

FRIDAY E-NEWS
FOR PEN 1/PEN 2/MCDD/SDIC BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF AND
FRIENDS
August 15, 2008

Disseminated periodically, as events and time allow, as a quick overview of some of the goings-on with the drainage districts.

DISTRICT BUDGETS ADOPTED FOR FY 2008-2009

Months of budget work came in late May through late June as the four districts adopted their budgets for FY 2008-2009. Between the four districts there were a total of 15 budget options developed for consideration. A primary goal in all four districts was to keep assessments as low as possible and still get the primary maintenance and capital improvements done. For more information about any of the budgets, please contact the district office.

- ◆ PEN 1 - Total budget expenses are \$200,479 with a landowner assessment of \$193,000.
- ◆ PEN 2 - Total budget expenses are \$795,950 with a landowner assessment of \$627,500.
- ◆ MCDD - Total budget expenses are \$3,326,600 with a landowner assessment of \$1,782,500 and a bond assessment of \$692,000.
- ◆ SDIC - Total budget expenses are \$342,495 with a landowner assessment of \$156,000.



DISTRICT NEWS BRIEFS

PEN ONE

◆◆ The next PEN 1 Board meeting is scheduled for September 11 for tour of district facilities. The Board will meet for lunch at Stanford's and then go on the tour. If you are interested in attending, please contact the office 503-281-5675 x 301. There are at least two or three seats to fill on the van.

◆◆ Things have been quiet in the district, although there are some difficult decisions to be made over the next couple of years. The Vanport Wetlands pump station is scheduled to be rebuilt. It has seen its usefulness diminished over the last two-three years, and, with the changes to be made

to I-5, all that water is scheduled to drain into the PEN 1 and be handled by this pump station. The cost to relocate the pump station and build it underground using specifications already made successful in MCDD, will be in excess of \$500,000. How that will be paid for is the challenge. In addition, the PIR Pump Station is now fifty years old and needs major renovations or a rebuild. Staff is providing the Board with alternative ideas for both a short and long term fix. To rebuild the whole pump station is estimated at about \$1.2 to \$1.6 million dollars. These are critical issues for a district that only has a \$200,000 per year budget.

◆◆ There are a number of pipes that run from the south side of Marine Drive through to the Columbia River. Some of the pipes have deteriorated and a couple are unknown as to what they drain. More work is scheduled in 2008-2009 to learn more about these pipes and work with their owners to get them repaired so the levee remains as secure as possible during high water.



PEN TWO

◆◆ The next PEN 2 board meeting is scheduled for September 25th with a tour of facilities. If you would like to attend the tour with the Board, you may call 503-281-5675 x 301 for more information. It is scheduled from noon to three o'clock on that day.

◆◆ The Bridgeton Tree Removal and Planting Project is moving along with an agreement approved by all parties. The District is not in the business of taking out trees, but this has become necessary in order to certify the levee. The neighborhood has been good to work on, and sign off on, the plan of action. To be removed are 72 trees along the 1.5 mile stretch of the levee. The planting plan calls for up to 304 trees to be planted in areas where there is sufficient overbuild, or on other areas within the neighborhood. The tree removal is scheduled for completion this fall, and the planting will take place over a three year period beginning this Winter. Removal work is to begin August 25th when Urban Forest Professionals will mobilize their crew and cranes in the neighborhood, and Cornforth Engineering Consultants will oversee the work ensuring it meets or exceeds federal standards under the US Army Corps of Engineers. Board President **Dick Shafer** was responsible for attending the meetings on behalf of the District and negotiating the details of the agreement. Thank you, Dick.

◆◆The Children's Arboretum Park project is complete. The project cost for the District was \$16,000, but the entire cost of about \$260,000, was contributed by several agencies, non-profits and individual corporations. Two ditch culverts were removed and replaced with pedestrian bridges to provide better access to the park. New signs, landscaping and construction of a maintenance road were done. In addition, the entire ditch from 6th Street to Gertz Road was benched and planted with 1,000's of trees and shrubs by the City of Portland landscape program. A dedication ceremony was held in April and the East Columbia Neighborhood summer picnic on July 26th also helped to draw attention to the project results. **Dick and Gyrid Towle** are to be congratulated for their volunteer efforts on behalf of the park and the neighborhood.



MCDD

◆◆The next board get-together is scheduled for October 16 for a tour of facilities. If you would like to join the Board, there are still several seats left on the van. It is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Please call 503-281-5675 x 301 to attend. This tour is required by state statutes but is actually very fun and educational.

◆◆The resurfacing of the Marine Drive levee between the 47th Street boat ramp and 122nd Avenue is moving ahead this summer. Over the years the levee has been eroded on the landward side by wind, rain and foot traffic. Soil is being hauled in and deposited to smooth the levee. In the latter part of September the area will be hydro-seeded so grasses can begin to take hold and protect it from water erosion. The plan is to complete the section from the boat ramp to the Sea Scout base this summer. Cost for this year's work is budgeted at \$150,000.

◆◆The US Army Corps of Engineers 1135 program is again funding about \$60,000 worth of slough dredging to be done this summer. One reach, just east of the 142nd cross levee to 148th, has been completed.

◆◆The 142nd Street cross levee will have its pipes cleaned this summer. The divers will begin their work next week to go into the two culverts through the levee to determine if there is any structural damage and to jet

out (vacuum) the system of debris. This needs to be done every four to five years to assure the system is able to work as designed. A new maintenance walkway is being constructed on the east side of the levee and new debris screens will be manufactured and installed by District crew members. This upgrades the area so it can be maintained much easier and less expensive.

◆◆**Rachel Felice**, the educational coordinator of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, has taken a job with the City of Portland. Her infectious energy and enthusiasm will be missed by all who have come into contact with her. The program educated over 4,000 students this past year on the value of the watershed and its wildlife. Congratulations to Rachel. The Council is looking to refill the slot. **Jesse Rosenbluth**, with the end of his one year grant-supported stay, has also left the program. As Volunteer Coordinator, among other duties, he did a great job and will be missed, as well.

◆◆**Justin Krueger** was hired as of January 1st as crew leader. His duties include overseeing the crew activities and scheduling their maintenance program and priorities, ordering parts, making sure all equipment and pump stations are inspected and maintained to District standards. He is from Roseburg, although he and his family now live in Vancouver, and has a background in environmental construction and management and equipment operation. He is catching on very quickly and is proving to be a very valuable addition. This, by the way, is the first new position approved by the board in over ten years and is part of the District's plan to bring others on who can absorb the information and take over the District following anticipated retirement of about half of the organization with the next five years.

◆◆The District has a new engineer who began May 1st. He is **Adam Zucker** who has ten years corporate experience as a private engineer. He and his family live in Portland, although he is originally from the mid-west. Civil Engineers are hard to find - the District had been trying for over a year - so gaining one with his experience is gratifying. Filling this position is also part of the District's job succession planning for the future. In both cases with the Engineer and the Crew Leader, Deputy Director Dave Hendricks can begin to train these young leaders and leave more time in his schedule for the longer range planning for District facilities, many of which are coming up on fifty years of service.

◆◆**Bruce McClelland**, Environmental Specialist for the District for about 13 years, has returned to his roots with the Port of Portland where he will work on the deicing program. Bruce was instrumental in developing and implementing the District's environmental objectives that have awards at several levels. Congratulations to Bruce. The Port is getting a good man. We wish him well. MCDD staff will wait until this fall to explore what are the greatest needs within the organization before filling the vacated slot.

◆◆**Tom Anderson**, the person with the greatest longevity with the District, received the state-wide 2007 Special District Service Award for his work on the US Army Corps of Engineers project. Tom operates the special excavator called the Spyder and has been instrumental in creating, through his dredging, 17 acres of emerging wetlands and generated over \$800,000 from outside the District that paid for the project. This is quite an accomplishment and a credit to Tom's careful and accomplished use of the Spyder and barges. Congratulations to Tom for this honor.

◆◆In recent months MCDD employees have been honored for their years of service with the district. They are:

Tom Anderson, Equipment Operator, 24 years in May

Bob Sutela, Equipment Operator, 19 years in January

Dave Hendricks, Deputy Director, coming up on 19 years in October

Dave Berry, Utility Worker II, 18 years in March

Gloria Gallego, Office Specialist, 10 years in May

Steve Luna, Chief Mechanic, 9 years in July

Josh McNamee, Equipment Mechanic, 9 years in July

Keith Radcliff, Environmental Specialist, 6 years in April

Bob Eaton, Executive Director, 5 years in May

Overall, MCDD staff average 9.8 years of service to district landowners.



SDIC

◆◆The next SDIC Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for October 2 for a tour of facilities to go from noon to 3 p.m. If you would like

to join the board, please contact the office at 503-281-5675 x 301 to make a reservation. There are at least four seats available on the van.

◆◆The budget the Board adopted in June for FY 2008-2009 was the same amount assessed in both FY 2006-2007 and FY 2007- 2008, a credit to the Board to control costs. The raise in the budget was due to a \$150,000 provided by the City of Troutdale to complete a weir project that will benefit the City, the Port of Portland and the Company.

◆◆A portion of the levee West of Sundial Road has been resurfaced using surplus material from the Troutdale Airport taxiway project. The cost was borne by the contractor who was able to dump the material for free in agreement that he also use a tractor to blade it out smooth and reseed it. A win-win situation for all concerned.

◆◆Work was recently completed along the ditch behind the Travel America facility where land was cleared of grown-over blackberries and high grasses. Company crew and equipment then went on the west side of the ditch to clear out there so it is easier to get to and maintain the creek. This project was supported by the City of Troutdale and the three private landowners on whose land we worked. Thanks to all.

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ALL DISTRICTS

◆◆The US Army Corps of Engineers has notified all Districts that the Corps will be unable to inspect the levees this year because of a lack of funds. The Districts are to inspect their own levees this fall and the Corps hopes to have funds in 2009 to do the job, again. The Districts are gearing up for inspections in September and October.

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4MAT

◆◆The fourth quarterly roundtable of the Four District Management Advisory Team (4MAT) was held on July 24, hosted by MCDD and their Board member **Larry Cooper** acting on behalf of President **Tim Warren** who was unable to attend. Guest speaker was **Sharon Capizzo**, Senior Vice President for Government Banking for Bank of America.

She works with a variety of governments from small to large, and all are working on electronic transactions in some way. She presented the current state of the industry following the economic changes that have taken place,

but spent most time, explaining how electronic banking works, how electronic checks are made and processed and what kinds of reports are available to staff and board members to review transactions for accuracy.

The next roundtable will be held in October with Pen 1 hosting.



Enjoy the remainder of this incredible summer weather....~Bob~

Comments, ideas, articles, critiques (if gentle) are all welcomed.



Friday E-News

Presented by Multnomah County Drainage District #1

Bob Eaton, editor

beaton@mccd.org

Editorial policy: The E-News strives for both brevity and accuracy. Those recognizing inaccuracies are encouraged to contact the editor so corrections, if necessary, can be made.