 26th District General Meeting Minutes (4/1/21)

Call to Order

~Meeting called to order at 6:34 PM by Chair Kara Aley

~Pledge of Allegiance

~Land Acknowledgement

**Attendance:**

~Attached page.

**Presentation: ”Save Our Wild Salmon”**

**Speakers:**

~Mark Angelo, river specialist, founder of World Rivers Day.

~Joseph Bogaard, Executive Director of “Save Our Salmon.”

~Amy Grondin, Commercial Fisherman.

~Nancy Hirsch, Executive Director of Northwest Energy Council.

Speakers provided a brief history about how the Snake River (which feeds into the Columbia River), has been a vibrant habitat for a variety fish for 100s of years. In the 1960s, dams were built, fish have been steadily decimated over the years. The government and community have spent $17 billion+ to fix the problem, with no real positive results. Lower amount of spawning salmon has affected the food web, fishing industry, canneries, restaurants, and other local economies—there has also been a loss of Orcas. Dams have affected sediment transport, temperature, and movement of salmon. Farmers, indigenous tribes, environmentalists, commercial and sport fishermen all have input on this environmental issue.

Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) has come out with legislation to help save the fish, using President Biden’s infrastructure plan dollars, but we also need legislators at the Federal level to start working on the specifics—It was suggested that the 26th LD could help by asking Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA) to back this legislation, and start looking into infrastructure. “The proposal is not perfect, but with work we can come up with a solid plan.” Having Governor Inslee, and other WA State legislators working on this in a bipartisan manner would make the legislation even more robust.

**Q & A Followed; Issues Discussed:**

**Q:** Who is opposing this legislation?  **A:** Some utility companies are hesitant to have their infrastructure & money (income) taken away, even though alternative energy methods are available to replace hydroelectric power. Rep. Dan Newhouse(R-WA) and Rep. McMorris Rogers (R-WA) are against the proposal.

**Q:** How much time do we have before the fish are extinct? **A:** No concrete timeline, but charts are showing a downward trajectory of salmon returns.

**Q:** What is the economic value of keeping the fish? **A:** From an economic standpoint, one report shows the value at $57.5 billion dollars, environmental value is important also, but harder to give a dollar value.

Business

Carl Olson, Treasurer Report

~Treasurer Olson reported that there is $3,082.53 in checking, $1,067.95 in savings. Act Blue has generated $1,334 since the start of the year. PDC reporting is current.

Approval of Minutes

~March 2021 general meeting minutes approved by acclamation.

**PCO Training (Luellen Lucid)**

~Two training sessions scheduled, 4/10 at 2 PM, and 4/14 at 7 PM. Luellen has been working with a Kitsap PCO group, and hopes to strengthen 26th LD PCOs for the coming elections/midterms.

Standing Rules on Endorsements (Frank Dacca)

~Frank went over the document changes. The 26th LD can approve more than one candidate, but will endorse only one person. It was noted that nominations can still be made from the floor at general membership meeting, and that the 26th is not in charge of coming up with a slate of candidates. Send questions about the document to the comment section on the 26th LD website (until 4/11).

Good Of The Order

~Jeni Woock: Reported on the Gig Harbor fireworks ordinance (limiting discharge of fireworks from four days to one, asking for community comments.

~Ray Shjerven: Next State Committee meeting: May 1st.

~Colin McCann: Regarding the Snake River Dam issue--Rep. Kilmer believes in the collaboration between Governors and the community working together, please contact Colin with your comments for Derek at colin@derekkilmer.com.

~Alex Davidson went over the new format/look of the 26th LD website.

~Melissa Lund announced that April is Autism Awareness Month.

~Sen. Emily Randall: Gave budget updates. Emily would like to help with mediation between tribes, Camp Coleman, etc., (Whiteman Cove salmon estuary restoration), to contact Sen. Randall, email emily.randall@leg.wa.gov.

~Chair Aley: “Contest Every Race” will be targeting all 2021 races that don’t yet have a democrat candidate, Kara will be working with a group to determine what races need to be targeted in the 26th.

~Michael Cobey: He is running for a non-partisan position (Peninsula Light Board of Directors), wishes to encourage everyone to vote, he would like to use Peninsula Light to run fiber to expand broadband in the county.

Next General Meeting

Thursday, May 6th, 2021, 6:30 PM

Adjournment

~Meeting adjourned by Chair Aley at 8:10 PM.

**Minutes respectfully submitted by:** Melissa Lund, Secretary