

**Great Old Broads**  
**Polly Dyer Seattle Chapter Meeting**  
1:00 PM, August 3 2023  
Janka Hobbs' House, 13506 NE 66<sup>th</sup> St, Kirkland WA 98033

Penelope Peterson called the meeting to order at 1:29 PM.

Members present were Mary Anderson, Janka Hobbs, Penelope Peterson, Micky Lippe, Wendy Roedell, Barb Muirhead, Barbara Phalen, Genia Moncada, Cathy Gorrell, Susan Kostick, Pati An, Nora Langan, Kate Bradley, Natalie Taylor, Alice Cunningham, and Margaret Rands.

Penelope noted that our new bandanas are in the process of being created. The bandanas will have native plants, an old growth tree, the name of our group, and beautiful colors. Penelope will be picking them up when she goes to Telluride next week. We can purchase them soon. Penelope suggested a price of \$20 each. Some members of the group suggested that we should pay more, since the actual cost will be more than that, and we will be supporting the artist.

### **Asphalt Plant Follow-up Discussion**

At our June meeting, we heard a talk by Bob Baker, a member of Citizens to Stop the SR 169 Asphalt Plant. This group opposes the asphalt plant that's planned to be built on the Cedar River. King County will need a lot of asphalt to repair Interstate 405, so it would be cost effective to have the plant near to where the asphalt will be used. But the plant will be less than a mile from a recently completed King County project to restore salmon habitat in the river.

King County has decided that a formal environmental impact statement, requested by the Muckleshoot Tribe and others, is not necessary for the asphalt plant project to move forward. In response to early planning documents the Muckleshoot Tribe wrote:

“For several decades, the Tribe has worked diligently to restore the salmon populations in the Cedar River in the interest of protecting their currently limited fishing opportunities and with the goal of restoring historical fishing opportunities protected under their treaty rights.” (*Seattle Times* article by Isabella Breda, April 20, 2023).

One member of our group asked what the official tribal stance might be, and which tribe might be the one involved. Barbara Phalen volunteered to check this out and report back to us.

Janka commented that the plant represents an important infrastructure project that probably needs to be built somewhere, and no other location may be any better. She noted that asphalt needs to be kept hot before it's used, which makes it necessary to have the plant close to the roads it will be used on. Nora will investigate other types of road surfaces that might be less detrimental to the environment.

## **LAND Alliance Follow-Up Discussion**

Governor Inslee has brought together a group of all the stakeholders impacted by flooding of the Chehalis River to come up with a non-dam alternative to stop the flooding. The group is called LAND – Local Actions Non-Dam Alternatives. At our campout in July, Brian Stewart from the LAND Alliance spoke to us about the group.

The group's proposed alternatives to a dam include levees, ways to move people and animals out during floods, etc. Details about their plans can be found on the webinar, "Preview the Local Actions Non-Dam Alternatives (LAND")

<https://youtu.be/hc8Z2OujyNs>. Genia has sent the link to the webinar several times, most recently on August 4, right after our meeting.

The LAND group has submitted their plan to a state steering committee, which is reviewing it. The committee has several members who are very much in favor of building a dam, so there is concern about whether the proposal will be approved. Also, another environmental study needs to be done before a decision can be made.

The Great Old Broads are members of the LAND coalition, and coalition members are not going to act now while things are being decided and another study is being done. However, we as individuals can write to Governor Inslee about this issue. Since the governor formed the LAND group, the Governor could decide to accept LAND's recommendations on his own. There are many good reasons not to build a dam!

Genia handed out a one-page sheet that she will also email with points that we can use when we write individually to the governor. Genia will also send out information about walks on the Chehalis River that individuals can participate in.

## **Report on BLM and Forest Service Comments, and Legacy Forests (Genia)**

The Wishbone Legacy Forest Logging sale scheduled for July 25th has been paused. King County asked that the sale be paused while a study examines climate change issues. But that doesn't end the danger. Writing to King County is a good start. Now we need to write to Hilary Franz and tell her to stop selling the Wishbone sale permanently and halt logging sales in other mature legacy forest areas.

A half million people around the country commented nationally on the proposed rule to add “conservation” to the uses of BLM land. Thanks to everyone who wrote comments.

### **Next Hike (Barb Muirhead)**

We will hike in the Marckworth Legacy Forest near Duvall. This is the site of the Wishbone Timber Sale that was scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup>. The group decided on **August 22** as the date for the hike. We will do a hike along the logging roads to get a good sense of the forest that’s open to logging.

Genia and Janka showed us a special diameter measuring tape and demonstrated how to measure the diameter of a tree, using Natalie as an example. The tape calculates the diameter for you when you have measured the circumference. Janka explained that when you measure a tree, you need to measure above the root buttress.

### **Ideas for October Meeting? Anyone want to host at her house?**

Margaret volunteered to host the October meeting at her home in West Seattle. It’s a co-housing community designed to be environmentally friendly. Margaret has a common area where we can either meet outside on a patio or inside if the weather is bad. We could walk to the local arboretum. Margaret will try to find a speaker who could talk about the arboretum and the process that was used in reclaiming the land.

### **Upcoming Events**

Book Club on Zoom, **August 7 at 7:00 PM**

Speaker on Legacy Forests, **September 21 at 7:00 via Zoom.**

Penelope adjourned the meeting at 3:40 pm. Janka then led the group on a hike in the nearby Bridle Trail Park.

*Respectfully submitted, Wendy Roedell*