

Residents air concerns on upcoming election

by CAROL THURLKILL
Post Correspondent

Do the people in the Welches area want or need the proposed Hoodland Sewer District with a half million gallon per day treatment plant?

A number of people with concerns about that question participated in an informational meeting with Clackamas County officials Thursday night. Roughly 65 residents and other interested persons gathered for 2½ hours at Welches School where they aired some concerns about the project or

voiced their approval.

The registered voters in the district (there are approximately 320) will decide the fate of the system in a special election Tuesday. Voting will take place at the Hoodland Lion's Club in Wemme. Polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Regardless of the outcome, it was pointed out at the meeting, there will be a treatment plant. If voters approve formation of the district, the half-million gallon per day plant will be built.

If the vote is no, a quarter-million gallon plant will be built with private

money and a federal grant to serve a population of 5,000.

The difference in the two proposals is basically that people in the Welches and Rhododendron areas will not have access to the sewer system and will not be assessed to pay for it.

That appears to please many people in the Welches area who already have septic tanks but would still be required to pay the assessments of the Local Improvement District, connection fee and the monthly user fee.

"The basic reason the sewer district is coming in is because American

Guaranty (Life Insurance Co.) is coming in with condominiums and a concentration of people," said Charlie Augustine. "Why would I want to pay for something like that?"

He was referring to American Guaranty's 167-acre Rippling River development now under construction on Welches Road.

But county Director of Environmental Services John McIntyre expressed a theme that was repeated at least a dozen times during the course of the meeting by those in favor of the district's formation.

"If people don't want development, then why isn't the Mt. Hood Plan being changed?"

The Plan, adopted in 1976, says a sewage plant should be built for the Hoodland area which could accommodate a population of 10,000.

One man at the meeting who declined to identify himself, said area residents should have an opportunity to vote on the amount of growth on the mountain. "Why shouldn't people have an opportunity to vote for something that will change their lifestyle?" he said.

County commissioner Robert

Schumacher, in response to a remark against the sewage district, responded that, "We're not up here because we're selling this sewer."

"It's no skin off my back if you never flush your toilet again."

The area that is in greatest need of sewers is the Rhododendron commercial strip on Highway 26. McIntyre said the Department of Environmental Quality may come in to require the area to be sewered.

Streams in the Rhododendron area have shown high bacteria count because of the high water table and the inadequate septic systems.

With extra money

County rescues departments

By JAN LOVELL

OREGON CITY — The county budget committee took swift action last week to rescue three county departments from budget problems after they were told the county has an unanticipated \$330,000 in the 1978-79 till.

The Clackamas County budget committee allocated approximately \$250,000 to the sheriff's department, the surveyor's department and Aid to Indigent Defendants program after it was told about the unanticipated earnings.

The county made the earnings from Oregon and California Railroad (O&C) timber funds and from accrued interest.

The committee also decided to put a lid on overall county employment and programs for the upcoming fiscal year. It voted to allow no increases in the total amount of county positions or programs.

By not allowing increases in the total amount of programs, the committee will have some flexibility in which areas they will be able to cut or expand.

The three departments which were allocated money said they could not stay within the budget limitations imposed on them last summer when officials slashed the county budget.

The sheriff's department told the commissioners it would need \$127,000 "just to maintain personnel." The department began the 1978-79 fiscal year in July with a \$297,977 shortage of funds over the prior year.

Criminal Bureau Chief Chuck Thomas told the committee the department has tried to stay within the budget cut by cutting out vacation and sick leave replacements, by reducing overtime and by not replacing eight personnel people who left their jobs since the budget cut.

"We've tried as best as we possible can to curtail the budget," Thomas said, "but we still will need the additional amount just to maintain our present staff through June 30."

"I feel more strongly about this than I do about any of the others," said Commissioner Ralph Groener. "It is the responsibility of local government to maintain the sheriff's department and what I heard was a very diligent attempt to cut back and yet maintain service."

The committee appropriated the \$127,000 to the sheriff's budget with one dissenting vote cast by Allan Manuel.

It also appropriated \$75,000 to the Aid to Indigent Defendants court program after hearing that the major homicide cases in the county this year have exhausted this fiscal year's budget.

The county uses the general fund to support the program, which provides attorneys for indigents. Jerry Justice, chief administrative assistant for the board of commissioners, said the attorneys did not take an increase in fees but the increased volume of homicide cases have drained the budget.

Clackamas County District Attorney Jim O'Leary added this year's murder trials have "pretty well destroyed" his budget also.

Commissioner Skoko objected to the county paying for the AID program. "I'm just bitter that the county taxpayer has to be subjected to this type of legislation and that we have to contribute to this extent for alleged indigents."

Skoko pointed out ten percent of the county's ad valorem taxes go toward paying for the AID program.

The committee voted to appropriate the \$75,000 with Skoko casting the lone dissenting vote.

The committee also heard about problems at the surveyor's office. County Surveyor Dexter Milne said his office has had a "pauper's budget" for a long time.

"We have serious problems with the upkeep of files because of the lack of funds and our office is a firetrap," Milne said. "We are just barely able to keep up with the work and we have no fluff whatsoever."

The committee considered three options for the surveyor's office including: no staff cutbacks; retaining the surveyor and cutting other staff;

or retaining the surveyor and three staff and cutting others. The committee opted for no staff cutbacks and appropriated \$48,467 to the surveyor's office.

Milne said the budget would remain at "pauper's level" even with the additional money.

After making the appropriations, Commissioner Groener commended the department heads for staying closely within their budgets so Clackamas County would not be in the "same fiscal position as many of the neighboring counties are."

Ski areas consider giant slide installation

by CAROL THURLKILL
Post Correspondent

A concrete mountain slide may carry summer recreationists down Mt. Hood's downhill ski slopes in the future.

The slide, a fiber-reinforced cement trough, would carry people down gentle terrain in fiberglass sleds. The concept originated in Europe and has been developed in eastern United States for about 10 years.

This would be its first introduction to Northwest skiers, according to Dick Schaeffer, Forest Service Landscape Architect.

According to Schaeffer, four ski areas, Timberline, Mt. Hood Meadows, Multitorpor-Ski Bowl, and Summit, have expressed an interest in installing the slide designed by Alpine Slide Company. While it is in the concept stage for Timberline, manager Richard Kohnstamm says a slide there would be constructed somewhere near Pucci Chairlift.

"It's not on the top of our priority list. We are interested because of its tremendous success in other areas," he said.

Clay Simon, manager at Mt. Hood Meadows, feels there should be only one slide on Mt. Hood.

"The Forest Service will decide that. We are simply studying it at this point. We would be looking at the terrain on Yellow Chairlift," he said.

The Ski Area Masterplans for Timberline and Meadows do not propose the installation of mountain slides. Multitorpor-Ski Bowl, however, recently submitted formal plans to install the slide with their Ski Area Masterplan.

Keith Petrie, manager at Multitorpor-Ski Bowl, said that his ski area has already engineered for a slide to go either two-thirds or all of the way up the lower Ski Bowl.

"If the Masterplan moves through the process, we would be in a position to

ask for financing," Petrie said. "We would be hopeful of having it done by next year."

Petrie added that the summertime device would expand the ski area to a year-round operation, accommodating approximately 600 riders per hour. He indicated that the slide may cost over \$250,000 and usually pays for itself in 2-3 years.

If constructed by Alpine Slide Company, the conveyance would be engineered into a hillside to allow a continuous slope (an average gradient of 20 percent) and would follow a straight and curved path from the top to the bottom of an existing chairlift, about 2,500 feet in length.

"There have been no major accidents to my knowledge, and no concerns from our insurance company so far," Petrie said.

The Forest Service plans to consider the installation for all ski areas at once in its environmental analysis, Schaeffer said.

"The results could be from one to five ski areas, or none," he added.

In its scrutinization process, the agency will be considering: which ski areas are most suitable; if this is an appropriate use of federal land; if it conflicts with existing uses of the area; whether its construction minimizes the impact on the physical environment; and whether it complies with the Mt. Hood Plan and the permit area Masterplans.

Once the environmental assessment reports on the Multitorpor-Ski Bowl Masterplan and the installation of mountain slides for all areas are completed, approximately 200 brochures and response forms will be sent out to people who served on the Mt. Hood Planning Unit.

"We kind of expect it will be controversial," Schaeffer said. "Since we don't have any in Oregon, I expect some people will object."



HOODLAND FIREMEN at the scene of fire which gutted summer home in Timberline Rim Sunday morning.

Investigation of the blaze will begin later this week.

Fire destroys summer home

Fire gutted a summer home off Truman Road in Timberline Rim Sunday morning and investigators will be looking for clues this week that it may have been a case of arson.

The fire at Lot 360, Timberline Drive West, was reported to the Hoodland Fire Department at 3:03 a.m. The house was fully involved by the time the department had arrived.

Clackamas County deputies arrested Brightwood resident Godfrey Kenneth Johnson at the scene. He was charged with criminal trespass and booked under \$5,000 bond.

The house, which had been recently assessed at \$45,000, belongs to F.D. Johnson of Portland. (No relation to the arrested man.)

Kenneth Johnson was reported to

have been thrown out of a party nearby in Timberline Rim and had taken off all his clothes before leaving.

Deputy Les Huvvla said Johnson had reportedly broken into the home that was burned to get some clothes.

Investigators from the state arson squad and the Hoodland Fire Department will work through the charred remains of the house to see if they can determine the cause of the blaze.

Forest service discusses landlord role for Hood National Forest

by CAROL THURLKILL
Post Correspondent

Downhill ski developments on the Mt. Hood National Forest are all in the process of expanding their present facilities. Previous articles in The Post explored the extent of these proposed and/or approved additions for Timberline, Multitorpor-Ski Bowl, Mt. Hood Meadows, and Summit Ski Area; ski industry's promotion of Mt. Hood; and how environmentalists perceive ski area growth and try to affect decisions regarding it. The Forest Service, as the governmental landlord of these special use permit areas, plays a key role in deciding the direction of development. This article will address that role as perceived by Roger Deaver, Zigzag District Ranger.

Post: What is the role of the Forest Service in ski area development?

Deaver: The District Ranger is responsible for the management of on-the-ground resources. However, most large-scale activities, ski areas for instance, are under permit within the authority of the Forest Supervisor. The District Ranger is responsible to solve routine management problems on a day to day basis.

When we begin to talk about ski area development, we're talking about an operation at the forest level or perhaps higher. An activity that would have to conform to the parameters of an existing land use plan, the Mt. Hood Plan. The land use plan is a function of or is under the authority of the Forest Supervisor.

On this national forest, the Forest Supervisor, Dale Robertson, expects the direct involvement of the Ranger in reviewing and programming accomplishment of major deviations under a ski area permit. The Forest Supervisor then reviews the recommendations and finds them either

appropriate or inappropriate.

P: What is your role as District Ranger in expansion of ski areas?

D: The Ranger at Zigzag has a special responsibility to alpine as well as nordic skiing. Unlike other areas in the Northwestern United States, the metro area in Portland has only one area to turn to for recreation.

Even though I've got this side of the mountain, I work closely with Dick Mueller (Ranger of Hood River District). He and I share the management of skiing on the Mt. Hood National Forest. We have a responsibility to make sure there is adequate provision for taking care of that activity.

My management philosophy is that ski areas be compatible and mutually supportive to serve the best quality skiing experience for the national forest visitor. This helps me to make decisions as to clearing runs, changing use hours, expanding lodge facilities, adding lift facilities, or maintaining ski runs. It even helps when I am making decisions as to other uses that go on in the forest.

P: What political pressures do you face when you make a decision regarding ski area expansion?

D: They are immense. I am not ashamed to say that we are somewhat influenced by the political structure of the Northwest. However, I am pleased that it is not direct. I do not receive instructions from Congressmen or Senators. However, through the intended legislative procedure, citizens of northwestern Oregon very often attempt to direct how the national forest will manage ski areas.

P: Do you have political pressure from ski resort managers?

D: I think the Mt. Hood National Forest has devoted a tremendous amount of energy and attention to building an effective, accountable communication between ski area managers and responsible Forest

Service officials. I think we have been very successful. To attest to that, I think in recent years we have not been surprised by telephone calls in which a Congressman or Senator is registering a complaint on behalf of a ski area manager.

This is not to say that we don't, on rare occasion, receive such a telephone call, but that our relationship with the ski areas are such that we have had the full benefit of knowing where our disagreements are before they reach a legislative level.

Our success ratio in resolving our differences before they reach this level has increased. It used to be they would write their Senator for everything we do.

P: What is the environmental criterion the Forest Service uses to allow a ski area development?

D: You cannot look at a ski area and a proposal for expansion and only look at the environment or resources in making a decision. There are other aspects, the balance, the user demand.

Definitely, the resources become a set of parameters that we should use to judge any proposal. For example, the visual resources, the amount of actual soil or vegetative damage that might give rise to prolonged soil erosion problems.

P: How much priority do you give to environmental considerations?

D: First of all, you state what the goals and objectives of a decision are. Those then fall under the category of musts or wants. There are some very definite musts in an area. It must meet the conditions of a land use plan. Any proposal that affects vegetative or soil conditions must meet state and federal water quality standards and a number of other legally restraining factors. It must respond to the most important needs of the using public — safety and accessibility.



CONCRETE SLIDE on a slope in the East. A similar design is planned for Mt. Hood.