

Great Old Broads
Polly Dyer Seattle Broadband Meeting

12:00 PM, June 29, 2023

Barbara Phalen's House, 3425 SE 5th St, Renton WA 98058

The meeting was called to order by Penelope at 12:10 PM.

Members present were Penelope Peterson, Barbara Phalen, Kay Sanderson, Wendy Roedell, Barb Muirhead, Genia Moncada, Raelene Gold, Kate Bradley, Margaret Rands, Cathy Gorrell, Nora Langan, Janna Treisman, Jody Louise, Susan Bocek, and our speakers, Bob Baker and Michael Hagen, from the Citizens to Stop the SR 169 Asphalt Plant, and Save the Cedar River.

Litigation to stop proposed Asphalt Plant on the Cedar River

Bob Baker spoke about the actions his group is taking to halt construction of a proposed asphalt plant on the Cedar River near Barb Phalen's house. See the website, <https://www.saethecedarriver.org> for more information. An explanation found on the website states:

On November 5, 2018, Lakeside Industries filed two applications, [COMM18-0014](#) and [SHOR18-0032](#), for permits to build a hot mix asphalt plant next to the Cedar river and near residential neighborhoods in unincorporated King County in the Maple Valley Heights-Lake Desire, Washington area. Constructing an asphalt plant here will be disastrous for both.

An ordinance issued in November of 2017 by the Metropolitan King County Council to delay construction of the plant noted that "The upper part of the Cedar river is the source for drinking water for the 1.4 million people in the greater Seattle area, and the Cedar river provides aquatic habitat for chinook salmon, coho salmon, sockeye salmon, kokanee, winter steelhead, bull trout and coastal cutthroat," and went on to state that "Residential properties surrounding these industrial parcels rely on groundwater for potable water sources," and further cites the "potential impacts of contamination from industrial uses on water quality in close proximity to the Cedar River."

If this asphalt plant were built, it might result in potential dangers to the environment and to citizens, including toxins leaking into local groundwater and the river, toxins in the air causing respiratory diseases, and fires that could spread to the residential areas close to the plant. Bob's organization, Citizens to Stop the SW169 Asphalt Plant, has filed suit against the asphalt company after trying to get the County Council to require an Environmental Impact Statement. The Council has refused to slow down the permit

process and has refused to require an Environmental Impact Statement, although they have required one for other, less dangerous projects in the same area.

Bob and Michael Hagen described the numerous actions he has taken to try to stop construction of the asphalt plant. He has met with legislators and council people many times and has gotten nowhere. As a last resort, Bob is trying to buy the property. If he gets it, he would install an Indian cultural center, a salmon enhancement area, and a trailhead for hiking. The County Council told him they don't like that plan because it wouldn't bring in revenue. In other communities where asphalt plants have been built, property values have dropped, residents, and children in particular, suffered severe respiratory ailments.

We can help by letting people know what's going on, attending rallies, checking the website, and rallying at King County Council with Bob's group. An article about this issue appeared in the June 17, 2022 of *The Seattle Times*. Other articles are listed on the website

Plans for campout on Camano Island, July 17-19, 2023 (Barb Muirhead)

Barb announced that the campout will be casual. People can take various hikes/walks as they want to, but Barb has planned no formal hikes. On the second day Genia will have a speaker talk with us about the plans to dam the Chehalis River and what action we might take to prevent it. We will also have opportunities to write some postcards about different issues.

Check in is 4:00 PM on the 17th. Bring headlamps or flashlights. Bring a camp chair for congregating. You'll need a sleeping bag and pillow if you are staying in a cabin. The cabins have refrigerators and microwaves, and bunk beds. With two Broads to each cabin everyone gets a lower bunk. Bathrooms are located in a central building near the cabins.

Everyone should bring food for her own breakfasts and lunches. The first night will be a potluck. Penelope will email us to find out what everyone is bringing. For the second night, Barb will bring burgers to grill and a salad. We decided that to minimize our impact on the climate we will have veggie burgers and/or Impossible burgers. We all agreed to be happy with whatever Barb brings. Penelope will bring a big coffee urn and turn it on in one of the cabins at 6:30 AM, so there will be coffee each morning.

Bring a Discover Pass if you have one. You won't need it to park at the cabin or tent sites, but if you drive to the beach or other areas you will need it. We'll meet every morning around the cabins and decide who wants to walk where. Penelope will email more information soon.

Advocacy Update (Genia)

The Bureau of Land Management Rule Making process for Public Lands is going on now, and the deadline for comments is July 5. Many conservation groups are involved in getting people to submit comments to focus attention on the need for conservation and environmental protection as major uses of public lands, while limiting permits for mining and timber harvesting. Grazing is currently another big use, but grazing does not support the environment. The Great Old Broads National is very involved. We would like to have lots of people from our group submitting comments. See Genia's numerous emails for links to pages where commenting is easy

In addition, the Forest Service is writing rules for the management of Mature and Old Growth trees, including how much logging should be allowed. Comments on this process are due by July 20. The Great Old Broads national website has information on both these topics and links to pages where you can easily submit comments.

If you do submit comments, please let Genia know. Genia is keeping track of our advocacy efforts for her report to the national group.

Alpine Lakes Issue (Janna)

Janna reported that she has been keeping track of the ongoing discussions surrounding the Alpine Lakes. A helpful website on this issue is the Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS) at alpinelakes.org. The newsletter *High Country News* also follows this issue. There have also been meetings of a collaborative formed by the Forest Service. One proposal for watering is to pump water from the Columbia River and send it back in a ditch, instead of the other alternative of getting water from Icicle Creek. Janna will continue to track this issue as well as track the group that is concerned about overuse of the Alpine Lakes area and what to do about it.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be outside at Janka's house in Kirkland at 1:00 PM on August 3. Janka's address will be emailed. We will have drinks and snacks to share. After the meeting, there will be a walk in Bridle Trails State Park for those interested.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Roedell