

PORT OF THE DALLES COMMISSION
Wetlands Work Session
February 17, 2011
Port of The Dalles Office

In Attendance: Kirk Jarvie-DSL, Mike Williams - OR Bus. Dev., Nora Donovan, Kristi McCavic, Ken Farner, Bob McFadden, Andrea Klaa, Jerry Frazier, Kathy Grey-Ursprung, Mark McCavic, Bill Maley, Scott Mengis

Ken Farner opened the work session with a welcome to everyone followed by introductions.

Kirk Jarvie then started his presentation and answered questions:

Wetlands are regulated by 3 levels of government: 1) The Federal, US Army Corps of Engineers, 2) the State of Oregon through Department of State Lands and 3) locally through Goal 5 (Natural Resources, Scenic and Historic Area and Open Spaces).

There are also other times that DSL may get involved in a permit:

- If a project needs more than 50 cu.yds of fill (5 standard dump trucks), then a Removal/Fill permit is required from DSL.
- If a project affects the “bed or banks” of a waterway then the Land Management Division steps in.
- There are some lands that DSL owns outright.

Wetlands Test: For an area to be determined a “wetland” it needs to meet all 3 tests -

1. Is there water present for 5% of the growing season? (It was unclear how “growing season” is defined)
2. Are there saturated soils?
3. Is there known “wetland” vegetation? (There is a printed resource that identifies plants that grow in wetlands and on the margins of wetlands. This is what is used to make that determination)

Wetland Fill Permit: What is looked at before a permit is issued?

1. Is there a NEED to fill the wetland? Is there really a pending project?
2. Alternative Analysis: Have done all reasonable attempts to mitigate.
 1. Is the mitigation economically feasible?
 2. Is the proposed technology feasible?
 3. Is it logistically feasible?
3. Alternative Designs for the project to avoid the wetlands.
4. Mitigation plan
 1. Build a new wetland
 2. Pay into an existing wetlands bank (credits sell for about \$85,000/acre)
 3. Restore a defunct wetland
 4. Preserve another wetland that is under threat of development

Wetlands Bank: Cities, Ports, ODOT, DSL, private individual can all own wetlands bank and while DSL will accept a "payment" in lieu for mitigation, the Federal agencies will not. There is a Federal program called "fee" in lieu though that the Feds will accept. The "fee" in lieu program has not been done in Oregon, but maybe this is something this area should look at and the Port could be a "fee" in lieu sponsor.

At the end of the work session Kirk offered to come back for a longer discussion if needed.

Meeting ended at 1:15pm

PORT OF THE DALLES:
D.M. Courtney, President
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:
Rod Runyon, Secretary
Board of Commissioners

DATE APPROVED: 3/9/2011

Prepared by: A.Klaas