

Wave Lengths

A publication of the League of Women Voters of Lincoln County

March 2008

BILL HALL, LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONER ON HOMELESSNESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Commissioner Hall, Co-Chair of Oregon's Ending Homelessness Advisory Committee, will speak at our March 20 meeting, Thursday, 12 noon at the Newport Public Library. He will discuss progress on issues related to homelessness, affecting youth and families.

HOMELESS STUDY—Background Information

In September of 2006, after extensive study, research, and interviews with county officials, community leaders, and a homeless family, the Lincoln County LWV adopted the following position on Homeless Youth. In the past year and a half, actions have been taken across the state and locally. This is an opportunity to learn what progress has been made.

POSITION: Homeless Youth

LWV of Lincoln County supports state and local programs and services, which intervene to prevent conditions that lead to homelessness.

LWV Lincoln County supports the ASF (Adoption and Safe Families Act), which provides funding to local programs and services and the long range goal to put at risk children into a permanent healthy family environment through adoption or, if possible, education and treatment for parent(s) to return the children to their families, or to place them with other family members.

LWVLC supports state, county, city, and private programs, specifically including schools, which attempt to identify children at risk before a situation becomes critical.

LWVLC supports and encourages proactive programs to assist youth and families, including affordable housing and emergency shelters, daycare centers for children, and improved public transportation systems.

MARINE RESERVES FORUM

Ruth Kistler

On February 21, I was one of about 100 attendees at the Marine Reserves Community Forum held at the Newport City Hall. Marine Reserves are no-take set-aside areas in Oregon's Territorial Sea (the 950 square nautical mile area extending from Oregon's shoreline out 3 nautical miles). Governor Kulongoski has asked OPAC (Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council) to work with ocean users, coastal communities, and the scientific community to nominate areas as marine reserves. The governor's guidelines call for fewer than 10 sites, avoiding negative economic or social impacts, and avoiding loss of fishing opportunities. No sites are to be implemented until funding is identified for the required monitoring, enforcement, and scientific research. This meeting was one of several outreach meetings held by OSU Sea Grant in coastal communities for the purpose of listening to concerns, answering questions, and receiving input from coastal governments, the fishing industry, and others.

Patty Burke of ODFW and Dr. Selena Heppell of OSU Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife presented the argument for marine reserves. Oregon's Native Fish Conservation Policy requires precautionary management when information about the behavior, physiology, and life history of marine species, as well as ecosystem interactions and habitat is missing. And the information is **very** sparse: Only 5% of Oregon's nearshore habitat has been mapped. Of the 43 managed groundfish species found in our Territorial Sea, only 8 have had formal stock assessment (6 healthy, 2 depleted). The unknowns include: 95% of the nearshore habitat, nursery areas for juvenile flatfish and crab, knowledge of forage fish, food web relationships, and life cycles and behavior of most species. Current precautionary management tools include commercial and sport harvest

(See **MARINE RESERVES**, page 3.)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After our February member meeting, a woman in the audience approached me asking if our league could help start a Lincoln City group, perhaps a book club or discussion group, to educate citizens about how government works. Educating citizens about government?, yes that's something the League of Women Voters does. One of my fellow volunteers at the Oregon Coast Aquarium asked whether we would be holding a candidate forum for May's election. That's something LWV does, and does so well. And at Samaritan House I was asked if we would be distributing Voters' Guides and perhaps holding a forum on May's ballot measures. Of course, and we'll be registering voters too.

Next BOARD MEETING

Monday, **March 31, 1:00 p.m.**

West Coast Bank Board Room
506 SW Coast Hwy, Newport

All members are welcome to attend.

President	Ruth Kistler	574-8145
Vice President	Charmian Mass	994-3785
Treasurer	Jamie Auburn	265-2145
Secretary	Suzanne Maxson	563-5231

Directors:

LWVOR Liaison	Joan Haffner	547-4736
Membership	Frances VanWert	265-9312

Committee Chairs:

Land Use	Janice Gerdemann	547-3544
Newsletter	Sue Krein	765-2212
Nominating	Carol Hall	765-3342
Publicity	Jamie Auburn	265-2145
Voters Service	Nancy Jones	563-5800



The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Here in Lincoln County, we are the League of Women Voters. Our local league is small, but the reputation of the League of Women Voters is very large. We're proud of that reputation and work to maintain and even enlarge it. The league is a grassroots organization, but it is also organized on the state and national level. Our league's reputation comes not only from our own efforts and achievements, but also from the efforts and achievements of other local leagues and the state leagues and the national league. Sometimes it may seem that the state and national leagues are always asking us to respond to their demands. But they are also a source of strength, training, and information and fundraising, and to learn more about state issues. I urge all local members who can attend the LWVOR Council, May 17-18, in Corvallis to do so.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Several events are planned over the next two months. The list below will help us complete the tasks as needed. Many members have already jumped in, offering to work on specific events or asking where they can help.

- Agate Beach Inn, Newport 1:00 —2:30 p.m.
Democratic Candidates participating:
Pavel Goberman Candy Neville
David Loera Steve Novick
Jeff Merkley
- April General Meeting Thursday, April 17
Newport Library 12:00 noon
- Candidate Forum Sunday, April 20
Lincoln County District Attorney Candidates
Berniece Barnett and Rob Bovett
Yachats Commons 2:00—4:00 p.m. Rm 8
(north room, outside door access)
- Voter Registration Deadline—Tuesday, April 29
- Voter Guides will be delivered late March or early April for Voter Registration and Candidate Forum.
- Annual Meeting (May)
Details to be announced

(From MARINE RESERVES, Page 1.)

caps, area closures, size limits, and gear restrictions. Marine Reserves would be another precautionary management tool aimed at achieving habitat protection (including protecting habitat against new uses and impacts), preserving the natural marine environment, and providing reference areas for research and monitoring. Data from some (but not all) studies on marine reserves in other temperate coastal areas show a “reserve effect” -- fished and unfished species were bigger, heavier, or more abundant in the reserve, the diversity of fish or invertebrates increased, and the habitat changed. Biological science can address how large reserves should be to adequately protect species and diversity, how many reserves are needed, and how they should be spread out along the coast. Science can help determine if reserves are working by comparing conditions before and after the reserve is designated, and comparing sites inside and outside the reserve area.

But scientific information is only one factor in marine reserves planning. Local knowledge and experience is essential, both to be able to conduct meaningful research and to avoid negative economic impacts on coastal communities. In order to collect local knowledge and communicate it to OPAC, Jeff Feldner of Oregon Sea Grant posed the following 5 questions and asked the audience to write their responses on 5 X 8 index cards which were collected at the meeting’s end. The audience was also encouraged to submit comments on-line.

1. What community impacts (cultural, social and economic) should be considered when proposing a marine reserve?
2. How can marine reserves benefit, not disrupt, existing economic and recreational uses of the ocean?
3. What do communities need in order to be adequately involved in providing recommendations to OPAC regarding marine reserves?
4. One of the main reasons cited for establishing marine reserves is the need to create areas of refuge so we can learn more about our nearshore (shore to three miles) resources including fish stocks and habitats. What types of research do you feel are needed to better protect and manage our nearshore marine resources?
5. Are there specific attributes (unique circumstances, locations, other factors) about this region’s section of the coast (shore to three miles) that would work or not work for siting a marine reserve?

The meeting’s format did not support discussion among audience members. Questions about the presentation were answered, but responses to the questions posed above were met by, “Please write that down on a 5 X 8 card”. Thus, it was hard to gauge the impact of the meeting, although I sensed a prevailing skeptical attitude. Many people commented on the costs of the monitoring, enforcement, and research associated with marine reserves. Experience has shown that reserves without enforcement (“paper reserves”) are worse than worthless. ODFW would bear the major enforcement costs. current ODFW funds (about \$300,000 - \$400,000 per year) come primarily from the federal government, plus sport and commercial fishing licenses; only about 10% of ODFW’s funds come from the general fund. Jean Cowan (state rep from Newport) and Deborah Boone (state rep from Cannon Beach) drove down from Salem for the meeting (and drove back afterward); Jean told us that HB 5209 had been written to assure a legislative role in the marine reserves designation process, since the legislature must approve funding; the bill had been heard in the Ocean Policy Committee, but a very large fiscal impact was then attached to it, which meant that the bill would die in Ways and Means in this year’s short session. Terry Thompson expressed surprise that a state that saw no need for research for years is now saying we need marine reserves; why not put the money into basic research? Someone offered that California was able to finance their marine reserves with funding from the (private) Pew Trust. This provoked an outcry against taking funds from a private non-profit and thereby risking the transparency of the process and control of our Territorial Sea.

Marine reserve proposals will be accepted from communities of place or interest, such as ports, fishing organizations, governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, beginning in April and closing in June. Information on potential economic effects of nominated sites will be requested from the affected communities and groups. OPAC will develop a list of preferred sites and forward the list to Governor Kulongoski. The governor is expected to put together a marine reserves proposal for the 2009 Legislature ■

Paul Katen Describes Watershed Council Activities at February Meeting

Ruth Kistler

LWV of Lincoln County was honored to have Paul Katen, President of the Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council, speak at our February meeting. Watershed councils seek to enhance Oregon's waters through management of riparian zones and associated uplands. They seek to improve water quality, restore salmon runs, and in general restore and maintain the biological integrity of our rivers. Achieving these goals requires educating the community and communication among all stakeholders. Clear-cut logging on steep slopes results in silt runoff into streams and lower stream flows in summer; the watershed council seeks to work with large commercial landowners to increase summer runoff. The council works to restore salmon habitat by keeping or planting trees along streams to shade the waters and keep them cool, by placing large woody debris to add to stream complexity, by correcting culverts so that fish can swim upstream through them, and by repairing fish ladders. They have undertaken a major restoration at the former "Pixieland" site (near the intersection of highways 101 and 18), removing old asphalt and planting trees.

Paul displayed his cap with the inscription, "I survived the Drift Creek settlement negotiations", and told us its story. In 2003, seeking a new water source, Lincoln City secretly purchased some old, unused rights to Drift Creek water.

The State Water Resources Department issued a proposed final order (PFO) to allow the transfer of these rights; but WaterWatch Oregon alerted the watershed council and together they filed a legal protest. Lincoln City claimed it needed the new sources of water to provide for projected growth, and that existing sources were inadequate based on the difference between minimum stream flow and maximum water demand in summer. The Watershed Council developed an alternative model; based on the large day-to-day variations in both stream flow and water demand, existing water sources would be adequate if more water storage tanks were added. Paul Katen and Karen Russell (of WaterWatch of Oregon) negotiated a settlement agreement with Lincoln City.

Paul said that the negotiations were adversarial, lengthy, and very stressful. But eventually agreement was reached and Paul's relationship with Lincoln City is now quite amiable. The settlement agreement required Lincoln City to acquire additional water storage tanks, to reduce their water system loses (leaks) from about 25% to a target 10%, and to withdraw their applications for 3 proposed dams. This was the kind of success story we love to hear, a victory for our streams, and no losers.

No-Spray Pilot Project to Continue Along Highway 101

Congratulations and appreciation to Maxine Centala and Diana Purdy of Concerned Citizens for Clean Air for their successful efforts in supporting the No-spray Project. The Oregon Department of Transportation has announced that the no-spray pilot project along U.S. Highway 101 in Lincoln County, which extends south from Newport to the Lane County line, will continue for at least another year.

A spokesperson for ODOT Dir. Matthew Garrett relayed the information to Diana Purdy of Concerned Citizens for Clean Air (CCCA), the local group that succeeded in obtaining the pilot protection in 2007 with support from Lincoln County Commissioners and local mayors. According to Jack Lee, operations manager for ODOT Region 2, "What we've determined is that we will extend the no-spray pilot project until the end of the current biennium, which ends in July 2009, to accumulate data on costs and likely effects."

Lincoln County League of Women Voters
Members—March 2008

(Please advise Member Chair Frances VanWert of any Changes or Corrections)

Joann /Philip Anselone
P. O. Box 1005
Depoe Bay 97341
541-765-3142
jpanselone@centurytel.net

Jamie Auburn
P. O. Box 1577
Waldport, OR 97394
541-563-5453
lauborn@msn.com

Lucille Bacon
P. O. Box 616
Gleneden Beach 97388
541-764-2212
louishk@charter.net

Mary Banvard
P.O. Box 241
Newport, OR 97365
541-265-7334

Victoria Bird
54 Leisure Lan
Siletz, OR 97380
541-444-7585
bird@newportnet.com

Mary Lou Boice
8 Coronado Shores
Lincoln City 97367
541-764-2737
phylama@peoplepc.com

Jana Cowan
1765 NW Sunset Drive
Toledo, OR 97391
541-336-1008
janacow@hotmail.com

S. Jean Cowan
2710 NE Iler
Newport, OR 97365
541-265-2861
jpcowan@actionet.net

Maxine Demory
2328 NW Pacific Street
Newport, OR 97365
541-265-7532
mdemory@newportnet.com

Ann Eaton
P. O. Box 102
Depoe Bay 97341
541-765-218

Millie Ehrman
3552 NE Quay
Lincoln City 97367
541-996-7648
mcehrman@earthlink.net

Freda G. Fuller
1233 N Beaver Creek Rd.
Seal Rock, OR 97376
541-563-3059

Janice Gerdemann
P. O. Box 391
Yachats, OR 97498
541-547-3544
gerdjan@peak.org

Peggy Gray
P. O. Box 62
Yachats, OR 97498
541-547-4560

Sue/James Groshong
2838 N Bayview Road
Waldport, OR 97394
541-563-3730
msg@casco.net

Joan Haffner
P. O. Box 743
Yachats, OR 97498
541-547-5193
jhaffner@pioneer.net

Carol Hall
1145 Walking Woods
Depoe Bay 97341
541-765-3342
cahall@centurytel.net

Lori Hollingsworth
1549 NE 14th Street
Lincoln City, OR 97367
541-994-3328
lhollingsworth@charter.net

Martha Holmberg
P. O. Box 234
Yachats, OR 97408
541-547-4469
marthann@peak.org

Nancy Jones
2302 Oceania Drive
Waldport, OR 97394
541-563-5800
ritter80@casco.net

Ruth J. Kistler
1125 SE Spruce Wy
Newport, OR 97365
541-574-8145
ruthkistler@msn.com

Mr. Rex Krabbe
8423 Yaquina Bay Rd
Newport, OR 97365
541-336-2546
adamkrabbe@aol.com

Susan Krein
P. O. Box 1
Depoe Bay 97341
541-765-2212
skrein@centurytel.net

Nancy Leonard
P. O. Box 1891
Waldport, OR 97394
541-563-2187
/541-3561-111(wk)
nleonard@casco.net

Charmian Mass
7101 NW Logan Road
Lincoln City, OR 97367
541-994-3785
charmian1@earthlink.net

Suzanne Maxson
P. O. Box 1706
Waldport, OR 97394
541-563-5231
smaxson@peak.org

Rebecca McGee
P. O. Box 875
Gleneden Beach 97388
541-784-2016
r2mcgees@cooper.net

Ruby Miller
713 N.E. Grant
Newport, OR 97365
541-265-7118

Ms. Nancy G. Oertel
6081 SW Cupola Dr.
Newport, OR 97366
541-867-3671

Louisa Osborn
P. O. Box 846
Newport, OR 97365
541-265-7973

Jerry Roelen
P. O. Box 2635
Waldport, OR 97394
541-563-6759

Marilyn Podesta
75 Gull Station
Depoe Bay 97341
541-765-4422
emmyrumsey@aol.com

Fran Recht
P. O. Box 221
Depoe Bay, OR 97341
541-764-2234

Dianne Rulon
P. O. Box 1014
Gleneden Beach, OR
97388
541-764-5545

Andi Sachs
1450 Walking Wood
Depoe Bay 97341
541-765-2422
eaglea@centurytel.net

Glen/Laurie Shipley
P. O. Box 870
Neotsu, OR 97364
541-469-8820
redfish500@hotmail.com

Betty Sparks
P. O. Box 2017
Waldport, OR 97394
541-563-4404
betty@casco.net

Frances Van Wert
742 NW 2nd Street
Newport, OR 97365
541-265-9312
fvanwert@newportnet.com

Ms. Anne Williams
611 S. Immonen Road
Lincoln City, OR 97367

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