

4-24-24

Eric Olsen

Garden Valley Rd

In opposition to Phase 3 and wetlands expansion.

I do not trust the honesty of either Beaver Slough Drainage District, or of ODFW. They have often avoided answering candidly and stated untruths. The ODFW has said they will have no negative impact on neighboring lands and land owners. Their effects on the water table has effected some, the increased presence of "Government Officials" with apparent time on their hands to harass neighbors about their practices on their own property has had a negative effect as well. Not to mention the growing menace of the mosquitos and their spread.

Relating to the spread of mosquitos, many people can figure they likely began at the wetlands as the mosquito population increased immediately after the marsh began flooding. As for the location, we began noticing them in Garden Valley the year the project began with a slight rise in mosquito population. The effect has increased nearly every year, and spread from this local. Not from Roseburg mill pond, or Johnson Mill Pond, both of which has always been there, and the mosquitos spreading from those points outward. All other things remaining the same, the only two things that changed were the dramatic rise in mosquitos, and the flooding of the newly developed wetlands. It seems logical and reasonable to think they are likely coming from there. If BSDD and ODFW are so certain it is not them, I would think they would be very interested in not only clearing their name from the accusation, but to find the source of the problem wherever it may be, not pointing fingers elsewhere and suggesting suing people not proven to be responsible.

Regarding the engineering for phase 3. Common practice in farming is to have fields flat or slightly sloped with straight ditches. A field with little elevation change needs as short of a ditch as possible to drain as fast as possible. If there is one foot of elevation over 100 yards distance of ditched field and you double the ditch length without increasing elevation, the flow of the water is slowed substantially. A curved ditch is much more difficult to maintain than simply driving a backhoe or excavator in a straight line. Flow is further reduced by vegetation if the ditch isn't grazed or mowed, and of course a longer ditch has more room for obstacles. The PH3 plan further shows placement of wood in ditches, which is an unusual way to maintain flow, that seems more like a wetlands type of thing to do...

I would like to see if either Fred Messerle or ODFW would be interested in pledging not to sell Messerle property to ODFW as this seems to be designing wetlands to their specification. I already feel ODFW has bypassed voters and legislators by having Bridges foundation hold the property in their interest. Messerle has had a sign posted something like "Farmland (maybe Pasture) Wanted". This is a great opportunity for him to get some great pasture, as well as consolidate power in both Coaledo and Beaver Slough Drainage Districts.

Someone said Phase 3 is essential to the entire project. We have been assured multiple times the Tide gates were going to solve fish and drainage issues. Then the wetlands project. How can a project on someone else's property be the culmination of this multi million dollar salmon habitat of ODFW? Further, if this is for drainage and farm production, why the keen interest of all the ODFW and related agencies that are for the wetlands project?

When one person utters a lie, whether it is about improving drainage, or mosquitos, and no one else speaks in opposition to that lie, then I include all participants as party to the lie.

