

Tsunami overlay district dumped

County residents raise land-use concerns

By Katie Wilson
EO Media Group

Clatsop County commissioners, facing a standing-room-only crowd Wednesday night, Oct. 14, voted to indefinitely table a controversial tsunami hazard overlay district.

The new district would have applied to the county's unincorporated regions — specifically low-lying, near-water areas like Lewis and Clark that are considered high risk in the case of a tsunami like the one expected to occur when the Cascadia Subduction Zone fault line finally gives way again after more than 300 years of silence.

As new information about the possible scope and impact of a Cascadia event becomes available each year, officials and county staff are just beginning to examine what steps the county can and should take to mitigate this kind of massive natural disaster.

But some residents are convinced an overlay zone — an amendment to the county's comprehensive plan — is not the right answer.

After the vote Wednesday, those in attendance burst into applause — and then left as the commissioners turned to the next item on the meeting agenda. Of the roughly 100 people who attended the meeting, filling up all the chairs and spilling out into the foyer of the Judge Guy Boyington Building in Astoria, most



CREATIVE COMMONS

had come to give public testimony in opposition to a tsunami hazard overlay district.

"I don't think a single person here had problems with preparedness," said Tom Teflow, who owns 5 acres in the Lewis and Clark area and whose family has lived in the county for four generations. "It's land use."

Originally, county staff planned to recommend the commissioners approve the comprehensive plan amendments and add the tsunami hazard overlay district. But when Jennifer Bunch, a senior planner, presented her findings to the board, she changed that recommendation, saying staff now believed the commissioners should table the ordinance.

In recent weeks, staff had fielded numerous phone calls and emails from people voicing legitimate concern and questions about the proposed district, Bunch said after the meet-

ing. Many people were afraid of unintended consequences that could come along with such a district and didn't feel the possible economic and social impacts had been adequately examined, she said.

"I think we need to take a step back and address these concerns," she told the board.

Commissioner Dirk Rohne made a motion to table the ordinance. After some discussion, the rest of the commissioners agreed.

"I'd like us, as policy makers, to gather experts and lead an informed discussion," said Commissioner Lianne Thompson, prior to the vote. Such a discussion is vital, she said, so the community feels that creating a new hazard district "isn't someone doing something to you, but it's an opportunity to do something together."

In other business Wednesday night, the board approved a contract with 2KG Contractors for con-

struction work for the Sheriff's Office project. The county plans to remodel an existing county-owned building in Warrenton and consolidate the Sheriff's Office in that location. Currently, the office is located in the same building that also houses the jail in Astoria. The cost of the work will not exceed \$1.4 million, according to county staff.

Interim County Manager Rich Mays also introduced interim Human Resources Manager Mark Story. Story's first day with the county was Monday. He will work for the county on an interim basis, overseeing the county's 202 employees, until a permanent replacement is found.

Elizabeth Lawless, a human resources director in Kansas, was hired in July after a nationwide search to replace Dean Perez as the county's human resources manager. But Lawless backed out of the post in late August.

South County gets its very own pub crawl

Beer 101 Pass will allow visitors to enjoy a range of the coast's finest brews

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

Oregonians love their beer, and visitors flock to Oregon because of the offerings.

The North Coast Alliance, made up of the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce, Seaside Visitors Bureau and Convention Center and the Astoria & Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce, is reviving the beer trail to celebrate that love of craft beer.

The Beer 101 Pint Pass will go on sale in early November at a cost of about \$25 and provide consumers with a \$5 gift card from each of the participating restaurants and brewpubs through the end of February. It will be an online-only purchase, found at beer101pintpass.com.

"It's a great opportunity for people to come enjoy the culinary arts and beverages Cannon Beach has to offer during the value season," Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Court Carrier said.

The pass will benefit the entire north coast.

Jon Rahl, assistant general manager of the Seaside Visitors Bureau and Convention Center, met Brandon Holmes, co-founder of technology startup Bandwango, during the 2015 Oregon Governor's Conference on Tourism. The company was about to launch an attractions pass in Salt Lake City that appealed to Rahl, so he began working with them on a pass for the North Coast. When it "hit a snag," the attractions pass became

a craft beer pass. Two years ago, the North Coast Alliance unveiled Beer 101 focusing on craft breweries, educational events and a contest allowing consumers to assist in the naming of "a one-of-a-kind collaborative beer."

The Beer 101 Pint Pass will serve as a successor to that promotion.

The alliance hopes to sell at least 500 passes and would see 2,500 as a "tremendous success," Rahl said. The alliance sought grant money from a variety of sources to spend \$75,000 on the marketing campaign, primarily through TV and digital media.

Rahl said the concept of a food and beverage pass is a "pretty new one," and sees it as good for both industries. In Cannon Beach, the Cannon Beach Hardware Store & Public House and Seasons Cafe are among participants. The city is also adding two breweries in 2016 planners hope will one day be on the trail. They are Pelican Brewing Co. and the Lumberyard Rotisserie and Grill, which is transforming into Public Coast Brewing Co. this winter.

Pelican CEO Jim Prinzing said they are interested in the idea.

The Rivertide Suites in Seaside is planning to offer the pass as part of a hotel package for guests, "which is exactly the kind of partnership we'd love to see more of," Rahl said.

The Beer 101 Pint Pass

WHEN: It will go on sale in early November.

WHERE: It will be an online-only purchase, found at: beer101pintpass.com

COST: about \$25

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Wednesday, Oct. 28

Cannon Beach Networking, 8 a.m., Pizza a Fetta, 231 N. Hemlock St.

Friday, Oct. 30

Cannon Beach Emergency Preparedness Committee, 10 a.m. City Hall, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St. Cannon Beach.

Tuesday, Nov. 3

Cannon Beach Public Works Committee, 9 a.m. City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Cannon Beach City Council, 6 p.m. City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Wednesday, Nov. 4

Cannon Beach Networking, 8 a.m., Pizza a Fetta, 231 N. Hem-

lock St.

Monday, Nov. 9

Cannon Beach Rural Fire Department, 7 p.m., 188 Sunset Ave.

Tuesday, Nov. 10

Cannon Beach City Council, 6 p.m., work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Wednesday, Nov. 11

Cannon Beach Networking, 8 a.m., Pizza a Fetta, 231 N. Hemlock St.

Thursday, Nov. 12

Elsie-Vinemaple RFPD, 7 p.m., 37564 Highway 26 Seaside.

Tuesday, Nov. 17

Seaside School District, 6

p.m., 1801 S. Franklin St., Seaside.

Wednesday, Nov. 18

Cannon Beach Networking, 8 a.m., Pizza a Fetta, 231 N. Hemlock St.

Thursday, Nov. 19

Cannon Beach Parks and Community Services Committee, 9 a.m. City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Cannon Beach Design Review Board, 6 p.m. City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

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