



*Home of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge*

COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
TUALATIN VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
16340 BEEF BEND ROAD IN SHERWOOD  
THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1999, 5:30 P.M.

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Council tours the Refuge (host – Ralph Weber)
4. Other Business – if any
5. Adjourn

*Note: The Public is welcome to the May 27, 1999 work session however no public testimony will be taken.*



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THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1999, 5:30 P.M.**

The start of the meeting was delayed until 6:05 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to brief Council members on Refuge operations and future objectives.

**PERSONS ATTENDING:**

Ralph Weber, U.S. Fish and Wildlife for the Refuge  
Jim Houck, U.S. Fish and Wildlife for the Refuge  
Allan Bennett, U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologist for the Refuge  
Mayor Walt Hitchcock, City of Sherwood  
Council President Mark Cottle, City of Sherwood  
Councilor Scott Franklin, City of Sherwood  
Chris Wiley, Recorder, City of Sherwood  
Joan Patterson, President, Friends of the Refuge  
Janet Bechtold, Friends of the Refuge  
Scott Schroeder, Friends of the Refuge  
Jane Foreman, Friends of the Refuge  
Dan Leonard, Mayor's Wildlife Refuge Task Force  
Jim Claus, Chairman, Mayor's Wildlife Refuge Task Force  
Barbara Leonard, Mayor's Wildlife Refuge Task Force (arrived mid meeting)

**PRESENTATION FROM JIM HOUCK:**

**Part I – Land Acquisition**

Mr. Houck provided a copy of a map which outlined the present land owned by the Refuge and land areas proposed for purchase (a copy for the record was requested 6/1/99. If received, the map highlights land acquired through FY 97 in yellow and land to be acquired as of FY 97 in red.)

Presently the Refuge has purchased 805 acres of land for a sum of \$6 million through FY 96. The proposed site will total 3,058 acres.

## PRESENTATION FROM RALPH WEBER

### Part II – Land Acquisition

The Department of Fish & Wildlife has a land acquisition priority system ranking the criteria for the various refuges. The Tualatin River Refuge is prioritized about in the middle. Some criteria considered are aquatic systems associated with river system, wetland flood plains, types of wildlife which habitat the area, etc.

As to habitat restoration, approximately 80% of the land targeted to be within the Refuge boundary is in the flood plain.

(Barbara Leonard arrived)

The site plan for the Steinborn tract (the old dairy farm on Hwy 99) of the Refuge is completed and includes plans for a permanent pond, a seasonal wetland and upland habitat with existing vegetation. It also allows for year-round wildlife viewing.

### GENERAL DISCUSSION FOLLOWED:

In response to a question from Mr. Weber, Mayor Hitchcock said the City of Sherwood's position to the Corps of Engineers is that the City supports the Beef Bend Road extension. Mr. Houck replied that the Refuge supports the extension if Washington County addresses their concerns. Mr. Houck also said the Tualatin River Keepers oppose the extension.

As the discussion progressed, Jim Houck pointed out that 50/50 matches for funding requests have a better chance of being approved by Fish & Wildlife although Fish & Wildlife does have some money that doesn't have to be matched. To be successful in obtaining funding from Fish & Wildlife the Refuge could be more successful if they could show support from several different sources, such as the City of Sherwood, Tualatin River Keepers, Friends of the Refuge, the Mayor's Wildlife Task Force, etc.

There is a storm water facility planned at Rock Creek and Murdock.

Fish & Wildlife owns the upland area from Oregon Street over to the Snyder property.

### JIM HOUCK CONTINUED WITH THE FISH & WILDLIFE PRESENTATION:

### Part III – Public Use

The Steinborn tract is ready for development for public use facilities – parking lots, restrooms, signs, trails, boardwalks, observation blinds, and a fishing pier centered off Hwy 99 with a pull-in where the old driveway to the dairy farm was and another access off Elsner Road for a canoe launching ramp. This has not been funded yet. Refuge employees are currently doing a study on what this will cost. ODOT has a T1 program (traffic enhancement for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) and we have two requests for grants in now; one looks very favorable.

Everything at the Refuge will remain closed until the public has adequate facilities and staff on board.

Phase One of the Refuge plan is to have the trails, interpretive panels, etc. in. Phase Two is to have a visitor's center.

Mr. Houck requested that the City partner with the Refuge to draft legislation to Congress requesting support for a visitor's center. The partnership should make presentation to: 1) Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Regional Office, 2) Senator Smith, 3) Senator Wyden, and 4) Congressman Wu. This presentation should be a show of cooperation for the development of the Refuge between the Refuge Fish & Wildlife staff, Washington County, the City of Sherwood, Friends of the Refuge, and the Mayor's Wildlife Task Force.

Presently, although not finalized, the estimated cost for Phase I of the public use is \$1.9 million.

#### RALPH WEBER COMPLETED THE PRESENTATION:

##### Phase IV – Outreach

The plan is to create awareness of the Refuge and get community support to move forward to achieving public access. Several festivals – Migratory Bird Day, Discovery Tours (hosted by the Tualatin River Keepers), Refuge Appreciation Day and Earth Day offer opportunities to make the public familiar with the Refuge.

This facility will serve people from outside the Sherwood community and will also visit school districts, provide presentation materials, etc., however more staff will have to be brought on to accomplish these goals.

The Refuge has the potential to accommodate 50,000 visitors per year and to also achieve 100,000 student contacts per year. Toward that end, another staff member will be hired to initiate public use/information programs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.