

Summary of November 7, 2019  
Northeast Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting #5  
Knappa Fire Station  
43114 Hillcrest Loop  
Astoria, OR 97103

**REVISED**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Jennifer Rasmussen, NECAC Chair.

**NECAC Members Present**

Kelly Huckestein  
Cheryl Johnson  
Dirk Rohne  
Jennifer Rasmussen

**NECAC Commissioners Absent**

Tallie Spiller

**Staff Present**

Gail Henrikson  
Victoria Sage

**Public Present**

Courtney Bangs  
Richard Bangs  
Dana Bangs  
Kristin Rasmussen  
Jed Arnold  
Jacob Vail  
Kym Baird  
Dan Bartlett  
Vickie Barrett  
Misty Ogier

**Welcome and Introductions**

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

**Review of October 3, 2019, Meeting Summary:**

No corrections, additions or deletions were provided.

**Report from Countywide CAC Liaison:**

Ms. Johnson reported that the Countywide CAC (CCAC) group yielded their October meeting time to a workshop on the Forest Practices Act (FPA) with the Oregon Department of Forestry. Her feedback on the workshop included recommendations to spend more time on the FPA itself, less time on its history, and less time on the taxation process. Mr. Rohne agreed that Clatsop County Finance Director Monica Steele may be a better choice to give relevant tax data for the Comprehensive Plan update process.

**Comprehensive Plan Update Overview**

Ms. Courtney Bangs inquired why the county has decided to do the update process. The group spent some time discussing how the Comprehensive Plan ties into regulation and the background for how the meeting agendas and their discussion questions are created.

Ms. Courtney Bangs stated that the update process needs to be science based, and that she still wasn't sure why the County is making changes to the Comprehensive Plan. The group then discussed the update process.

Ms. Huckestein stated that despite there currently being no policies for Goal 3, she would like to see some made for New Goal 3.

**Discussion of Goal 4 – Forest Lands:**

1 Ms. Johnson stated that her property is surrounded by forest lands. She suggested that for the discussion of  
2 the agenda questions, the group move the climate change-related questions to the end of the meeting. She  
3 then provided feedback for the policies in current Goal 4. Regarding Policies #s 1, 3, and 10 (Goal 4, page 1):  
4 these summaries are good and she hopes they stay in the rewrite. She especially liked the working of Policy  
5 1, the road policy.

6  
7 Ms. Johnson stated that maintenance of clean water is important, however, the FPA prohibits local  
8 governments from enacting regulations that would restrict forestry activities. She brought up the example  
9 of the lawsuit from Rockaway Beach. She asked how we could keep the drinking water safe for citizens if  
10 they're affected by forestry activities. Ms. Bangs inquired if there was any testing done in Rockaway to  
11 verify that the watershed was affected by forestry activities. Ms. Johnson wondered how to work with the  
12 FPA if additional safeguards are desired, and suggested revising language to say "at a minimum...."

13  
14 Ms. Courtney Bangs stated that the FPA is the FPA, but some industry members will voluntarily go "above  
15 and beyond".

16  
17 Mr. Rohne stated that houses in the forest interface zone are increasing, along with wildfire issues. He  
18 doesn't want to "rodeo" people into these zones and then affect the FPA.

19  
20 The group briefly discussed the disclosure obligations of real estate agents when a house is next to a  
21 working forest, and the County's role in notifying property owners. Mr. Rohne stated that zoning is  
22 intended to protect property values.

23  
24 The group discussed public safety in relation to the FPA, including squatters and code enforcement. The  
25 group also discussed issues related to recreation, trash dumping and vandalism. Hampton Lumber's panel  
26 of representatives explained their open lands policies. The group discussed how to maximize values and  
27 resources.

28  
29 The group discussed how to get more involved with emergency planning, and talked about keeping an  
30 inventory of privately-owned equipment that can be used during emergencies.

31  
32 Ms. Johnson stated that she'd like to keep the wording as-is for Goal 4, Policy 10. Ms. Huckestein suggested  
33 a separate policy that encourages collaboration with private land owners.

34  
35 The group's discussion moved to aerial spraying in conjunction with timber harvesting, including the  
36 perceived impacts versus real impacts; the practices of local industrial timber owners versus out-of-state  
37 owners. The group agreed that the issue is very complicated, and it is difficult to apply broad policies that  
38 may be ineffective in many unique cases. Mr. Rohne stated that many people at the FPA workshop  
39 expressed concerns that should be acknowledged and addressed by both sides. Mr. Arnold asked for the  
40 concerns to be addressed by scientific investigations.

41  
42 The group discussed differences in Oregon's regulations from neighboring Washington and California. Mr.  
43 Bangs stated that specific rules in CA law are causing the problems with wildfires, and wondered how to  
44 encourage people to live away from forestlands. Ms. Johnson brought up the larger stream buffer rules  
45 used in WA. Mr. Arnold asked Mr. Vail if he's seen this produce different outcomes. Mr. Vail described the  
46 water quality studies done by the Olympic Experimental Forest, and that comparing different micro-  
47 climates is like apples to oranges. The industry is hoping to see outcomes-based decisions moving forward.

1 The group discussion moved back to herbicide application; it was suggested by Mr. Rohne that more  
2 communication with watershed councils like the North Coast Watershed Association would help address  
3 concerns. Ms. Courtney Bangs pointed out that there are more sources of herbicide application than just  
4 for forestry uses.

5  
6 The group agreed that what is working well currently shall be included in the plan, not just negative  
7 impacts.

8  
9 The group discussed the conversion of forest lands into residential lands. Mr. Arnold stated that changes to  
10 laws which reduce the value of forest lands would increase this conversion. Mr. Rohne suggested the  
11 possibility of land swaps to move people out of tsunami zones.

12  
13 The group discussion moved back to the agenda and the Goal 4 policies. Chair Rasmussen mentioned that  
14 the FPA renders the roads policy redundant, and that the elk browsing policy. Mr. Vail recommended  
15 removing Policy #7, as it's no longer current.

16  
17 **Distribution of Meeting #5 Materials:**

18 Staff distributed materials, reviewed the holiday and upcoming meeting schedule, and confirmed with the  
19 group that their next meeting date will be pushed back a week from the normal time, to December 10.

20  
21 **Closing Comments and Adjournment:**

22 Some action items from the end of the meeting included:

- 23 • Jed Arnold from Hampton Lumber offered tours to community members.
- 24 • A worksheet for Goal 4 will be forthcoming to committee members.
- 25 • An option to opt-out of paper copies of meeting materials is available, with all agendas available via  
26 County website.
- 27 • A meeting with forestry representatives is to be scheduled before next NECAC meeting.
  - 28 ○ Shall include a discussion about supporting data.

29 ***There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:52pm.***