

OCEAN SHORES CITIZENS FOR BALANCED GROWTH NEWSLETTER

Issue: Number 15 Date: October 2009

Weatherwax Report

About a year ago, the citizens of Ocean Shores voted with a 66 percent majority to "Retain" the entire Weatherwax property. This was an advisory ballot to the City Council. They could follow that advice by preserving the property, by retaining the property but putting it to a different use, or they could ignore the advice. We must remain alert for any proposed city action that could have an adverse effect on Weatherwax.

Before you vote this year we suggest you ask the four candidates running (Nick Johnson vs. Jackie Farra, John Lynn - unopposed, Garland French - unopposed) some pertinent questions. (1) Have they fully supported the preservation of Weatherwax for the past 5 years (since OSCBG formed)? (2) Will they support the people's vote and how? (3) Will they vote to include in the budget the money needed to have Weatherwax preserved as a wetland mitigation bank? Budgets for 2010 are being drafted now, so please also ask the rest of your Council members and the Mayor the same questions. Contact info is listed on page 2.

We keep writing about preserving Weatherwax as a wetland mitigation bank. For a good overview of this process, please see the Ecology FAQ publication at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/mitigation/banking/pdf/Guidance/FAQ_March2009.pdf. Weatherwax would be a "preservation bank" not a bank of wetlands that has to be created or restored. This significantly reduces startup costs and time. Even though only portions of Weatherwax are wetlands, the remaining property is preserved for wetland buffers and contiguous undisturbed property which increases the quality of wetlands in Ocean Shores. OSCBG continues to support this direction as the best use of the land to ensure its permanent preservation and provide a source of revenue. Nature trails are allowed as a passive use within the banking boundaries.

The current status on our banking application is that the second draft Prospectus was submitted to Ecology and returned with very few comments, relatively easy to fix. The next step is a public review period of the final Prospectus. The City sent out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the expert work needed for the following step: preparing the Mitigation Banking Instrument document. The Planning Department selected the top 3 or 4 candidates and will be asking for money from the City Council to hire one of these consultants. We will ask for an OSCBG representative to be on the final selection panel.

Other News

The Parks Board has gotten the Adopt-A-Park program off the drawing board. OSCBG has applied to adopt Chinook Park, across Duck Lake from the south end of Weatherwax.

OSCBG was invited to participate in the city's Vision Committee meetings. We readily accepted. This shows that our balanced growth organization has earned the respect of our city government. A kick-off meeting October 8th explained the processes used by the

committee. Most significant was recognition that it is residents who provide the base of the pyramid and the lion's share of revenue for our city. Two near term events will serve as models for future projects. The first is creating a common communication plan for all citizen organizations in the city. The second is planning for our 50 year celebration; the desire is to make this an integral part of all events and activities for 2010. The celebration effort will be led by Director of Tourism/Business Development Ken Mercer, but will involve all city groups.

In our last newsletter we mentioned a citizen who reported wetlands being cleared and filled on an 8-acre tract of land on the southwest side of town. Since then the Army Corps of Engineers has directed the owner to hire a wetland consultant company to do a new wetland delineation and a wetland restoration plan. These are expensive steps for the owner; the restoration will be even more expensive. Nature is already reclaiming the portion of the wetlands that were cleared but not filled, with native plants showing 2-4 foot growth this year.

Membership and Donations

Our general dues are \$10 per year and additional donations are always welcome! If you do not want to join but want to donate, provide that information with your check. Our address is OSCBG; PO Box 443; Ocean Shores, WA 98569. You can also make a donation using Paypal on our website, <http://www.weatherwax.info/>. At this time dues and donations are going towards brochure printing and keeping a stable amount in our treasury for any unexpected issues concerning Weatherwax.

Meeting Times

OSCBG meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 3 PM in the Library conference room. Please join us!

City Contacts

Mike Patrick

mpatrick@osgov.com
360-289-0373

John Lynn (candidate)

slynn1687@aol.com
360-289-9338

Garland French (candidate)

gfrench@osgov.com
360-289-4790

Dave Creighton

dcreighton@osgov.com
360-289-0680

Peggy Berry

pberry@osgov.com
360-289-2355

Nick Johnson (incumbent candidate)

njohnson@osgov.com
360-289-0845

Jackie Farra (opposing candidate)

gnina@techline.com
360-289-0918

Dick Skewis

dskewis@osgov.com
360-289-0200

Bob Crumpacker

rcrummy@aol.com
360-289-3096

Mayor Dean Bunkers

dbunkers@osgov.com
(360) 289-3099

Once again, it was only a year ago November 3rd that 66 percent of the voters of Ocean Shores voted to retain the entire Weatherwax Property. This was a most successful effort and we thank all of you who supported the retention of this very valuable property. People will continue to benefit from your effort for years to come.