

COOS COUNTY VECTOR ASSESSMENT & CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bandon Conference and Community Center (aka Bandon Barn)

1200 W 11th St. SW Bandon OR

October 23, 2014

1. Roll Call & Approve Previous Minutes

No changes requested for the 9/25/2014 minutes; Minutes passed unanimously

Roll Call: Carl and Dan were absent; Chris joined the meeting later in the meeting. All other Members were present

2. Staff Report: Rick commented that traps were set this week and only 5 mosquitoes were caught. He thinks the season is coming to an end. He would like to keep an open mind about good negotiations with USFW and the public for next year.

Roger: mosquitoes will always cause issues, but seem to be slowing down and thinks the mosquito issue is seasonal. He can see the marsh from his home and it appeared to be heavily flooded, however it seemed to drain pretty good.

3. Bat House Program/Event Planning: There is about 70 bat houses cut out and ready to be assembled. There is a plan to have more available at a later date. Comment: It was suggested to give the bat houses out now so that they can weatherize, and when the bats move around they will find them. Bat houses will be available at the Market on Friday, November 21, 2014 starting at 10 AM. The event will be advertised in the Coffee Break, Western World and possibly the Web Site. It was suggested that people who want the bat houses could have up to two per household. Committee would like to make sure people are local and reasonably close to the marsh. Those who will be handing out the bat houses will ask for contact information and location of the bat houses, but this information is not required. The plan is to have people that are knowledgeable about bats and bat houses at this event.

4. Mapping Project Next Steps – Dan not present to discuss program. Comment made about Commissioner Sweet (or Commissioner Main) putting together a group to work on the project. There is an interest to continue putting the invitation out there for those interested in working with the project. Contact Dan if anyone is interested to join.

5. Public Comments: Roger commented on ongoing meetings should continue if there is a need to meet. The Committee should have a meeting on how to prepare for the next season. Also need to discuss what can be done over the winter to prepare for the season. Contact Rick or Committee members when the election period is over.

Comment: County needs to get paperwork for permits in earlier to prevent late start in the next mosquito season. Rick will be meeting with USFW in the near future. A new manager will start toward the middle to end of November. An invitation will be made to the new manager to attend a meeting to introduce him.

Comment: County needs to be more forceful and address standing water on private property, tide gate failure and draining the marsh.

Comment: The fill dirt becoming a mess at tide gate and the need to put tide gate back in to help control the mosquito population.

Comment: Rob met with biologist, Glenn Bissel, who has a master in Biology and 40 years of experience. He spent the day out at the Bandon Marsh and he plans to come back during the next season. He indicated that the County will eventually have another outbreak of mosquitoes when we have another wet/warm spring and summer. Some of the mosquito identified are very aggressive and will take over and cause a lot more problems in the future.

Comment: Mosquito magnets can be taken back to City of Bandon and they will store them (those who have the magnets will need to deliver them to the City as they will not pick them up)

Comment: The channels are being monitored and some are showing signs of erosion. There are some talks about removing some material from the channels. Sometime in January, the plan is to look at what is working and what is not working. There may be a need to remove some material from the channels, possibly by volunteers. It could take several years before the marsh is stabilized and some of channels still may need regular maintenance.

Comment: Committee will ask USFW about getting a report on how things are going, and what the plan is for next year; and to deliver the report during a meeting in March or April 2015.

Comment: Is there secured funding to help keep program a float.

Comment: Commissioner Sweet stated that he spoke with someone from USFW who mentioned the plan is to continue with program unless it is not needed.

Comment: What is possibility of getting aerial photos of the marsh during high/low tide to see how it is draining?

Comment: Commissioner Sweet thanked the Committee for the work they have done.

Comment: Committee requested the public to put concerns, comments or suggestions in writing.

6. Commissioner comments: Chris commented about fishing tapering off and they are starting to show up where they lay eggs. There are several hundred fish at the hatcheries and people who are interested can volunteer to help at the hatcheries.

7. Next meeting set for November 20, 2014, meeting agenda to get ready for bat house distribution program.

Meeting adjourned