

Commissioners OK Crawfordsville land use project

ALBANY — Tuesday morning, Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker approved with conditions a land use proposal that would allow a plan map amendment and zone change on about 109 acres on Crawfordsville Drive southwest of Sweet Home.

The action would allow owner Lynn Merrill to create housing on the property, which is on the north side of the Calapooia River. Much of the property is designated as big game habitat by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

The meeting, held at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center, was a continuation of a hearing held on Aug. 3. It was what is known as a “remand” hearing, meaning it focused on one issue — the proposed development’s effect on wildlife.

The commissioners had allowed written comments on the issue and accepted those comments into record. Verbal comments were not allowed.

Tuesday’s decision can be appealed.

Written comments for Tuesday’s hearing can be found at: <http://www.co.linn.or.us/index.php?content=planning/Comments/RemandHearing>.

The conditions include:

- If the property is subdivided, it will be limited to a residential subdivision with a maximum of 10 dwellings within the habitat designation area.
- Residential improvements limited to one acre per parcel.
- Land uses restricted to residential and wildlife, no farming, grazing or commercial forestry outside the one acre footprint.
- Fencing will be wildlife friendly.
- Domestic dogs will be restricted to within electronic fences, kennels or on leash.
- Shooting of firearms or fireworks prohibited.
- Operation of landscaping equipment restricted to one hour after sunrise to one hour before sunset.
- Use of common trails limited to one hour after sunrise to one hour before sunset.
- Nighttime exterior lighting shall be minimized and activity by motion sensor with a shutoff feature when not in use.
- Roads and driveways will be minimized.

In other business during the board’s regular session, the commissioners:

- Was asked by Sweet Home City Councilman Dave Trask to include input from Sweet Home City Council members when considering the fate of the former Willamette Industries mill site property. The commissioners recently rejected four Requests for Proposals for the property’s development. Board Chair Nyquist said he would gladly give the property to the city and that sentiment was echoed by Commissioner Tucker. The commissioners said they would like to set up a meeting to discuss the matter with City Council members in the next few days.
- Was informed by Public Health Officer Dr. William Muth there were 54 births — 29 females and 25 males — and 124 deaths in August. Of the deaths, 31 were related to tobacco use, eight were related to alcohol use, 18 were diabetes related and one was drug related.
- Approved an agreement between Linn County Public Health Services and the University of Southern California in which Linn County will provide practicum learning experiences for Master Level interns in the Social Work Program.
- Approved accepting funds from the Oregon Health Authority to purchase two trailers to be used for temporary evacuations and a shower unit for mass care, sheltering and consumable supplies.
- Approved the Linn County Sheriff’s Office request to seek Requests For Proposals to provide fleet vehicle maintenance.
- Approved agreements with the Senior Citizens of Sweet Home and the City of Albany regarding funding for the Linn Suttle and Albany’s Call-A-Ride programs.
- Thanks Transportation Coordinator Mark Volmert for his 17 years service. Chairman Nyquist praised Volmert for “connecting all of the dots” in the extremely challenging field of transportation funding and Commissioner Tucker added that Volmert has done an excellent job reviewing mounds of government regulations and presenting board members with clear, concise information.
- Approved accept an Oregon State Parks grant to build new restroom-shower unit at Sunnyside, apply for a grant to build a new restroom-shower at Waterloo County Park and apply for a grant to renovate the Crawfordsville Covered Bridge.

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