

College: Special meeting will be held on Jan. 24

Continued from Page 1A

maximize timber harvest on 650,000 acres of forestland counties turned over to state ownership in the early 1900s. When the suit was certified as class action by a Linn County Circuit Court judge, the plaintiffs grew to 15 counties and roughly 130 taxing districts, including entities such as the college, Clatsop County and Jewell School District.

Board member Patrick Wingard, also a land use planner with the state, said he felt like he was unable to get any questions in during the meeting with the attorneys, which he added did not seem impartial.

"We've got a plaintiff and a defendant," Wingard said. "We had the plaintiff's representatives here. How about we hear from the defendant?"

Breitmeyer said the bulk of the special meeting later in the month would be deliberation, with the lawyers available for questions.

"It seems to me you're interested in hearing from both sides," Breitmeyer said. "We could identify individ-

uals from both sides. We could receive both sets of answers. Then we could prepare those to have the full sort of answer."

Wingard said that while he works in the natural resources sector and has thoroughly researched the lawsuit, others might need more information. "I just hope that everybody is afforded a fair, and unbiased, and equally temporal opportunity to gain information."

Board Chairwoman Rosemary Baker-Monaghan, who has a background in forestry, reiterated Breitmeyer's statement that the executive session Tuesday was informational, and requested by the plaintiffs.

"We're going to continue in that vein, and hear from the quote-unquote other side, so that everyone can have the opportunity to have their questions answered," she said. "And then we'll have a public meeting to talk about it and decide what we want to do."

The college's special meeting will be at 6 p.m. Jan. 24 in Columbia Hall Room 219, on the college's main campus at 1651 Lexington Ave.



Rosemary Baker-Monaghan

PAC: The Partners have scheduled events at arts center through December

Continued from Page 1A

Rumors flew in 2012 that the college would sell the arts center amid budget cuts. The rumors proved false, but a community uproar motivated the Partners, which have since raised money to keep the space open for rehearsals and performances. The group was recently joined by Astoria's Pacific Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, a spiritual group that relocated to the arts center and joined the Partners late last year.

Charlene Larsen, a member of the North Oregon Coast Symphony and co-chairwoman of the Partners, said the group pays more than \$1,800 a month to cover the basic maintenance and operation of the 225-seat auditorium.

"We've been funding the monthly expenses," she said. "We've also done numerous volunteer work parties to enhance the facility. We've scheduled the use of the building on a very consistent basis."

Larsen said the Partners have already scheduled events at the arts center through December.

Fixer-upper

But beyond the daily needs of the arts center is the monumental cost of upgrading the facility into a modern venue, part of why the college has moved away from the building as viable class space. The col-



The Daily Astorian/File Photo

The North Coast Symphonic Band rehearses at Clatsop Community College's Performing Arts Center, where the Partners for the PAC have scheduled events through the rest of the year. The Partners present "All in the Timing" as a fundraiser starting Friday.

lege has estimated that about \$1 million in improvements are needed to make the facility a modern educational space.

Larsen said that figure is probably inflated, considering the volunteer hours put in to improve the building. She said the Partners have already begun pursuing estimates to upgrade the kitchen and fix the building's heating.

The college had an appraisal of the property performed late last year, after it received an unsolicited offer on the arts center and adja-

cent Josie Peper Building from WTJ Development, a company registered to a lawyer in Portland. Karen Radtitz, the Realtor representing the college on the offer, said the developer wanted to develop affordable, student and short-term housing for Columbia Memorial Hospital on the city block, which is mostly occupied by the former Lum's Auto Center. Radtitz said the developer wanted to keep the arts center a "community center," albeit with little elaboration.

The amount of the offer was never released. The name of the developer was also unknown until after the college board rejected the offer.

Asked after Tuesday's meeting what the appraisal of the property was, Breitmeyer declined to give a figure, only to say it was less than the offer the college received last year.

Larsen said the Partners are also waiting to hear what the building was appraised for. "My assumption is that's what our meeting (with the college) is about."

Dam: Webpage may be created to make it 'more transparent'

Continued from Page 1A

Warrenton declared an emergency in December and agreed to ask the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers whether the dam should be restored for flood control as part of the city's levee system.

In September, Akin Blitz, a Portland attorney hired by the city to conduct a report on the dam, said the city should take control of the aging structure, perhaps to use for flood control or keep as an asset that could eventually be removed as mitigation for development.

Blitz described the dam as a "priceless" asset, and some critics had questioned whether the city's interest is more about future development than flood control.

At Tuesday's meeting, Newton said Blitz "was not speaking for me at that time, because that's not one of the options in my book."

"I'm absolutely opposed to using it for any kind of mitigation," Newton said, adding that Blitz "was giving us options, and I wish he'd left that one out."

Kujala agreed, saying that "the city's concern is about flood con-

trol, flood protection, flood insurance." He said the city needs to put the tide gates back on and start operating the dam "as it was ... designed to do."

At a town hall discussion last week between the City Commission and the public on a ballot measure that restricted the transfer of city assets, a concerned resident said he wished the commission had been more transparent so far about its intentions for the dam.

Commissioner Pam Ackley said Tuesday that the commission has spoken with city staff about creating a webpage about the Eighth Street Dam project to make it "more transparent to everyone."

The City Commission's emergency declaration — and the commitment to use the dam for flood control — cements the city's position that the dam is necessary to reduce flood risk. The water district has argued that the dam is obsolete and actually a flood hazard. The state Water Resources Department, after a 2012 inspection, also raised doubts about whether the dam was capable of flood control.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The city wants to use the aging Eighth Street Dam for flood control.

Weddings
the Columbia-Pacific Region's Bridal Guide

Inside our award-winning guide

- Local Vendors
- Local Wedding Stories
- Top Trends
- Expert Tips
- Planning Essentials
- Much More

Weddings is inserted into The Daily Astorian and Chinook Observer with extra copies available all year long. Plus, copies will be at the "Shores Style" Wedding Faire January 28, 2017 at The Loft in Astoria.

e-version of Guide is online at 4 websites for an entire year

Deadline
January 11, 2017

Inserts
January 25, 2017

If you are interested in participating in this year's Bridal Planner and would like more information, contact your advertising sales representative at:
Oregon – 503-325-3211 • Washington – 800-643-3703

Environmental Impact Statement P.O. Box 2870, Portland, OR 97208-2870 1-800-290-5033

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY | BUREAU OF RECLAMATION DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR | BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

IN REPLY REFER TO: CRSO-EIS

Public comment period extended for scoping input for the Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and the Bonneville Power Administration are seeking your help to shape our basin's future. Together, the three agencies operate 14 federal multi-purpose projects on the Columbia and Snake rivers, known as the Columbia River System, that serve the region with flood risk management, navigation, power generation, irrigation, fish and wildlife conservation, recreation, and municipal and industrial water supply.

We are preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to review the environmental and socioeconomic effects of the long-term system operations and configurations of these projects.

To begin this process, the three agencies are hosting public scoping meetings throughout the basin. If you were unable to attend a scoping meeting in your area, you can also find information about the NEPA process and about the way we currently operate the system posted on our website at www.crso.info. You can also use the website to provide us comments that can help define the issues, concerns and thoughts on system operations for consideration in the EIS.

Based on requests from a number of interested organizations, we have extended the scoping comment period to Feb. 7, 2017, in order to allow more time for development and submission of written comments.

After the scoping period ends, we will carefully review the comments received to help inform a range of alternatives and impacts to resources for evaluation in the EIS. We are committed to considering all regional perspectives and to running an open and transparent public process. To that end, we will continue to provide opportunities for meaningful engagement and dialogue with the region after the scoping comment period closes. We all have a stake in the operation of the system and the environmental health of the Columbia River Basin, so we encourage and look forward to hearing your thoughts and comments.

If you have already shared your thoughts, we thank you! If you have not yet shared your perspective, there is still time to do so. Again, the revised public comment period for scoping will now conclude Feb. 7, 2017.

Please go to the website for information about the NEPA process, or send your comments to comment@crso.info. You also may mail your written comments to CRSO EIS, P.O. Box 2870, Portland, OR 97208-2870.

Scott A. Spellmon Major General Division Commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division	Lorri J. Lee Regional Director Pacific Northwest Region Bureau of Reclamation	Elliot E. Mainzer Administrator & CEO Bonneville Power Administration
---	--	--