

# MARION COUNTY Parks Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 15, 2022  
Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm  
Location: Zoom or Willamette Conference Room at Public Works, 5155 Silverton Road NE

Present: **Members:** Wayne Rawlins, Bob Emanuel, Marisa Roskelley, Katy Waid, Herschel Sangster, Alton Hoover

**Members Present Via Zoom:** Malcolm Aquinas

**Absent:** Chris Teichroew, Steve Staten

**Staff:** Tom Kissinger, Natalie Tomaszewski, Brian May

**Guests:** Warren Jackson – Scotts Mills citizen, Clarence Swanski – Scotts Mills citizen, Ed Bielenberg – Scotts Mills citizen, Anna Rankin – Pudding River Watershed Council, Kurt – Pudding River Watershed Council, Chad Ball – Board of Commissioners Office, Jim Day – Canyon Weekly, Mary Chase – ECONorthwest, Emily Picha – ECONorthwest, Aaron Maples – Walker Macy, Taylor Sharley – Walker Macy, Mike McAllister - Interfluve

Quorum: Yes

## ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Wayne called the meeting to order @ 3:01 p.m.

**Member and Staff introductions:** Members and staff were introduced.

**Attendance/Rollcall:** Done.

**Agenda Changes:** None.

### Approval of July 21, 2022 minutes

**Motion:** Marisa made a motion to accept minutes. Al seconded.

**Discussion:** Wayne commented that on the first page, second paragraph, the word is clarity instead of clarify.

**Result:** A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

### Public Comment:

Warren Jackson, Clarence Swanski and Ed Bielenburg, residents of Scotts Mills, shared their thoughts on the removal of the Scotts Mills dam and the impact it would have on the community. It was shared that there was some confusion in the paper when the Pudding River Watershed Council stated the removal was slated but it hadn't been decided.

They appreciate the work that Marion County has done to that park.

### **Pudding River Watershed Council**

Kurt, with the Pudding River Watershed Council, gave a backstory on the Scotts Mills dam. He stated there were a couple of options; someone can provide the money to repair the dam, or it could be taken down. Kurt shared that he has heard the majority of the Scotts Mills community wants the dam out of there but stated we should do what the community wants to do, whether that be remove the dam or repair it. Kurt suggested the community start a campaign and begin contacting the commissioners and letting them know what the community wants done with the dam.

Wayne asked if Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife sees the dam as a hinderance or help to fish; Anna stated it wasn't a complete barrier, but the number that are getting above the dam aren't where they need to be. Wayne also asked about the funds theoretically available for the removal of the dam; Anna commented they have about 10 months left on the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Award and the removal cost was roughly \$100,000.

Bob asked if the dam is considered within the city limits; Warren Jackson stated it's within the city limits. Kurt stated it would be difficult to find the funding from a governmental organization for the repair of the dam.

Katy asked about who owns the area; Tom stated Butte Creek is considered waters of the state, so no one owns it. Marion County's piece is having the Board of Commissioners signing off on the landowner agreement. Anna stated the public technically owns the structure of the dam and they would need Marion County's approval to remove the dam.

Al Hoover asked about the property rights issue; Kurt stated that wouldn't significantly impact the operations of the removal of the dam.

### **Santiam Canyon Recovery Plan**

Tom gave a backstory for the Santiam Canyon parks a timeline of what has happened to date and stated there's an economic aspect, environmental aspect and a phasing plan within the recovery plan.

Walker Macy staff, ECONorthwest staff and Interfluve staff introduced themselves and shared the Santiam Canyon Recovery Plan with the Commission, focusing on the environmental aspects, a market demand analysis and how to best phase the projects.

Tom shared that in these scenarios that are presented, the revenue would cover maintenance of all 18 county parks.

Tom also stated this report would be sent out to the Parks Commission for feedback on the plan for projects.

Tom shared Walker Macy, Interfluve and ECONorthwest want to hear from the Parks Commission and also hear from the public on their thoughts with the plan. The plan over the next about eight months, with plan adoption, will be public outreach and production hopefully starting in 2023.

Wayne recommended that Parks Commissioners attend the public outreach.

Katy asked if there was a percentage of areas that would be restored that's purely environmental; Tom stated he has the acreage numbers and could send that to her.

Katy stated that she will be around for a little longer than some of the other commissioners and wanted to make sure they are focused on the environmental restoration piece. Tom stated that Minto is actually around 78 acres total, but the map only showed around 7 and most of Minto is dedicated towards restoration.

Malcolm commented that it's wonderful to see such a thoughtful and well-organized presentation. He also commented that we should keep in mind, if Tom was to leave, someone should be able to seamlessly step into the job.

Wayne thanked the Parks Commission, Walker Macy, Interfluve and ECONorthwest for their work on this project.

### **Rail Trail Update**

Tom shared that the Rail Trail project is progressing, and they have received around two million dollars in seed funding. Marion County Engineering, Environmental Services and Economic Development are working together.

Marion County staff are also pursuing two different ODOT grants this cycle for the Oregon Community Pass program. One will enhance the planned-out segment, that goes from Gates through Maples rest area. The second to help shore up that segment. A third grant they are applying for is the connector between Gates and Mill City, which already has the infrastructure from the Old Canyon journeys plan, and this would link the two together.

### **Commissioner Roundtable**

Herschel shared the bike program he helps with finished for the summer with a beginner bike ride. He also shared there were microgrants for innovative mobility which are geared towards bike safety and education for pedestrians; Tom stated that was one of the grants they were looking at.

Katy stated one of the things that the Pudding River Watershed Council asked for a Marion County Commissioner to join this Parks Commission meeting and there wasn't one present.

Marisa asked if the Parks Naming Policy had been submitted yet; Tom commented that it hadn't yet, but it would be by November.

Wayne reminded the Commissioners of the Linn County Riverbend Park visit that is coming up and the next Parks Commission meeting time.

Meeting adjourned at 4:58pm.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 17, 2022 @ 3:00 p.m.