



Marion County
Management Update
Swamp Fox Conference Room
Marion County Courthouse Square

REPORT
December 21, 2009

Commissioners present: Commissioner Brentano and Commissioner Carlson

INFORMATIONAL

Proposed Oregon Department of Agricultural Rulemaking

Discussion on whether the Public Works Department and/or the Marion County Weed Advisory Committee should state opposition to a proposed rule which would allow the sale of English Ivy for certain uses.

Tanya Beard from the Public Works Department said that the Oregon Department of Agriculture, ODOA is going through its rule change process and among the new rules is a modification of a restriction that currently exists on English Ivy. The ODOA had originally included an exception for English Ivy (potted and topiary use) to last four years and then sunset. Tanya said that the weed district staff and weed advisory members all believe that it is much better to go ahead and allow those measures to sunset the way they were intended to- and not extend the exceptions.

After some discussion both Sam Brentano and Commissioner Milne, (who is on the State Weed Board) agreed that English Ivy is an exceptionally aggressive weed, a poor slope stabilizer, and a destroyer of wildlife habitat.

The Commissioners agreed to send a letter to the ODOA to recommend disallowing any sale of English Ivy in the state of Oregon by December 31, 2009.

Oregon Garden- Admission Fee Schedule and Open Hours Changes

John Lattimer said that under the management agreement that Marion County and the City of Silverton have with the Oregon Garden, the Oregon Garden has to request policy changes to both himself and Silverton City Manager Brian Cosgrove.

John said that the Oregon Garden was requesting minor changes in the current Oregon Garden admission prices and hours of operation. If approved, the changes would become effective on January 1, 2010.

Both Commissioner Brentano and Commissioner Milne agreed to these proposed changes.

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

County Governance Petition

Commissioner Milne said that the petitioners seeking a change in how Marion County is governed have turned in their signatures and the County Clerk has until January 4th to certify them. Commissioner Milne suggested that since there is a lot of misinformation about the county, it may be a good idea to post something factual on

the Marion County homepage about how Marion County works. Barbara Young said that staff has been working with Legal Counsel on 'Frequently Asked Questions' and will be creating a web site to post on the internet after January 4, 2010.

Ben Williams Article

Both Commissioner Brentano and Milne said that they has read Ben William's article in the Statesmen Journal on Saturday December 19th and very disappointed due to the many inaccuracies.

Association of Oregon and California Counties Meeting

Commissioner Brentano said that he had attended the Association of Oregon and California Counties meeting in Eugene. He said that at this meeting they had discussed annual dues from members as well as the re-authorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act. Commissioner Brentano said that Congressional reauthorization of funds would be a challenge. Commissioner added that Marion County receives about \$5M annually from the Secure Rural Schools funding, which would be a significant loss to the county if the act were not renewed. He also said that the current ramp-down legislation expanded benefits to counties that don't have any logging which has diluted the significance of the original act. So now there are counties with no timber who are receiving funds- which means the act will be even more difficult to renew. Commissioner Brentano said that he had brought back some information from the meeting. Barb said that she had given both Jolene and Sara a copy of this information.

WORKSESSIONS AND OTHER MEETINGS

12/24/09 H1N1 Conference Call 7.30-8.00 A.M.