



USVEMG Regular Meeting

September 23, 2009

<http://www.snoqualmievalleyelk.org>

Regular Meeting called to order on Wednesday September 23, 2009, at 6:30 P.M. by President, David Willson. An introduction of Directors and Officers was requested by David.

Committee Reports

Land and People Management Committee

Maura Callahan recapped the last meeting held April 11, 2009:

- Elk Viewing areas were discussed and would like 10-12 elk collars to do mapping for possible areas at a cost of \$3500.00 each
- Learned of Cle Elum school children adopting cougars to provide funding sources for collars and may also help with ALEA grants
- Mike McCarty provided at the meeting known areas of elk habitat and routes noting that some elk are using the underpass at Snoqualmie Valley trail close to SE Tanner road.
- Need a movement to protect new annexed land before development begins, sighting that 70 new home permits have been approved since the Tanner annexation.
- They discussed setting aside part of Camp Waskowitz property owned by Highline school district as a possible wildlife corridor and habitat. They have replanted 5,000 native trees, and do not notice any elk damage but do see signs that they are around. Nine of the acres are on the National Historic Registry and 50 are usable. The remainder is forest. They may consider applying for a conservation easement rather than keeping it all as residential zoning.
- New Kiosks posted over at Meadowbrook.
- Will speak to WADOT to consider lowering the speed on Highway 202 between North Bend and Snoqualmie by 5 mph.
- Regular meeting is first Tuesday of each month at the North Bend City Annex; next meeting is on Oct 6, 2009.

Russell Link added that Elk are a priority species in the Snoqualmie Valley.

- He is working with local city planners to map the Elk habitat in the study area
- Cover areas that elk regress into and forage area quality is rated between 1 (not good) and 100 (great).
- Presented to Mike Mc Carty, Planner in NB, to secure best elk travel routes and elk habitat in this area.
- Four point plan:
 - Create maps of elk corridors, cover and forage areas, to determine suitable protected areas
 - Literature search to see what others are doing with elk
 - Overlay the telemetry work points
 - Get a subset of the Elk Management Group to go parcel by parcel to identify where elk have and have not been.



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- No estimate of forage or cover area acres yet.

Elk Management Committee

Harold Erland informed the group of 30 confirmed elk vehicle fatalities along I-90 and that last night a motorcycle rider hit and elk on North Bend Way and is in critical condition. The elk died at the scene.

- Still needs funding to help collar and track the elk. Suggestion to use reflective tabs or tape to help in identifying sighted elk.
- Tom added that he trained five new people in telemetry; another training session is scheduled for tomorrow at 6:30 am. More dates will be scheduled in October.
- A presentation to Mountains to Sound Greenway and North Bend Budget planners was made by the group. The details of North Bend's budget will not be known until early October.
- Wants to work jointly with North Bend and Snoqualmie city planners.
- Moved next meeting to October 8th, 6:00 pm at North Bend City Hall.
- Need elk sighting data on the new annexed areas and asked residents to call 1-888-ELK-HERD with elk sighting information.

Public Awareness, Education and Outreach Committee

Kalli Willson and all thanked Breanna Trygg for her service to the Elk Management Group.

Breanna, gave a presentation on the Education Committee Strategic plan for the next three to five years. The Core includes:

- Creating a Legitimate reputation for the organization
- Keeping Snoqualmie Valley Residents informed of this group and volunteer opportunities
- Holding public meetings to help disseminate information
- Outreach to community leaders to inform the larger community
- Make EMG activities community based and visible
- Work with local school to involve them in process (policy, education, science)
- Create and maintain the EMG website to include a neutral unbiased site containing factual information
- Regular posting of documents, meeting information, agenda, minutes
- Last, create a sustainable long-term elk management plan.

They have the following positions that they need to fill:

- Press Representative
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Festival and Public Outreach Volunteer
- Class room and Field Trip Volunteers



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Breanna added that they would like to obtain a grant from the Pacific Education Institute to support K- 12 education. They also will link AmeriCorps staff to USVEMG.

David Willson asked for an introduction of new attendees and all were welcomed by the group.

Recess

Board Role Call

Present

President: David Willson; Vice President: Jim Gildersleeve Treasurer: Ryan Kolodejchuk; Secretary: Gary Fancher; Hunters: Joe Merclich, Commercial, non-agricultural land owners: Harold Erland; Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association: Sam Metzler; Wildlife Advocate: Maura Callahan, David Bach; Citizen at large: Dianna Phillips, United States Forest Service: Sonny Paz; Small Property Owner: Don Hacherl; Citizen at large: Phil Cassidy.

Absent

Hunters: Mark Belaire; Timber land owners: Tim McBride; Commercial, non-agricultural land owners: Matt Campbell; Agricultural land owners: Scott Stringfellow, Nels Melgaard; Citizen at large: Reed Simms

1) Treasurers Report

The Bank of America account balance is \$1475.93, after a \$350 check was paid. There are 28 total members, two are honorary. The Bank has erroneously charged us a service fee and the treasure is looking into this and will have it corrected.

Harold made a motion to approve the report and Dianna seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

2) Minutes of the July Meeting minutes Joe made the motion to approve the minutes **as amended** and Maura seconded. After discussion the motion was approved.



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3) **Membership By-laws Revision**, Second Reading was made:

Proposed Amendment 2:

A petition to amend the bylaws submitted on behalf of Ryan Kolodejchuk, David Willson, and Jim Gildersleeve on August 3, 2009, is as follows:

Summary:

Modify the membership year to begin on July 1 and end on June 30. Membership dues are \$10 with no proration.

Actual language:

3.2 Membership is open to all interested persons who pay the annual dues of \$10. Official representatives of governmental entities, or Indian Tribes are members without a dues assessment. Membership runs from ~~June 1 through May 31~~ July 1 through June 30 of each year and begins in 2009. ~~Dues for persons joining during the year will be prorated and cost a \$1.00 for each month remaining in the membership year.~~ Non-members may attend meetings of the "Group as a whole," but only as observers. They enjoy no right to recognition by the President, or Presiding Officer.

Ryan made a motion to amend the bylaws as reflected and Jim seconded. The motion was approved.

- 4) **Authorization to release a letter of notice and invitation to Department of Transportation regarding road safety.** A reading of the letter was made. Harold made motion to approve it and Gary seconded it. After discussion, the letter was approved.
- 5) **Conversion of the Forest Service Director position to a non-voting advisory stakeholder role.** Don made motion and Ryan seconded. The motion was approved. A notice was made that removing this role from the directors changes an addendum to the By-Laws. We will revisit this motion and reconsider it next month in order to also change the By-laws.
- 6) **Review and approval of the donation thank you letter.**
The letter was read to the group. We have applied for status but not yet approved. David made the motion and Ryan seconded. The letter will not be sent until the confirmation of the 501 (C) (3) status.

Good of the Order

Maura asked that her name be added to the Website for the Land and People Management Committee.

Kalli asked who will be approving the website changes and comments. This will be a discussion planned for our next board meeting. Jim asked for us to consider delegating some authority to the executive board to act on many routine and regular duties. Jim reminded the group that these are powers that are typically delegated to the President that can be completed without further group involvement. He asked all to think about and identifying what actions might fall in that area for future consideration. Tom raised that the telemetry group functions and calendar is something that he would like to maintain without submitting for approval. Harold raised that letters of invitation sent by Committee Chairs are something that do not need to be approved.



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A discussion on Committee Chair's powers followed without any conclusions. Additional discussion and consensus is needed.

A discussion on the need for a chairperson to be in charge of grants and applications occurred. Jim G volunteered to be in charge but asked for a co chair.

- Ryan made a motion to appoint Jim as the Grant and Fundraising Director and appoint David Bach and Rick Holland as Co-Chairs. The motion was seconded by Harold. After discussion, the motion was amended to appoint Jim as Chair and was seconded by Don. The motion was unanimously approved.

Brianna raised the concern over not having a liability insurance or a waiver form for volunteers. Templates will be created for discussion the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 8:35 PM

Next Meeting: October 14, 2009

September 23, 2009, meeting minutes prepared by EMG Secretary Gary Fancher.

Signature

Date