

Zigzag erosion decision postponed until August 31

A hearing to determine whether or not to grant development permits to several property owners on the Zigzag River has been continued until Aug. 31 when the Clackamas County Hearings Officer will announce his decision.

Testimony from several parties was given at an Aug. 24 hearing at the County Courthouse on the application of the owners to build erosion prevention devices on the banks of their Zigzag and Rhododendron homes.

The owners applied for the permits following a winter of high water that did extensive damage to the banks of the Sandy and Zigzag Rivers.

A similar hearing was held earlier this month to consider the application of three landowners on the Sandy River who requested development permits. The hearings officer approved their request.

However, construction of the Sandy River devices cannot begin until after the Zigzag River hearing. If approved, the Zigzag River sites would be included in the construction bids with the Sandy River sites as one project.

Six sites were specified on the application in Zigzag and 30 tax lots (owned by nine individuals) were identified in Rhododendron, including seven owned by Clackamas County.

There was testimony at the Aug. 24 hearing from two parties who opposed the development permits. Dale Luhman of Zigzag opposed

the approval saying that he was worried about possible downstream effects and stated that the river should be preserved in a natural state.

Luhman has since moved to the state of Washington.

An official from the Oregon State Fisheries and Wildlife Department also voiced disapproval of the permits on the grounds that the devices would accelerate the speed of the water and that construction would require the removal of bank vegetation. The bank vegetation cools the water and provides the

fish with protective cover, he said.

The Forest Service also testified at the hearing as adjacent landowners following the request of the hearings officer.

"We don't wish to demonstrate approval or disapproval of any proposed projects on private lands, but rather share with you the experience and conditions related to the adjacent public lands," said Roger Dever of the Zigzag Ranger station.

Pete Brost, also of the Zigzag Ranger station said that the Forest Service didn't

get involved with projects on private land unless there was some obvious harm that might result.

He said that the Forest Service had consulted numerous specialists about the project in February, including a hydraulic engineer, a landscape architect, a fishery and biology experts, and they had determined that no definite harm would result from the proposed project.

The final decision will be announced at 7 p.m. Aug. 31 at the Clackamas County Courthouse.

Packwood sponsors bill to reduce energy costs

Oregon consumers will pay 10 percent to 20 percent less for electricity if a Northwest energy bill is passed by Congress, according to Sen. Bob Packwood.

Packwood, R-Ore., testified last week before the Senate Energy Committee regarding Washington Sen. Henry Jackson's Northwest power bill. Jackson is also chairman of the energy panel.

"I became an original cosponsor of this legislation if for no other reason than the break it gives to Oregon consumers over the next 10 years," he said. "The typical ratepayer will find he is paying 10 to 20 percent less than if we fail to enact this bill. That's a major help in these inflationary years." The measure would entitle

residential and farm customers of private utilities to purchase federal power for the cheaper rate paid by public utility districts.

Packwood said the legislation gives a boost to conservation and renewable energy sources.

The bill directs the Bonneville Power Administration to use conservation as its first source for increasing the amount of available energy.

"I am greatly encouraged to find so much attention devoted to extending our present supply of energy," Packwood said. "Waste is not just illogical, but uneconomical."

The senator also proposed 12 amendments to "strengthen" the bill.

Packwood said the effects of his amendments would:

— insure that the wholesale rate benefits would be passed along to the ultimate consumers of electricity.

— provide for state and local governments to be charged the same utility rates as residential customers and federal agencies rather than the rates charged industrial electricity users.

— establish a BPA grant program to encourage qualified groups and individuals to develop creative conservation or energy projects.

— require the BPA administrator to project over the next 20 years the use of the region's water resources for hydroelectric power generation.



Cool spot on a hot day

RICHARD NIELSEN of Sandy stops to rest during a hike to the top of Multnomah Falls on Saturday. The trail was

crowded with hikers enjoying the return of summer.

Staff photo

County must recut the budget

By JOHN DEAN

OREGON CITY. — Clackamas County officials, who thought the budget was ended in June must return to the trenches next week to cut another \$420,000 out of the current 1978-79 budget.

The villain again is the estimate of Oregon and California Railroad (O&C) timber revenues for the county by the federal Bureau of Land Management, which supervises the lands.

The BLM notified the county Friday, Aug. 18 that its revenue estimate of O&C funds was \$420,000 too high. Where the county had planned on receiving \$4.95 million in O & C funds, it will not receive barely more than \$4.5 million.

For county officials, the cut is a nightmarish repeat of events in May, when BLM told them its earlier estimate of O&C revenues was \$550,000 too high.

What makes this cut worse is that the fiscal year has already begun, and programs now operating had counted on county funds for the entire year.

County Commissioner Ralph Groener said with the new cut "You're talking about the total elimination of programs."

While Groener was reluctant to cite

specific examples of programs that might be cut, he mentioned community corrections as a possibility.

Other social services programs the county funds, such as the Youth Alternatives Program, could also be in line for elimination, Groener said.

Groener said he would try to avoid cutting the sheriff's budget. He said he would also object to an across the board percentage cut in each department's budget, which he labeled a "meat ax cut."

Although the county's budget is greater than \$50 million, the large majority of that amount stems from programs funded or mandated by the federal government or the state.

Where the budget committee can cut is the \$15 million general fund. That fund, however, comprises many essential county departments, such as the assessor, clerk or district attorney's offices.

Estimates Off

Ray Doerner, chairman of the Association of O&C Counties, said explained that the cut came because standing O&C timber is not being cut as fast as BLM estimated it would be.

O&C revenues are paid at the time timber is cut, not when it is sold. Since

the BLM issues leases of three years, "Sooner or later, it has to come out," Doerner said.

Doerner speculated the timber companies fearing the uncertainty of timber supplies in the future, might be trying to build up reserves of standing timber to carry themselves through lean harvesting years.

But Doerner noted the O&C counties enjoyed an "exceptionally good" timber harvest last year, and could have expected less revenue this year.

Sooner or later, he said, "The counties are going to have to develop some cash reserve. You can't run the county jail on the same cycle as the timber reserve."

The problem in Clackamas County is that O&C revenues are almost as large a source of funds as the property tax. The county's tax base dates back to 1947, with six percent yearly increases.

County budget officer Jerry Justice charged last week the county's problem has been aggravated by the refusal of Surveyor Dexter Milne and Sheriff John Renfro to cut staff to meet their budgets.

The budget approved by commissioners on June 30 cut the sheriff's budget by about \$130,000 from 1977-78 and slashed the surveyor's budget by \$86,000 or 60 percent.

Dancing lessons are slated

The Sandy Swingers will hold introductory lessons in square dancing starting Sept. 10 and running through March.

The lessons will be held Sunday nights from 7-9 p.m. at the Oddfellows Hall on Proctor Boulevard. There is a charge per couple for the lessons and the night's entertainment.

The first lesson for newcomers is free, according to a club spokesman.

Persons who wish to join the group but cannot attend the first evening will be able to make up the lesson on either of the two following Sundays.

Rock club show set

The Mt. Hood Rock Club will sponsor its 22nd annual Gem and Mineral Show Sept. 9 and 10 at the Mt. Hood Community College gym.

The show, running from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, will feature displays of agates, gems, mineral fossils and fluorescent rocks.



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Gifts of the Earth

LCDC budget less than current one

SALEM — The state Land Conservation and Development Commission is requesting a total \$9.1 million for the 1979-80 biennium, \$2.5 million less than its budget for the current biennium.

The commission approved

the request two weeks ago.

Of the \$9.1 million in the request, \$5.7 million is earmarked for grants to local governments, including planning assistance, plan maintenance, coordination and technical assistance.

Information Coordinator Roger Kirchner explained that the LCDC budget will be lower because of the large number of cities and counties that will have approved comprehensive plans by 1980.

The remainder of LCDC's budget goes toward coordination of planning with federal and state agencies and evaluation of local comprehensive plans.

The budget request was sent to Governor Bob Straub, who will make it part of an executive budget, which will be presented to the 1979 Legislature.

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