

FRIDAY E-NEWS
FOR PEN 1/PEN 2/MCDD/SDIC BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF AND FRIENDS
February 13, 2009

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

DISTRICT BUDGETS FOR FY 2009-2010

Months of budget work will culminate in late May through late June as the four districts adopt their budgets for FY 2009-2010. A primary goal in all four districts is to keep assessments at last year's level while the economy is settled in cautionary mode. For more information about any budget considerations, please contact the district office.



DISTRICT NEWS BRIEFS

PEN ONE

◆◆ The next PEN 1 Board meeting is scheduled for April 9 for a 2009-2010 budget workshop. The Board will meet at the MCDD office at 1880 NE Elrod Drive from noon to 2:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please contact the office 503-281-5675 x 301.

◆◆ 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 through the Columbia River Crossing Project, most of that stormwater is scheduled to drain into 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, but less costly alternatives are being considered. These are critical issues for a District that only has a \$200,000 per year budget. Some creative budgetary considerations are being developed for the Board to look at.



PEN TWO

◆◆The next PEN 2 board meeting is scheduled for February 19th in the Columbia Room at the Jubitz Portlander Grill. If you would like to attend the meeting, you may call 503-281-5675 x 301 for more information. It is scheduled from noon to two o'clock.

◆◆The Bridgeton Tree Removal and Planting Project moved through phase one last fall when the remaining offending trees were removed and the levee adjacent to Columbia School was widened to accommodate both a better levee and allow for tree planting and a future sidewalk. Finally, some 70+ trees were planted on the school yard and the levee addition. In the fall of 2009, additional trees will be planted in locations to be determined through use of the landscape architect's plans by a neighborhood selection group. This process would happen again for 2010. **Adam Zucker**, District Engineer, is in charge of this project.

◆◆Repairs to the levee on the east side of the district, with costs shared by PEN 2 and MCDD, have been postponed for this year so the budgeted funds could be reallocated to the tree removal and planting program on the Bridgeton Levee. The Boards will try to include those funds into the FY 09-10 budget.

◆◆The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has written a letter to FEMA recommending certification for the Bridgeton levee as a result of the tree work accomplished in 2008. There is no reason to believe FEMA will not honor that request. This means that on the federal flood insurance maps published by FEMA in the fall of 2009, PEN 2 will be listed as having certified levees. This means that all current benefits such as flood insurance and loans will still be available to landowners. In addition, the District can receive financial help from FEMA should PEN 2 levees be damaged by a natural disaster. Without certification these would not be available. Congratulations to PEN 2 and the Bridgeton neighborhood.

◆◆Two new board members have joined the PEN 2 Board of Supervisors. They are **Jason Ashe**, a construction contractor and resident of PEN 2, and **Karen Myers**, also a PEN 2 resident who serves as Treasurer for the Board of the East Columbia Neighborhood Association. They filled newly created seats as the Board elected to go from three to five members. **Dick Shafer** has been reelected to the Board with a term that expires in 2010. **Walter Valenta** was elected to the Board for a three year term after being appointed to a vacant seat last year. Thanks also to **Val Humble** and **Matt Whitney** who were candidates for the new seats.



MCDD

◆◆The next board meeting is scheduled for March 12th at the MCDD Conference room from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. If you would like to join the Board for this meeting, please call the office at 503-281-5675 x 301 to attend.

◆◆A new Board member was appointed by the Board to fill a vacancy created by a resignation. He is **George Donnerberg** a resident and owner of McGuire Point Marina at about 172nd and Marine Drive. He is a licensed land appraiser and has been interested in District operations for many years. He replaces **Chuck Harrison** who served since 2005. Chuck will be missed but all look forward to getting to know George.

◆◆The resurfacing of the Marine Drive levee between the 47th Street boat ramp east to the Sea Scout base was completed this summer and hydro-seeded. The cost was about \$160,000, just \$10,000 over budget. Over the years the levee has been eroded on the landward side by wind, rain and foot traffic. Soil was hauled in from the adjacent repository at the west end of the airport to smooth the levee. MCDD plans to continue levee resurfacing east to 122nd on the landward side. Following that the emphasis will change to resurfacing the waterside. Overall this is probably an 8-12 year project. For the first two phases of this project the placement of soil was under \$3.00/yard, about a 150% savings over usual costs, which are about \$8.00/yard. Thanks to **Dave Hendricks** of the District for envisioning and implementing this cost-saving plan.

◆◆The USACE 1135 program funded about \$70,000 worth of slough dredging this past summer. This is the end of that program. The District has dredged about 7.5 miles of main slough and created about 15 acres of emerging wetlands in the process. The City of Portland BES vegetation crews have done their magic on each site planting trees, grasses and scrub shrubs to provide habitat and to stabilize the new wetland areas. In six years, the USACE has invested about \$800,000 for this dredging project, which was sponsored by the City of Portland and is a win-win-win for all three participating agencies. Two District staff members won awards for this innovative project. **Dave Hendricks** won the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) Special Districts Manager of the Year Award in 2005. **Tom Andersen** won the SDAO 2008 Special Projects Award as the operator of the Spyder which was used to do the in-water dredging work.

◆◆The 142nd Street cross levee had its under-levee pipes cleaned this summer. Divers went into the two 60" culverts to determine there was no structural damage and then jetted out the system of debris. A new maintenance walkway was constructed and placed by District crew members on the east side of the levee. New trash rake screens were manufactured and installed to the walkway by the same crew members. This upgrades the area so it can be maintained much easier and at less cost. **Josh McNamee** was the fabricator of the screens while **Bob Sutela** installed the walkway.

◆◆Pump number three at Pump Station #1 has been pulled for repairs. Each year all pumps are subjected to a vibration analysis to make sure they are operating within specifications. The pump is pulled when a problem is found. It has been over six years since the last major pump had to be removed for repairs. Because the height of the system, from the motor at about eight feet above floor level, to the pump which is operated by several shaft extensions that go down from floor level about 40 feet into the wet well, it takes about six major tasks to remove it all. In this case it was the pump and not the motor, that was faulty but each is being tended to and will be reinstalled by the end of the month. Pump #3 is turned on October 1 and off on May 1 as part of the partnership between the Port of Portland and the District in airport de-icing. It is driven by a 300 horsepower motor. District staff member **Steve Luna** has been in charge of the pump rebuilding project.

◆◆**Sheilagh Diez** has joined the Columbia Slough Watershed Council staff in September 2008 as Education Coordinator. She has over ten years experience as an outdoor educator having worked with such organizations as Multnomah County Outdoor School, Audubon Society of Portland, and the Friends of Tryon Creek State Park. Sheilagh has an undergraduate degree in Geology from Whitman College and a Masters in Educational Leadership from Portland State University. She is thrilled to be working with students and other community members from across the Slough.

◆◆**Nathaniel Talbot**, was hired by CSWC for the 08-09 season as Community Stewardship Coordinator. He earned a degree in Biology with a minor in music from the University of Oregon in 2006. Since college, Nathaniel has hopped around the Pacific Northwest as an environmental educator, working in areas such as Homer, Alaska, Oregon's Opal Creek Wilderness and Portland's Tryon Creek State Park. He is an avid naturalist and is passionate about the restoration of Oregon's native ecosystems. He is also a darn good guitarist who performs professionally evenings and weekends both as a soloist or part of a rock 'n roll band.

◆◆**Melissa Sandoz** has been hired as the Outreach Director for the Watershed Council.

After spending a year as the Council's AmeriCorps member, Melissa moved to Hood River in 2007 to hone her environmental education skills. A short year later, she gladly jumped back in to help with outreach & event planning for the Council. Melissa has a degree in Environmental Studies from Linfield College, and when she's not in the office she secretly longs for a life on the stage as an actress (or at least a costume designer).

◆◆ One MCDD employee has been honored for his years of service with the District:

Bob Sutela, Equipment Operator, 20 years in January.



SDIC

◆◆ The next SDIC Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for April 23rd from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Department of Transportation Office at Troutdale Airport. If you would like to join the Board, please contact the office at 503-281-5675 x 301.

◆◆ It is anticipated that an agreement will be approved by the Port of Portland to allow SDIC to remove some abandoned railroad tracks, take out old culverts that go under the tracks and are at wrong elevations for proper drainage of Arata Creek, and a ditch extended. The railroad tracks and supporting timbers would be stored on site in the event at some point in the future there is a need for the tracks to be replaced. The railroad company has already given approval for the project so it is the current owner, the Port, whose final approval is needed.

◆◆ Planning continues for the construction of a weir on Salmon Creek that would allow an estimated 300 acre feet of increased flows to spill over into wetlands owned by the Port of Portland. This would shave the peak off large rain storms or snow melt and allow the existing pump station to gradually pull down the water stored in the system. The City of Troutdale has set aside \$150,000 to fund the project. Much thanks goes to Troutdale for their support.

◆◆ 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.

4MAT

◆◆The quarterly roundtable of the Four District Management Advisory Team (4MAT) was held on January 29th, hosted by PEN 1 and their Board President **Chris Bailey**. Guest speakers were **Roger Kitchin** of the Oregon Department of Transportation and Stormwater Manager for the Columbia River Crossing, and **Kevin Bracy** also of ODOT who is Project Manager for the I-5 widening project over the Lower Columbia Slough and levees near Denver Avenue. Each provided an overview of the projects and then focused on the stormwater aspects.

The next roundtable will be held in April with Pen 2 hosting.



FOUR BOARD TRAINING

◆◆On March 19th MCDD will host board members from all four districts to a three hour training session followed by a BBQ with District staff members. Several training topics have been advanced for consideration with a final decision to be made following next week's meeting with the PEN 2 Board.

Stay warm and dry, and ready for Spring....~Bob~



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



Friday E-News

Presented by Multnomah County Drainage District #1

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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.