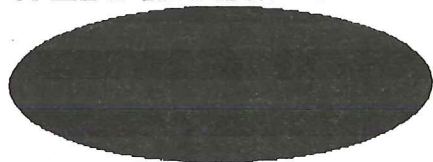


WEST MULTNOMAH

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FaxMULTNOMAH COUNTY
PLANNING SECTION

15 JAN -2 AM 10:51

To:	Kevin Cook	From:	Francine Martin on behalf of Dick Springer
Fax:	(503) 988-3389	Pages:	3 (including cover page)
Phone:		Date:	1/2/2015
Re:	Sauvie Island Multnomah Channel Policy	CC:	
	Review		

Kevin,

Attached please find a letter from our District Manager, Dick Springer, to the Land Use and Transportation Commission members.

Please share this with Commission members. Thank you, and if you have any questions, please contact me.

Erica Stokes
503.238.4775 x100
erica@wmswcd.org

2701 NW Vaughn St., Suite 450 ♦ Portland, OR 97210
P: 503.238.4775 ♦ F: 503.326.3942
www.wmswcd.org

E.3.2

WEST MULTNOMAH
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

December 31, 2014

To: Multnomah County Land Use and Transportation Commission

Re: Sauvie Island (SI) Multnomah Channel policy review – Policy 3.13

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is a request that you adopt the amended policy recommendation shared earlier by Mark Greenfield which incorporates a more specific and detailed commitment to the preservation of Sturgeon Lake, dredging of Dairy Creek, replacement of failed culverts on NW Reeder Rd and restoration of wildlife habitat.

For nearly three decades, West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) and its elected board members have worked with the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) plus number local, state and federal natural resource agencies to save Sturgeon Lake and its longstanding connection to the Columbia River via Dairy Creek.

WMSWCD is now the local sponsoring agency for a \$ 7 million restoration project recommended by the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) based on a two-year feasibility study and review of options by consultants HDR Inc. Work is expected to begin on this project in 2015 and Multnomah County has committed \$300,000 to remove and to replace failed culverts pm NW Reeder Rd. that block ESA migratory salmonids.

Dredging of the 4700-foot Dairy Creek channel is also essential to reconstruct a two-stage channel that will maintain necessary flows during migratory seasons. Decades of Columbia River navigational channel maintenance and debris disposal have contributed greatly to the current blockage and sand plug barrier between the Columbia, Reeder Rd culverts and Sturgeon Lake.

We are working closely with four private riparian area property owners and have their permission to proceed. I have met and spoken with the county chair Deborah Kafoury and three of her colleagues as well as county engineer Brian Vincent.

In recent decades Sturgeon Lake and its 3000-acre open water & shoreline habitat for avian and aquatic species have suffered greater sedimentation due also to the levee constructed over 60 years ago and reduction in spring freshets caused by upriver dams. The Feb 1996 historic flood also contributed greatly to the current blockage.

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I have participated in the policy review for nearly two years as manager of WMSWCD, and testified last year before the Commission on related land use issues and attended most CAC & technical advisory committee meetings.

In addition, my family owns riverfront acreage & a house 500 feet south of Dairy Creek. I have explored this area since 1959 and observed the increased erosion of sand deposited on the beaches by the ACE dredging in past decades -- verified by review of aerial photos dating back to 1929.

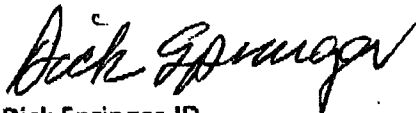
And I served for 16 years in the Oregon Legislature (1981-96) representing SE, SW and NW Portland. I chaired the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources committee during the 1989 & 1991 sessions with jurisdiction over Oregon's land use laws while also a member & vice-chair of the Senate Water Policy committee.

In recent years, scientific research and surveys have confirmed the presence of migratory ESA salmonids in the waterways surrounding Sauvie Island including Multnomah Channel. Sturgeon Lake is the linchpin for the inter-connected lakes, sloughs, tidal wetlands and riparian native vegetation essential to Pacific flyway waterfowl and the 11,500-acre Sauvie Island wildlife area managed by ODFW.

Multnomah County is an essential partner in saving Sturgeon Lake and the outdoor recreation offered annually to over 800,000 visitors to the island. Thank you for your kind consideration and support for the additional specific language for policy 3.13 on dredging and reconstruction of the Dairy Creek Channel, as noted below.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if WMSWCD can provide assistance or help in any way.

Very truly yours,



Dick Springer JD
Manager, WMSWCD

Policy 3.13 Continue to explore and encourage opportunities to conduct selected dredging to increase depth, flows, flushing, and circulation action in Sturgeon Lake in coordination with partner agencies and organizations.

Policy 3.13 Continue to explore and encourage opportunities to conduct selected dredging to increase depth, flows, flushing, and circulation action in Sturgeon Lake in coordination with partner agencies and organizations. **Support the dredging and reconstruction of the Dairy Creek Channel between the Columbia River and Sturgeon Lake to allow it to remain open for 8-10 months of each year, and contribute to the cost of replacing two failed culverts where Reeder Road crosses Dairy Creek.**