

Morrow County Court
Special Meeting with Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Personnel
Monday, June 20, 2016
Boardman, Oregon
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center

Present

Judge Terry Tallman
Commissioner Leann Rea
Commissioner Don Russell
Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer
Carla McLane, Planning Director
Richard Tovey, County Counsel
Captain Geoffrey C. Moore, Commanding
Officer, NAS Whidbey Island
Kevin Meenaghan, Navy, Community
Planning & Liaison Officer
Roberta Lutcher, Court Executive Asst.

Audience

Jim Doherty, Commissioner-Elect, Morrow
County
Melissa Lindsay, Judge-Elect, Morrow
County
Karen Pettigrew, Boardman City Manager
Sung Yoon Ji, Major, Oregon Army
National Guard (ONG)
Heather Wilaby, Sustainable Range Program
Manager ONG
April Murazzo, Oregon Military Department
(OMD), Environmental
Jeff Mach, OMD
Jerry Rietmann, Wheatridge Wind Energy
Bob Guertin, Oregon Wind Farms
Max Woods, Oregon Department of Energy

Barry Beyeler, City of Boardman
Tami Sinor, Umatilla Electric Coop (UEC)
Sandi Putman, Morrow County Public
Works
Michael Vaughn, Idaho Power Co., Project
Leader
Larry Lindsay, Port of Morrow
Commissioner
Matthew Vickery, AgriNorthwest, Land &
Government Affairs
Brian Salois, Bonneville Power
Administration (BPA), Customer
Service Engineer
Tim Beinert, OMD, Installations Division
Joseph Van Wingerden, Gladstone Land
Thomas Wolff, Columbia Basin Electric
Cooperative
Burke O'Brien, Morrow County Public
Works
Mitch Colburn, Idaho Power Co.
Adam Richins, Idaho Power Co.
Jeff Maffuccio, Idaho Power Co.
Kathleen Cathey, Field Representative,
Senator Ron Wyden
Michelle Colby, Gilliam County Planning
Craig Reeder, Hale Farms

Call to Order: 1:06 p.m. followed by pledge of allegiance. Judge Tallman welcomed everyone and introductions were conducted.

City and Citizen Comments: No comments

Open Agenda: No items

Highlights from Discussion Topics with the Navy

Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility, Boardman, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
Update

- The EIS Record of Decision occurred on March 31st and it was posted administratively today, which is good news, said Captain Moore.

Fire Management

- Capt. Moore said normal maintenance of roadways within the Bombing Range is taking place, especially to maintain access for firefighting. He said a process has been initiated to perform annual road maintenance, assuming available funding. Commissioner Rea suggested the person in charge of road maintenance on the Bombing Range contact Morrow County Road Department administration to benefit from their experience with the unique soils, etc. She explained they could share their knowledge on the most effective road materials and methods.
- Capt. Moore explained work continues on Mutual Aid Agreements and Bombing Range personnel have new VHF radios. Commissioner Rea asked if an agreement had been offered to the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District (BRFPD), to which Capt. Moore and Mr. Meenaghan indicated it had not. Discussion. Commissioner Russell said BRFPD formerly had an agreement and received reimbursement when called upon. However, it's been seven or eight years since the District has seen any reimbursement, and it is a significant burden for a small fire district, he added. Capt. Moore said there is a structure in place and they would figure out why BRFPD was not reimbursed. The bureaucratic paperwork can be overwhelming and the Navy can help with that, he said.

Renewable Energy, Transmission, Solar Projects

- Ms. McLane provided an overview of current, pending and potential energy projects in Morrow County.
- Capt. Moore said the Navy is very supportive of renewable energy. He cited the "Great Green Fleet" as an example of Secretary Ray Mabus' commitment to new energy uses. He also said it is important to limit encroachment on Military Training Areas because the value of putting four squadrons in the air is very important. He said it's the reason why the Navy would like to "be at the table" in the early stages of a project to say if a project is conceptually able to be done within their special airspace. Mr. Meenaghan said the Navy appreciates continued notice and involvement with projects.

Readiness & Environmental Protection Integration Program Overview (REPI)

Mr. Meenaghan summarized REPI as a program that evaluates multiple needs – those of the military, environmental protection and conservation groups, and landowners who are willing to sell property. He said REPI leadership will be in the area next week to work on the first few parcels with the hope of finalizing agreements by the end of the summer. Commissioner Rea said REPI is also a way to compensate property owners who had the potential for wind turbines but could not site them because of airspace issues.

Morrow County Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance Update Project

Ms. McLane discussed recent and upcoming changes to the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Boardman Airport Zone

The recent changes to the Boardman Airport Zone were outlined by Ms. McLane.

Coyote Population

Commissioner Rea recounted a brief history of trapping on the Range, but there has been no such activity for about the last 20 years. She said the population growth of coyotes has created major issues for livestock producers and homeowners around Boardman. She requested that Navy personnel continue to work with local County government on this and other issues, as maintaining that line of communication is very important. Capt. Moore indicated Mr. Meenaghan's position will be around as long as the Navy allows it.

Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) Transmission Line Project

Ms. McLane recapped the project, to date. She discussed the compromises and concessions made by the various parties as they reached agreement that West of Bombing Range Road is the best alternative (route) for Morrow County. She said the Navy also needs to be flexible and willing to compromise and concede, as the other parties have.

Others urging the Navy to support the West of Bombing Range Road Alternative were:

- Craig Reeder, Hale Farms – Discussed the significant financial impact from the loss of high value crop land if another route is chosen.
- Jerry Rietmann, Wheatridge Wind Energy, LLC – In favor of a single energy corridor, rather than multiple lines weaving throughout the County. Reminded Capt. Moore that Morrow County supported the Bombing Range since its inception 75 years ago, and will continue to do so, but the Navy also needs to reciprocate.
- Kathleen Cathey, Field Representative for Senator Ron Wyden – Noted the relationship between the communities and the Navy has improved dramatically over the last seven to eight years and anything the Navy can do to work toward a compromise would be looked upon favorably by Sen. Wyden.
- Jeff Maffuccio, Idaho Power – Thanked Capt. Moore for the meeting and said the West of Bombing Range Road solution has been tough, but is a good compromise. B2H will be a benefit for customers in Idaho and those served by BPA and Pacific Corp.

Capt. Moore thanked the group for their insights and said the Navy is committed to working with Idaho Power but the biggest issues are the Research Natural Area, Resource Management Area, and Traditional Cultural Properties. He said he did not think the process impossible to work through and it has already begun.

Ms. McLane asked that the County have a voice regarding County easements within the Research Natural Area. Capt. Moore asked Mr. Meenaghan to research the request and said, again, it's something that can be worked through. He added the Navy is looking to support the construction of the B2H Project, but also protect the training area and farmland. Brief discussion.

Adjourned: 2:33 p.m.