

PLAN from page 7A

Webb continued, “As we developed WLFEA, the strategic plan we did four or five years ago needs to be updated. We need to get into a strategic plan session, and it needs to be joined. The gravity of the districts right now is coming so close together, the operations need to be defined as to how close we are going to be, and what are the pros and cons of that.”

WLAD Board Member Cindy Russell stated that she agreed they needed to have a work session to discuss the issue, but also to take note of what the public had asked them to do.

“We used to get stakeholder reports on how we were doing on the strategic plan, and I haven’t seen those in a long time. And I’m curious as to that, as to how we’re moving forward,” she said.

The discussion tied into a statement that Russell was planning to make on the state of WLAD as a whole. At the end of the meeting, during board member comments, she read aloud from a pre-written note.

“I want to talk about where we are and where we’re headed,” she said. “Through the last several months, I’ve had an increase in concern regarding WLAD. I feel we’re spending more and more of our money and not getting anything for it. In some ways, I feel our service is decreasing.”

Russel had particular concern about whether or not

paramedics were getting the chance to increase their skill levels if they are focused on SVFR, away from WLAD.

“They lose their skill level and the chance to increase their skill level by parking over here by the firehouse instead of being in with all the other paramedics to be exposed to other experiences, to increase their knowledge level,” she read.

Russell stated that there could be impacts to transfers, lifts assists and other services, and asked whether or not public stakeholders were involved with the decisions they were making.

“We are, I feel, on a downward trend, and it has to be stopped now,” she said. “I think it’s time to pause, and really look at where we’re headed with strategic planning and our overwhelming response to the stakeholders. When they call 911, they want to have our expertly trained paramedics come to the door. They don’t care about the budget, they don’t care about a lot of these things. They want a paramedic at their door, knowing what they’re going to be doing.”

She ended by stating WLAD’s mission statement — “To provide quick, efficient, professional emergency medical services, transport and community education to the highest standards of excellence.”

The meeting ended with Yecny complementing both boards on how they handled the discussion in a productive and positive manner.

REDUCE from page 1A

Florence Habitat, with the support of its local partners, has completed 29 homes in Florence and is currently working on number 30.

That work enters a new phase this weekend as Habitat is sponsoring a work party with a nod to Women’s History month, 2020 Women Build, which will take place Sunday, March 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1279 Seventh St. People can sign up to volunteer through www.florencehabitat.org.

“We are also a nonprofit home improvement store and donation center,” Morgan said. “However, Habitat is more than just a resale store. The purpose of the Habitat ReStore is to contribute to the work of Habitat for Humanity. The funds generated go back to the organization, so when you support the ReStore by shopping, donating or volunteering, you are also helping the mission to provide decent shelter to people in our community and around the world.”

During her presentation, Morgan focused on one of the main goals of the Habitat ReStore, which is to become a more integral part of the overall waste reduction effort in the Florence area.

“One of our big focuses is to keep as many materials as possible from being thrown in the landfill and maybe be able to reuse them,” she said.

ReStore also offers a paint recycling drop off point, the only one currently operating in the area.

“We are a paint recycling center for the state of Oregon, so if you have used paint, we will accept it. If we can sell it, we will and if we are unable to resell it, then the state

comes and collects it from us,” Morgan said.

She added that paint must be in its original container and the label must be intact for it to be considered resellable rather than waste material.

The story of how ReStore became an essential part of the Habitat for Humanity equation is one more of serendipity than planning. The idea was birthed in the Midwest as Habitat began to build homes and found that there were frequently building materials left over after a project had been completed.

These materials were originally stored in a barn and, as they accumulated, were sold at local garage sales. As time passed and more materials began to arrive as donations, the sale of the materials became a significant source of funding for the organization.

Since its founding in Georgia in 1976, Habitat for Humanity International has built more than 300,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1.5 million people in more than 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter. Habitat for Humanity now operates in all 50 states and more than 70 countries.

The second presentation at the community coalition meeting was given by Florence Master Recycler Britte Kirsch, who discussed in detail the work being done in Florence to reduce waste of all types.

She encouraged attendees to participate in whatever way worked best for their lifestyle.

Kirsch also acknowledged the confusion swirling around the recycling world.

“I am definitely going to open

it up for questions you may have,” Kirsch said. “I know there are a lot of changes in our recycling world, and I am happy to answer any questions I can. If I can’t, I will get answers for you.”

Her presentation touched briefly on the current plastic problem faced by local residents and said that an upcoming Plastic Round-Up event would be scheduled for April.

One of the most important points raised by Kirsch was the evolving concept of manufacturer responsibility. This new trend in the battle to reduce waste calls upon the company that produces a product to take some level of responsibility for the disposal of the packing associated with the product.

Kirsch strongly suggested that consumers contact the producers of the goods they buy asking them to reduce packaging and provide ways to recycle the materials used in their inventory.

She also wanted to stress that although the name of her group included the well-known term “recycler” the group was really interested in turning people’s attention to another part of the “Reduce, reuse, recycle” paradigm.

“We’re called Master Recyclers, but what we really want to do in the end is reduce, especially now that we have the whole plastics issue. Reduce and reuse is now kind of our mantra,” Kirsch said.

For information about Florence Area Community Coalition and its resources, visit www.florenceareacc.org. Meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of each month from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Siuslaw Public Library.

Write a Letter to the Editor. Email Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com today



NO MORE WEEK 2020 IS ALMOST HERE!

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