked whether the committee was responsible for reviewing the use of these properties and making recommendations to the County about how to use them. Ms. Kemhus stated that she recalled that the committee had agreed to look at these parcels and discussed the property adjacent to Cullaby Lake. Mr. Stricklin stated that the committee should be reviewing whether these parcels are Goal 5 resources worthy of additional protections.

Mr. Abing stated that that approach was not acceptable. He discussed the archaeological sites identified in Clatsop County and how they have increased in number from 53 in 1980 to 90 sites currently. He stated that these individual county-owned parcels may have significant impact on the Chinook people, including graves, cairns, and village sites. He added that he didn't want to dismiss those sites as having already been catalogued by the state and the county and that he didn't want to miss any places. He stated that the Chinook Council was concerned about this location of these archaeological sites that are not publicly identified and wanted to verify the location of those state-identified sites with the sites known by the Chinook Indian Nation. Mr. Abing expressed concern that some of those archaeological sites may have already been bull-dozed or otherwise destroyed and that the Chinook Indian Nation wanted to preserve as many of those sites as possible. Mr. Abing continued to discuss the need to conduct archaeological surveys on the county-owned parcels and, if needed, invoke the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) to repatriate and relocate remains.

Ms. Kemhus discussed a notice that had been sent to the committee members regarding the sale of property by the Wauna Mill. She asked if any of the committee members had comments on that. Mr.

1 Abing discussed the need to protect the white-tail deer. Mr. Stricklin stated that it is waste property for
2 ODOT and that there not likely to be white-tail deer in that particular location as it had been paved over.
3

4 **Review of Goal 5 Topics – Historic and Cultural Resources:**

5 Ms. Kemhus reviewed the three action items that the committee was to complete at the meeting. She read
6 Historic Resources Policy #1. She mentioned that the committee had previously reviewed this policy and
7 provided recommended revisions. She added that she had some additional suggested changes for the
8 committee to consider. She recommended that the policy should be revised to read “The County
9 encourages the State Parks Division, when developing a Master Plan for Clatsop County natural resources,
10 scenic and historic areas, and open spaces to give proper recognition to the historical activities that
11 occurred there.” She emphasized that the policy should apply to more than just Ecola State Park.
12

13 The committee discussed whether the policies should be site specific or whether the policies should be
14 more general and be applicable to all state park sites. Ms. Heintz asked what the term “protect” means.
15 She requested that staff revise the policies to reflect that.
16

17 Mr. Abing stated that the Chinook Indian Nation would want to be more specific in the language that was
18 used. He stated that instead of the term “Indian” the correct language would be “Clatsop Chinook”. He
19 discussed the history associated with the Clatsop Chinook. He stated that the language should not be 15th
20 century, but time immemorial. He stated that clean-up was needed in the document.
21

22 Ms. Heintz asked Mr. Abing whether he was referring to specific locations when he talked about specificity.
23 She discussed the difference between strategies, policies and goals and stated that some of the overly
24 specific policies in the comprehensive plan were more strategies than goals. She agreed that all of the
25 policies should address the cultural appropriateness of the Clatsop Chinook. However, she expressed
26 concern that if policies were going to be written for each specific location that has its own culture that the
27 committee might end up with an unclear document.
28

29 Mr. Abing stated that the correct name of the tribe is Clatsop Chinook. Ms. Decker asked if there was any
30 punctuation between the two words. Mr. Abing stated that there was not. Mr. Stricklin discussed
31 historical references to the Clatsop Plains in the journals of Lewis and Clark. He stated that there are many
32 locations of historic importance within the Clatsop Plains planning area.
33

34 Julia Decker asked for clarification that the consensus of the committee was to remove the term “Ecola
35 State Park” and replace it with more general language. She read to the committee what she understood to
36 be the correct revised language. Ms. Kemhus clarified that revised policy 1 should apply not just to parks,
37 but also natural resources, scenic and historic areas and open spaces.
38

39 Ms. Kemhus moved on to Historic Resources Policy 2. She stated that the cannon had been moved and that
40 staff was recommending that the policy be removed. Mr. Abing stated that the Clatsop Chinook had no
41 interest in this policy. **Ms. Kemhus asked all those in favor of removing the policy to raise their hands. All
42 present committee members voted to remove this policy.**
43

44 The committee members began discussion of policy 3. She asked whether any of the committee members
45 had concerns with that policy. No members of the committee indicated concerns.
46

47 Ms. Kemhus read Historic Resources Policy 4. She asked Ms. Decker whether staff had any updates on this
48 policy. The committee members continued to discuss where the plaques might be located. Mr. Abing
49 stated that the Clatsop Chinook had concerns with this policy as the Falls Pulp Mill was built over Clatsop

1 Chinook fishing site. He stated that this was a prime fish/food gathering source for the people who lived
2 between Walluski/Wallooskee and Youngs River Falls. Ms. Kemhus asked whether Mr. Abing was
3 advocating for language to that effect to be included on any commemorative plaque. Mr. Abing stated that
4 that was correct. Ms. Kemhus asked whether Mr. Abing could approve language for the plaque. Mr. Abing
5 stated that it would need to be approved by the Chinook Indian Nation Council. Ms. Kemhus asked that
6 staff note that language regarding the importance of the Falls site to the Clatsop Chinook be included in the
7 revised recommendation.

8
9 Ms. Kemhus read Historic Resources Policy 5. She asked if the committee members were in agreement to
10 remove this policy as it has already been completed. The committee agree to recommend that the policy
11 be deleted.

12
13 Ms. Kemhus read Historic Resources Policy 6. She stated that staff was recommending that the policy be
14 revised to state that the County “will continue to protect....” She asked the committee if there were any
15 other revisions to the policy. Ms. Heintz stated that it was still unclear as to what the county was obligated
16 to do if it states that it will protect a historical site. Ms. Decker cited an example of a cell tower that was
17 proposed on the Clatsop Plains on the ridge. She stated that staff used the policies in Goal 5 to guarantee
18 that the tower was designed to be a stealth/concealed tower.

19
20 Ms. Heintz asked whether there was a definition of “protect” other than providing examples. Ms. Decker
21 stated that there are so many different ways that could be used to protect a site or structure that it would
22 probably be impossible to work all those into a definition.

23
24 Ms. Kemhus read Historic Resources Policy 7. She stated that the committee had previously recommended
25 added the Clatsop Chinook Nation as one of the entities with whom the County should coordinate. Mr.
26 Abing explained that there are five tribes that make up the Nation. Ms. Heintz asked why there was a two-
27 year time limit. Ms. Decker explained that the language was likely originally put in to ensure that action
28 was taken in a timely manner. The committee continued to discuss whether the two-year time frame
29 should be removed from the policy. **The committee agreed to remove the two-year time limit and instead**
30 **state that the County would “continue to work with....”**

31
32 The committee began discussion of Cultural Resource Policy 1. The committee noted that the previous
33 recommended revision should be again revised to change “Chinook Indian Nation” to “Clatsop Chinook
34 Nation”. There were no further revisions to this policy.

35
36 The committee reviewed Cultural Resource Policy 2. This policy had been previously reviewed. The committee
37 agreed to change “Chinook Indian Nation” to “Clatsop Chinook Nation”.

38
39 The committee began to discuss the draft issues and policies worksheet. Ms. Decker explained the principles
40 behind this workshop and provided instruction to the committee members. Ms. Kemhus asked where the
41 identified issues on the worksheet came from. Ms. Decker explained the rationale behind the worksheet. Ms.
42 Heintz stated that Bradwood and Clifton were outside the Clatsop Plains planning area. She asked if the County
43 considered these two sites historically significant. Ms. Decker stated that they were not considered so at this
44 time.

45
46 Mr. Abing stated that the area towards Clifton, which was originally Cliff Town, was an extensive fishing village
47 for the Chinook people between Bradwood and Clifton. Ms. Kemhus asked whether the County should consider
48 this area as historic. Mr. Abing discussed the possibility of one day having a canoe landing and a plank house
49 built on the shores of the channel in this area. He discussed the historic use of the properties by the five tribes.
50 He discussed a map of the Lower Columbia Estuary that identified the site that was previously occupied and how

1 the people living there were evicted by the construction of the railroad and the sawmills and the destruction
2 caused by disease. He stated that this area is a very important site.

3
4 Ms. Heintz asked who owned the property. Mr. Abing stated that most of it was privately owned, except for the
5 beach area, which he believed was owned by the Oregon Department of State Lands. Ms. Kemhus stated that
6 the consensus of the committee was to include Bradwood and Clifton as historic sites.

7
8 The committee discussed a proposed policy addressing whether Clatsop County should become a Certified Local
9 Government. Ms. Kemhus and Ms. Decker were unsure what that term meant. Ms. Kemhus stated that the
10 committee members did not seem to have an opinion on this proposed recommendation. Ms. Heintz “asked
11 the Google” and identified the basic principles of the Certified Local Government program. She stated that it
12 appeared that there would be more access to grants and public funds. Ms. Decker said she would obtain
13 additional information and bring that back to the committee **[FOLLOW-UP: Information on the Certified Local
14 Government program, is attached]**.

15
16 The committee began discussing the proposed issues and policies related to cultural resources. Ms. Decker
17 explained the purpose of the proposed draft language. Ms. Kemhus stated she supported the language. Mr.
18 Abing cited NAGPRA and recommended language that would encourage finders of artifacts to contact the
19 Chinook Council. He stated that they would be the only interested party in anything found on Clatsop land, even
20 if it came from a coast Salish tribe. He discussed the history of trade between tribes. He stated that there is no
21 distinction between what is Chinook and what is somebody else’s artifact between it was all incorporated into
22 the process of fair trade and peaceful negotiation between different Aboriginal cultures. He added that if an
23 artifact was dug up from a grave, it would immediately need to be properly reburied with a sanctifying prayer
24 and song and could not be raised again. He stated that he could think of several sites where that sort of
25 desecration had occurred. He stated that the Chinook must be the first to address these types of situations.

26
27 Ms. Kemhus stated that including this proposed policy to develop a public education and outreach program
28 would assist people who might not be aware of the proper steps to take. She added that any program to assist
29 owners should include the Clatsop Chinook. She asked all members who were in favor of the proposed policy to
30 raise their hands. All committee members voted in favor of the proposed policy.

31
32 The committee discussed the second proposed cultural policy. Ms. Kemhus asked the committee members if
33 they had any additional input on this proposed policy. No further input was provided. She asked the committee
34 members to raise their hands if they were in support of the proposed policy. All committee members voted in
35 favor of the proposed policy.

36
37 Ms. Kemhus asked the committee members to review the inventory list. She asked if any of the known historic
38 sites had stood out to anyone or if there were sites that were not covered by the inventory. Mr. Abing
39 commented on the text in the comprehensive plan that discussed cultural resources. He stated that the Clatsop
40 Chinook were distinct from other coastal tribes.

41
42 Mr. Abing stated that there are five tribes that make up the Chinook Indian Nation – the Clatsop, the Lower
43 Columbia, the Willapa, the Wahkiakum, and the Cathlamet. He reiterated that the Clatsop Chinook should be
44 notified before the State Historic Preservation Office.

45
46 Ms. Kemhus directed staff to text on page 25 of the agenda. She specifically mentioned language in the second
47 paragraph under “Cultural Areas” that needed to be revised. Mr. Abing stated that the language should reflect
48 that the Clatsop Chinook have lived in the area since time immemorial. Mr. Abing also discussed the language
49 that stated the “Indians typically avoided settling the forested areas because of the difficulty of travel.” HE
50 stated that the forested areas in the past were not as dense as they are today because the Chinook did not
51 practice clear-cutting.

1 Mr. Abing discussed that the Creator allow the Chinook to just harvest what was benefited to them from the
2 storm along the riverbanks of the Columbian tributary stream. He said they used what was cast upon the shore
3 for making canoes, but harvested materials for planks. **Ms. Kemhus asked if Mr. Abing would prepare new
4 language and forward it to staff. Mr. Abing agreed to do so after consulting with the Cultural Committee and
5 the Council members.**

6
7 Mr. Abing discussed the 53 known archaeological sites that were mentioned in the following paragraph in the
8 comprehensive plan. He stated that the Council was very concerned about those sites and questioned the new
9 list of 90 sites and how they were determined. He stated that it would be very beneficial for the Clatsop
10 Chinook to review that list against their known sites to make sure that they were all protected. Ms. Decker
11 stated that the list was kept confidential by the state in order to prevent looting or destruction of sites. She
12 added that she was not aware of a site list that was maintained by the Community Development Department,
13 but that staff would likely need to contact SHPO.

14
15 Ms. Kemhus asked if it was possible to draft a new policy regarding working with the Clatsop Chinook to develop
16 procedures for working with known archaeological sites. Mr. Abing asked if it might require a Memorandum of
17 Understanding (MOU) between the County and the Clatsop Chinook. Ms. Kemhus stated that maybe a timeline
18 could be added to the policy to ensure timely enactment. Mr. Devon Abing suggested an on-going MOU
19 between the Clatsop Chinook, County and State. Mr. Devon Abing cited the example of a plank house in
20 Washington. He stated that in that case Fish and Wildlife is required to notify the tribe prior to any events or
21 activities being conducted at the plank house. He said the agreement is updated every year. He added that this
22 creates extended communication between the tribal, county and state governments.

23
24 Ms. Decker asked if Mr. Devon Abing was requesting a policy that would support that type of collaboration. She
25 stated that the comprehensive plan can't require an MOU. Mr. Devon Abing stated that as long as the policy is
26 structured in such a way that it would allow the tribe to have input on decisions the county decides to make that
27 would be acceptable. He emphasized the need to create a working relationship between the various
28 governmental entities.

29
30 Ms. Kemhus asked if the committee would be able to review the proposed language at the next meeting. Ms.
31 Decker agreed to include the draft policy in the meeting summary. **[FOLLOW-UP: Proposed draft policy: Clatsop
32 County will establish ongoing clear and open lines of communication with the Clatsop Chinook and state
33 agencies to create a collaborative process where information is openly and freely shared in order to obtain full
34 input from all parties when considering land use decisions.]**

35
36 Mr. Stricklin commented on the topography and hydrology of the spruce swamps. He stated that it is very
37 difficult to cross these areas and would have been more so in previous centuries. He cited accounts from the
38 journals of Lewis and Clark documenting the difficulty they encountered trying to cross these areas. He said that
39 it was a rich historic area that he didn't want the committee to gloss over.

40
41 Mr. Abing stated that the Clatsop Chinook are people of the water and they would have traveled in various-sized
42 canoes and would have portaged canoes through certain areas. He stated that the Chinook were the master of
43 their place. He stated that some of those portages were still intact.

44
45 **Public Comment and Input:**

46 None.

47
48 **Closing Comments and Adjournment:**

49 Mr. Abing again discussed the discrepancy between the 53 sites mentioned in the comprehensive plan and
50 the 90 sites currently inventoried by the state. He reiterated that the Clatsop Chinook would like that list in
51 order to compare the state sites to the Nation's known sites.

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Ms. Heintz thanked Mr. Don Abing and Mr. Devon Abing for the history lesson. Mr. Don Abing asked if the committee would be discussing the remaining historical sites in Clatsop County. Ms. Kemhus asked staff to reserve time on the October agenda for this discussion. **[{FOLLOW-UP: A list of historic resource and cultural resource policies specific to the Clatsop Plains Community Plan is attached to this meeting summary.}]**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:29pm.