

# STUFFLEBEAN TO FIGHT RECALL

At a press conference on Wednesday, embattled Coos County Commissioner Kevin Stufflebean announced that he intends to fight the recall effort by Citizens For A Fair And Open Government. He stated that after extensive conversations with his family, they have collectively decided to contest the recall and have filed a statement of justification.

Stufflebean said, "The Citizens for Fair and Open Government have made several false allegations and have made personal attacks on my integrity, ethics, family, ethnicity, morals and character, all of which are false. Many of these people are not interested in fair or open government but on

their own special interests. I will continue to serve the taxpayers and do my job with the conviction and dedication that I have as an elected official for many years"

This special interest group lead by Ex Coos County Roadmaster, Larry VanElsberg, as Chief Petitioner for the recall. He resigned as Roadmaster in April 2007, shortly after a hearing where many citizens testified that the road department was not doing their job and was being mismanaged.

Stufflebean continued, "After he resigned I personally asked the board not to make any changes, but to allow us to look at the operation of the department and see where we could cut and see what was needed in order to be more

efficient and accountable to the taxpayers. To accomplish this, I served as Interim Roadmaster in addition to my duties as Commissioner. In this process over the course of 18 months, we identified many areas of inefficiencies, irregularities and problems requiring operational changes. We were losing \$1 million in revenue to operate the department, and therefore, we had to look at staffing reductions."

"The commissioners have taken public safety as a key consideration in restructuring the department. In stark contrast to previous management, we have seen over \$5 million dollars in road improvements in the last year and a half alone by making public

safety and road improvements a priority."

"Although the authority to deal with staffing reductions is delegated to management, because of the scope and impact of the necessary restructuring, I solicited a review by the Board of Commissioners. The Board reviewed data and budget projections at three different public meetings before making a decision. There was no violation of any open public meeting laws; in fact we went out of our way to ensure the discussion took place in the public."

"Many people view government jobs as an entitlement, and not a privilege to serve the public. The Chief Petitioner had the opportunity to lead, but instead left a mess to clean up that required hard decisions. It is never easy to make a decision that will cost good employees of many years' service their jobs; but fiscal responsibility and public safety must be the priorities. Such hard decisions anger those who have an investment in special interest politics and in maintaining a status quo that is lucrative for them, but not in the public interest."

"We have just begun the work of accountability and integrity in County government. We have too much riding on our future to be derailed at this point. We have to be accountable at the local level in order to have the credibility at the state and national level to secure critical additional funding to accomplish these goals."

"As your commissioner, I had to make necessary reductions and then I pitched in to work with department employees to make important infrastructure improvements. These steps are what you expect from your commissioner. Making unpopular but important decisions is part of a commissioner's job. Because some very tough decisions have been made, Coos County is in a better position than other counties, and it's my goal to continue to guide the county through this economic storm."

"I pledge to continue to look out for all Coos County residents, unlike these few disgruntled people who are trying to push the county off course with their false allegations."

Coos News did not support Stufflebean in his bid to become commissioner, and over the years has opposed some of his positions on various issues. But, according to public records, not a single one of the allegations leveled against Stufflebean are true. This recall effort, which will cost the taxpayers approximately \$65,000, is nothing more than a self-serving special interest group attempting to oust a person who has done nothing but work in the best interests of all the people of Coos County.

Commissioner Stufflebean will appear live on the Jim Bice Show on Monday, April 13 from 3:00 to 4:00 PM to answer any questions the public may have regarding this recall effort. People are urged to call the show and pose their questions to the Commissioner.

## Coos County OSU Extension To Offer Woodland Management Workshops

The Coos County OSU Extension Service will offer two workshops aimed at helping small woodland owners effectively manage their forests. Interested members of the public can preregister with their county forestry agent, Tristan Huff at least 48 hours prior to the class.

The Management Planning workshop will demonstrate, through real world examples, how landowners can assess the current condition of their forest and plan accordingly to meet fu-

ture goals. Also, local forestry professionals will be present to explain how they can help small woodland owners meet their objectives.

The Management Planning/Sources of Assistance workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 22 from 2:30-4:30 PM at the Coos County OSU Extension Office, 631 Alder St. Myrtle Point. The cost is \$5.00.

The Tree Biology and Silviculture workshop will show how woodland management can be

used to improve timber value, forest health, aesthetics, and wildlife habitat.

It will be held on Wednesday, May 6 from 2:30-4:30 PM at the Coos County OSU Extension Office, 631 Alder St. Myrtle Point.

The cost is \$5.00. For more information contact Tristan Huff, Extension Forester at 541-572-5263 ext. 294 or e-mail [tristan.huff@oregonstate.edu](mailto:tristan.huff@oregonstate.edu).

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## North Bend Garden Club Meeting

The North Bend Garden Club will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at Noon on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, at the North Bend Housing Authority, 1700 Monroe Ave., North Bend. OSU Extension Master Gardeners will be demonstrating Vermicomposting.

The club meets on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, and visitors are always welcome. Please contact Betty at 756-7029, or Lily at 888-9627 or visit our website at [www.gardencentral.org/oregon/northbendgardenclub](http://www.gardencentral.org/oregon/northbendgardenclub) if you have any questions.



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