Summary of July 14, 2020
Northeast Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting #8
Electronic Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Tallie Spiller, Clatsop County Community Development Director.

NECAC Members Present	NECAC Commissioners Absent	Staff Present	Public Present
Tallie Spiller	Dirk Rohne	Gail Henrikson	Comm. Kathleen Sullivan
Cheryl Johnson	Jennifer Rasmussen	Victoria Sage	Jed Arnold
Kelly Huckestein			

Welcome and Introductions

The NECAC members, staff and members of the public introduced themselves.

Review of Meeting Summaries:

There were no changes to the summaries of the November 7 and December 10, 2019 meetings or to the June 8, 2020 meeting summary.

Public Comment and Input:

None.

Review of Goal 5 Worksheets:

Ms. Henrikson provided a brief overview of the topics covered by Goal 5. She stated that a majority of Clatsop County's Goal 5 is dedicated to aggregate resources. She suggested that the committee begin working through each of the policies in Goal 5 to determine whether those policies should be deleted, retained or revised. She stated that there are currently three months scheduled for the discussion of Goal 5, so there is no need for the committee to complete its review this evening. Ms. Henrikson added that the committee should also identify any new issues and policies that Goal 5 should address.

Ms. Spiller directed the committee's attention to the Goal 5 workshop. Ms. Henrikson explained the information that was contained in each column. Ms. Spiller read Policy 1: "The county shall protect significant mineral and aggregate resources consistent with Statewide Planning Goal 5 and the process for complying with the Goal specified in Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 660, Division 16."

Ms. Spiller and Ms. Johnson agreed that the Goal 5 was very broad. Ms. Johnson stated that the committee should take a step back and consider the big picture. She stated that the stated purpose of Goal 5 is to protect natural resources, but that the bulk of the material is specific to aggregate resources. She added that there are no policies related to scenic areas, historic areas, open space or natural resources.

Ms. Spiller asked whether the committee preferred to go through the existing policies one at a time or whether the committee would prefer to begin identifying new issues and policies. Ms. Johnson stated that she was okay with continuing to review each policy one-by-one.

Ms. Johnson noted that there are 30 policies related to minerals and aggregate. Ms. Spiller stated that it is difficult to determine which policies have been completed, without more knowledge regarding aggregates and minerals.

Ms. Huckestein asked whether the Goal 5 workshop in August would address aggregate and mineral issues. She stated that this topic can be overwhelming, especially since this is an area where most of the committee members have little knowledge or experience.

Commissioner Sullivan asked whether these policies related to mineral rights on county-owned land. Ms. Henrikson stated that these were policies that applied to private- and publicly-owned property within unincorporated Clatsop County. She added that it was not related to mineral rights, but to the extraction of aggregate and the ability to continue extracting aggregate even though development may be occurring around those properties.

Returning to Ms. Huckestein's question regarding the workshop, Ms. Henrikson stated that there would likely be several workshops addressing the various inventories covered by Goal 5. She stated that the first workshop in August would focus primarily on wetlands and riparian areas.

Ms. Spiller reiterated her original question to the committee regarding how they would prefer to work through the policies in Goal 5. Ms. Huckestein stated that she had reviewed several other counties' Goal 5 to see what categories they highlighted and focused on and how long they were. She asked whether there are policies that need to be added. She said it might be better to start with the overall big picture of what Goal 5 was trying to accomplish.

Ms. Spiller asked which counties Ms. Huckestein had surveyed. Ms. Huckestein cited Lane County as an example. She stated that the entire comprehensive plan is only about 70 pages and that it very manageable, with the goal being broken down into the individual inventory areas. Ms. Spiller pointed out that those resources are really reflected in the title of the goal, which should determine how the goal should be written and laid out.

The committee continued to discuss resources that should have specific policies included in the comprehensive plan. These resources included open spaces, scenic and historic areas and wetlands.

Ms. Johnson began discussing the Goal 5 worksheet and the existing policies. She stated that the energy policies looked good, but there was no goal associated with these policies.

The committee continued to discuss which resources had existing policies in the comprehensive plan and which did not. The general consensus of the committee members was that there were sufficient policies to allow the group to continue moving forward in their review.

The committee members asked staff whether they would be able to advise the committee as to which aggregate/mineral policies had already been fulfilled and which needed to remain. Ms. Henrikson stated that she was not prepared to lead that discussion at this time as she was not familiar with the technical information that might be asked of her. The consensus of the committee was to move forward with review of the policies related to resources other than aggregate/minerals.

The committee members moved on to discussion of the energy sources policies. Ms. Johnson stated that there should be a corresponding goal that overarches the policies. Ms. Spiller read Energy Sources Policy #1: "Development shall not be allowed to impair the feasibility of potential wind generating facilities at sites identified as appropriate for such generation."

The committee discussed what factors would be associated with a site that has "potential" and whether almost any site might have some potential for wind generation. Ms. Henrikson stated that while there was likely a standard that the wind energy industry uses, she did not immediately know that number. She stated that the purpose of the policy was to protect the ability for the resource to be used. Ms. Henrikson discussed inquiries that staff had received regarding a wind turbine facility on Nikolai Ridge. **[Follow-up: Utility-scale wind power plants require minimum average wind speeds of 13 mph. (culturechange.org/wind.htm). Cut-in speed, or the level at which a turbine will start to generate**

electricity is between 6-9 mph. Turbines will shut down if the wind exceeds roughly 55 mph (American Wind Energy Association)]

Ms. Huckestein suggested revising the wording to include encouraging the exploration of other alternative energy sources as well. She stressed the importance of protecting places where energy facilities should not be located as well as the need to preserve spaces specifically for alternative energy facilities. The committee continued to discuss whether a site should be reserved, even if there are no known plans to develop an alternative energy facility there.

Ms. Spiller asked whether someone who developed in an area next to a potential wind site could then sue even if nothing had been developed on the wind site property. Ms. Henrikson used the analogy of agricultural facilities and how there were protections provided for farms in farm zones, which negated the ability of residents developing next to the farm and then claiming the farm was a nuisance.

Ms. Johnson stated that she was fine with leaving Energy Sources Policy #1 as it is currently written. Ms. Spiller stated that she would prefer to have individual sites identified and listed in the comprehensive plan. She added that this could be based on how much wind a site has. She expressed concern about holding land aside for alternative energy uses and what impact that would have on the county.

Ms. Spiller address Energy Sources Policy #2: "The County will rely on state and federal permitting processes to govern the location of low-head hydro projects and to resolve any conflicts that may result from such projects." The committee members inquired as to what low-head hydro projects were. Ms. Henrikson stated that she also did not know what these were. The committee delayed discussion of this policy until further information was received. **[Follow-up: Low-flow hydro facilities are small dams, sometimes up to two feet in height, that are used in streams or ditches to generate electricity. They can act as a barrier to fish passage.]**

Ms. Huckestein stated that a policy should be added that addressed all different types of alternative energies. She said that she found it confusing that some energy types were discussed in certain terms, but others, such as low-head hydro, were given very specific wording. The committee consensus was that there should be a policy encouraging all renewable energy sources.

Commission Sullivan stated that it was disappointing that after 40 years there are not more renewable energy projects in the county. Ms. Spiller asked about including community solar projects and how the county could encourage that type of renewable energy use.

Ms. Spiller read Energy Sources Policy #3: "Clatsop County shall apply the Goal 5 Administrative Rule to oil, gas, nuclear, and large-scale hydro that are proposed in the future." The committee members asked what the Goal 5 Administrative Rule is. Ms. Henrikson explained that it part of the Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) that detail the criteria against which applications should be reviewed. The committee discussed whether there were likely to be any large-scale hydro or nuclear facilities proposed within Clatsop County, although the members acknowledged that it could be referring to another LNG project. Ms. Henrikson showed the committee the DLCD webpage that contained links to the Goal 5 Administrative Rule. She stated that Ian Sisson had also previously sent out the information in April along with other Goal 5 background materials. The committee requested that the information be sent again. **[Follow-up: Excerpts from the Goal 5 Administrative Rule addressing wetlands and riparian corridors were included in the agenda package email that was sent on August 6, 2020, to the NECAC members. A link to the full Administrative Rule can be found here.]**

Ms. Spiller read Energy Sources Policy #4: "If and when the City of Astoria intends on constructing a hydroelectric facility at the Youngs River Falls site, Clatsop County shall, in cooperation with the City of Astoria, apply the Goal 5 Administrative Rule." She asked with the City of Astoria was still considering this project. Ms. Henrikson stated that staff would be contacting the City to verify whether this was still

a valid project. **[FOLLOW-UP: Per Nathan Crater, City Engineer for the City of Astoria, the Bear Creek Watershed is expected to handle the needs of Astoria for the foreseeable future. Using Youngs River Falls is not an option at this point in time. There may possibly be a reason in the future to release those water rights, but that would likely only happen if a regional group was formed to resolve a regional problem.]**

The committee began to discuss the wetlands policies.

Jed Arnold noted that the topics being discussed were not necessarily noticed in the public notice. He added that people who were interested in wetlands or energy policy might not necessarily have attended this meeting based upon the wording in the advertising. Ms. Henrikson verified that the published ad had not specifically noted that Goal 5 would be the topic of discussion, but added that there were no specific advertising requirements for the committee meetings. Ms. Henrikson recommended that the committee discontinue specific discussion on the policies and instead concentrate on identifying areas where they wanted additional information.

Commissioner Sullivan asked about logging roads that are constructed to support forestry management. She asked whether this is something that is covered in the comprehensive plan. Ms. Henrikson stated that Goal 4 addressed long-range planning related to forest lands. Commissioner Sullivan stated she was specifically thinking about aggregate that was quarried for logging roads.

The group continued to identify areas where they wanted additional information.

Ms. Johnson asked for a copy of the recommendations that the ad hoc Wetlands Advisor Committee presented to the Board of Commissioners in March 2017. Ms. Henrikson stated that those had previously been emailed to the committees on April 13, 2020. **[Follow-up: A copy of the March 22, 2017, Board of Commissioners work session minutes, including the recommendations of the ad hoc Wetlands Advisory Committee, was included in the August 13, 2020 agenda materials sent to the NECAC members on August 6, 2020.]**

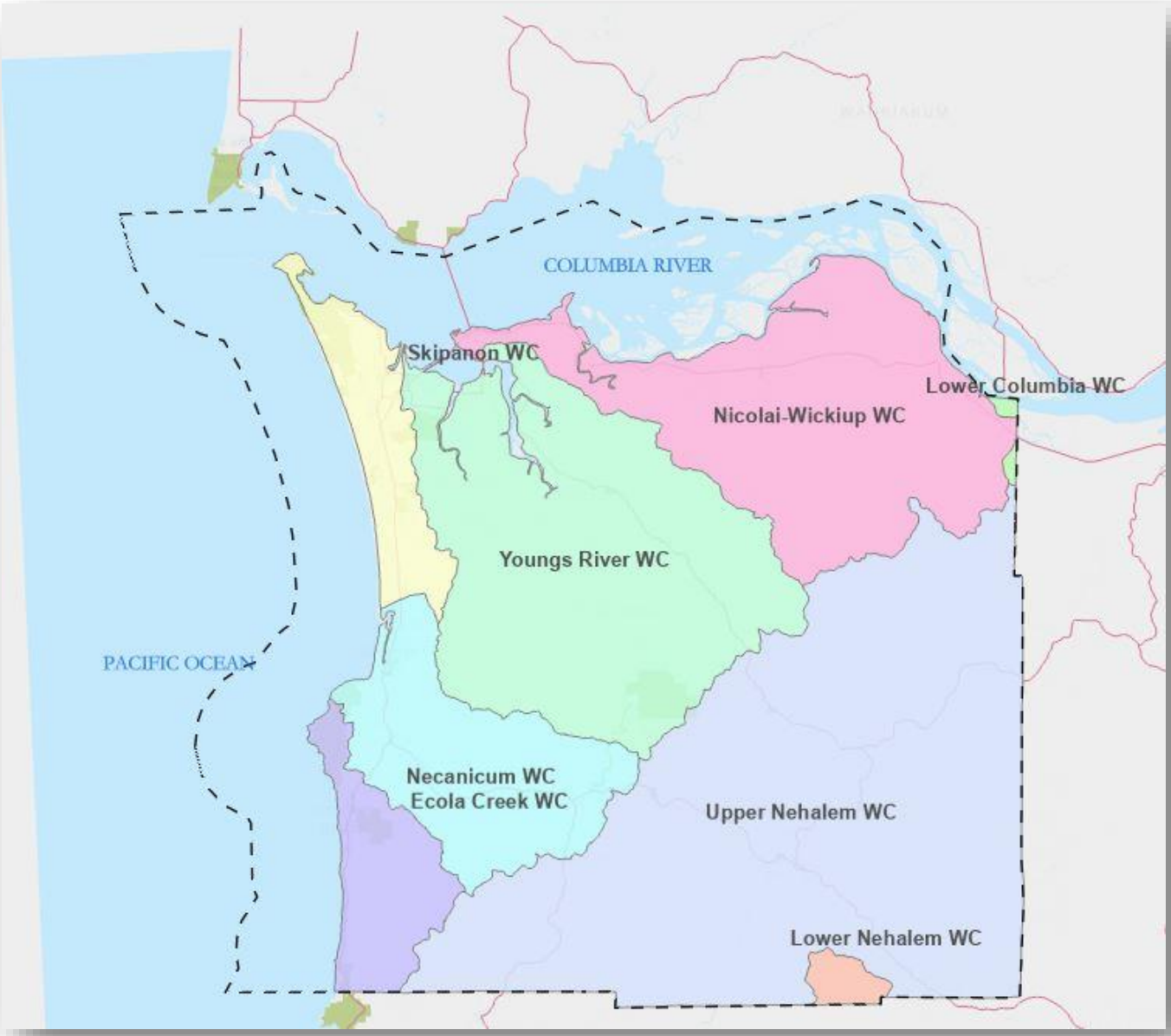
Ms. Johnson also asked whether the inventory that was being done by the state had been completed. Ms. Henrikson stated that it had been completed and approved. **[Follow-up: A link to the Statewide Wetlands Inventory can be found here.]**

Ms. Spiller asked about the 10-acre site in Wetland Site 6. The staff note had a question as to whether that site had been transferred to the Nature Conservancy. Ms. Spiller asked whether staff had verified this. Ms. Henrikson stated that staff had not. **[Follow-up: Portions of Wetland Site 6 (identified as CP#20 in the Duncan Thomas Report) have been transferred to the North Coast Land Conservancy. Other parcels continue to remain under private ownership.]**

Ms. Johnson asked about the location of Wetland Site 7. Ms. Henrikson showed the committee members how to access the wetlands map in Goal 5 utilizing the County's website. **[Follow-up: Wetland Site 7 on the map (included in August 13, 2020, NECAC agenda) is actually listed as Wetland Site 9 in the accompanying Goal 5 text (also included in the August 13, 2020, NECAC agenda). Wetland Site 9 is described as the Driscoll Slough marshes, between Wauna Mill and Westport. The acreage of this wetland area is approximately 360 acres.]**

Ms. Johnson asked whether there were new, more modern maps. Ms. Henrikson said that there were not.

Ms. Johnson asked whether there was a map of the water districts. Ms. Henrikson stated that this information was available on WebMaps on the County's website. Ms. Johnson also asked for a map of the watersheds. **[Follow-up: A map showing the watershed boundaries was included in the original Goal 5 background report provided to NECAC members in November 2019. A copy of the map is also shown below.]**



Ms. Huckestein asked what the asterisk meant next to certain policies. Ms. Henrikson explained that the asterisk indicated that the policy had been amended.

Commissioner Sullivan asked whether the comprehensive plan discussed water quantity or just water quality. Ms. Henrikson stated that water quantity is controlled by the Water Resources Department, with regard to wells and surface water. Commissioner Sullivan stated that she was more concerned with summer drought, but that that might be outside the scope of the plan.

Ms. Spiller asked whether there was a definition of what makes things "wilderness" or how "wilderness area" is defined. Ms. Henrikson stated that there is no definition in the comprehensive plan, nor are there are wilderness areas in the County of which staff is aware, but that information would be verified. **FOLLOW-UP: There are no federal wilderness areas within Clatsop County. This was verified at the following website:** https://umontana.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a415bca07f0a4bee9f0e894b0db5c3b6**]**

The committee reviewed the Historic Sites policies and the Cultural Areas policies. Ms. Johnson asked whether policies should be drafted to provide protections for historic cemeteries and/or archaeological sites. The committee agreed that policies should be included for both resources.

Ms. Johnson asked about Historic Sites Policy #7: "Clatsop County will work with the Clatsop County Historical Society and the State Historic Preservation Office to evaluate the historical significance of sites and buildings identified by the Citizen Advisory Committee. The Goal #5 Administrative Rule evaluation process will also be applied at that time. The County will take appropriate action to protect any sites that are placed on the State of Oregon Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings. This will be completed in the next two years." Ms. Johnson specifically wondered whether this had been completed. Ms. Henrikson stated that she did not believe that it had been completed, but would verify. **[Follow-up: The Oregon Historic Sites Inventory for Clatsop County (included in the Goal 5 Historic Resources background materials provided to the CAC in an email dated December 30, 2019). Reviewing the sites in unincorporated Clatsop County that are included on this inventory, staff did not find any policies or protections directed at these structures or sites. Staff's conclusion is that this policy has not been completed. Regulations regarding protection of historic sites specifically identified in the comprehensive plan are included in Section 3.192, Clatsop County *Standards Document.* Section 3.194 of the *Standards Document* contains regulations regarding protection of archaeological sites.]**

Ms. Spiller asked whether plaques had been placed at the Falls Pulp Mill and the Shepherd and Morse Sawmill, per Historic Sites Policy #4. Ms. Henrikson stated that would have to be verified. **[FOLLOW-UP: The Falls Pulp Company was located at the base of Youngs River Falls. The Shepherd and Morse Sawmill Site was located in Westport, due east of the Crown Zellerbach pulp mill at Wauna, next to the Westport Ferry landing. Staff has not yet been able to verify whether plaques were ever placed at these sites.]**

Ms. Johnson asked about the location of the Westport Tunnel. **[Follow-up: The tunnel appears to be located on Westport Tunnel Road. Additional information on this site can be found here.]**

Ms. Huckestein suggested combining the historic and cultural policies as they were closely linked. Ms. Johnson stated that scenic areas are not addressed in the comprehensive plan. Ms. Huckestein stated that could possibly be combined with scenic areas, which also do not appear to be addressed in the plan. Ms. Henrikson stated that there is discussion in the plan about scenic areas, but no policies were prepared.

Ms. Johnson stated that open spaces are also not addressed in Goal 5. She asked if that referred to parks. Ms. Henrikson stated that Goal 8 specifically discusses recreation lands.

Ms. Henrikson asked the committee members what specific information they wanted regarding aggregate and minerals. Ms. Johnson stated more information regarding what policies could be eliminated or combined would be useful.

Ms. Johnson stated that fish and wildlife habitat resources were also not addressed in the comprehensive plan. She asked about essential salmon habitat waters and the Clatsop County fisheries, including one on Blind Slough. Ms. Huckestein stated that she would like to see a fish and wildlife section and specific policies added.

Public Comment and Input:

None.

Establish Regular Meeting Date and Time:

The committee members agreed that because two of the members were absent it would not be appropriate to establish a regular meeting date and time. Ms. Henrikson stated that she would send out a Doodle poll to the members in order to establish the next meeting date and time.

Closing Comments and Adjournment:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:28pm.

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