

River Plan / South Reach Stakeholder Meeting with Ross Island Sand & Gravel Co. – 5/3/18

Meeting Attendees: A. Charles Steinwandel (Vice-Chairman of Board, Chief Operating Officer), Randall Steed (President and Chief Operating Officer) and Craig Jacobs (General Manager), and BPS staff – Sallie Edmunds, Debbie Bischoff and Marty Stockton

Ross Island Sand & Gravel (RISG) is one of the largest property owners in the South Reach. The business, which employs about 265 people in Portland, conducts operations throughout the West Coast and Canada. RISG is a major supplier of construction aggregates, asphalt and concrete, along with dredging. The bulk of Ross Island is used for processing of sand and gravel. RISG has 16 barges, 9 dredges and 7 tug boats that are stored and maintained on/in Ross Island/lagoon.

Another company Pacific NW Aggregates, mines in the Dalles and barges their materials to Ross Island for processing. The facility has specialized processing for rock called granules, for 3 shingle producers in the NW. Also processes material for talcum powder.

Ross Island is essential for the company's existence. RISG plans to continue its operations for the next 20 years and anticipate expansion on the marine side of its operations.

RISG has some vacant land but does not have plans for it due to steep vertical bank.

St the Holgate/Rhone facility is there concrete processing operations. The company pays close attention to new construction projects in the Central City. They cited a reasonable distance to transport mixing concrete is a 15-mile radius based on transportation costs. RISG also makes precast concrete segments like road barrier blocks.

RISG staff mentioned that it is advantageous being on the waterway as materials come and go on barges and water transportation is the cheapest mode of transportation. Next cheapest is rail, followed by truck and then air.

The company ships bagged concrete to Alaska and along the Columbia to Tri-Cities and Astoria. They are looking to expand their aggregate business to San Francisco.

The issues RISG informed us of are related to the houseless community. There is encroachment of camps on and boats mooring near Ross Island and company officials are concerned about:

- personal safety given the heavy-duty equipment that is being used,
- controlling campfires,
- theft of RIS&G property (e.g. copper parts out of motors), and
- waste disposal

RISG is working with the USCG, City, State and Multnomah County Sheriffs' Office (MCSO) to address the houseless issue. Transient boaters locate in Toe Island Cove and the inlet area.

RISG owns the bottom of the river (low, low submerged lands) from a historic agreement with then property owner Sherry Ross.

RISG supportive of OMB establishing a no wake zone in slough and inside the lagoon. Water skiers (who create wakes) and rowers have been using the lagoon. RISG tries to create no wakes in the area.

Mentioned RISG's donation of land to City of Portland Parks and Recreation for recreation and scenic purposes, no overnight camping. Also, that the undeveloped part of the island is a reclamation project as part of an agreement with the Dept. of State Lands. Creating emergent wetlands, upland forest, etc., and in the interior north part of the island (City's property).

On weekends boaters flock to the interior beach area near the reclamation project to camp – unpermitted camping area. BES is concerned about plantings being disturbed.

RISG told us that it costs MCSO \$20-30,000 to remove a transient boat. There are limited resources to address the problem.

There are also houseless campers of the Springwater Trail turnout by the Oaks Bottom Trail.

There is no Friends of Ross Island but RISG has worked with SMILE.

Charles acknowledged that 52 years ago he came to RISG and back then until now, the Brooklyn neighborhood has expressed their desire for direct river access; difficult because of the steep slope of the riverbank in that area.

He mentioned that development of public access could conflict with Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge.

RISG advocates for Powers Marine Park river access; it's an underutilized resource.

Oregon Yacht Club is about to complete maintenance dredging for their floating home community. Kelly Holtz is the Commodore, will provide contact information.

RISG mentioned that there is a sea lion problem in the Willamette River. Sea lions (that weigh between 500 and 700 lbs.) can jump 3-4 feet and can land on floating home decks and can knock recreationalists off boats. Also, they devour migrating salmon (18% of population). State Fish and Wildlife staff paying attention to this issue.

Also, there is a flock of Canadian Geese on Ross Island in addition to other birds and wildlife. There are a pair of bald eagles that have returned to Ross Island over 20 years. Blue herons left after Bald Eagles appeared; moved to north part of island Bald eagles on west part of island.

An upcoming project by Oaks Bottom will flush channel to bring fresh river water into the area.

RISG identified a 40,000 linear feet dredge pipe.