

**DRAFT Questions from West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) Board of Directors  
to Portland General Electric (PGE) regarding PGE’s Harborton Wetland Restoration Mitigation Site**

**Background** – Representatives from PGE approached the WMSWCD Board at their December 15, 2020 meeting about the opportunity to take ownership PGE’s Harborton Wetland Restoration site located northwest of Linnton between US Highway 30 and the Willamette River near the head of the Multnomah Channel. The site is a mitigation site for the Portland Harbor clean-up effort and is overseen by the Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council (Trustees). PGE is looking to transfer ownership of the site within the first half of 2021 and has approached several entities including WMSWCD about the possibility. While taking ownership does not necessarily mean having responsibility for management and stewardship of the site; the owner would have to adhere to all mitigation and conservation encumbrances placed on the site by the Trustees.

The WMSWCD agreed to follow-up with PGE about this opportunity with a list of follow-up questions to be developed by WMSWCD staff. Below is a draft list of questions for the Board’s consideration.

1. What is the process for determining who would be the site steward and could expressing an ownership interest be conditional on also being the site steward?
  - a. Is there a preference to have ownership and stewardship be separate entities? If so, what is the intent of this?
  - b. If the site steward and site owner are different, do they both have equal say in how the site is managed? What if there are differences of opinion?
2. What kind of agreements (and/or property encumbrances) would the owner have with both the Trustees and the sites steward should the steward be different from the owner?
3. Every potential entity that could own the wetland for a very long time should consider a public education and outreach question.
  - a. Will/can there be public access? If so, can the owner place restrictions on public access as a means to protect the conservation values on the site?
  - b. Is there a plan or vision to use the site for public education purposes about lower estuarine wetlands and their importance? Are funds available to develop a public education campaign including signage?
4. The \$2.5 million stewardship fund that was referenced – is that all allocated to the Harborton wetlands site or is that amount to be shared across multiple sites? If the latter, how is the allocation of the fund distributed to various sites?
5. Could the stewardship fund be accessed to cover the costs of owning the property that are distinct from managing and stewarding the site (e.g., property taxes, land use fees, lot line adjustments, access agreements, etc.).

Prepared by S. Gall and J. Cathcart, January 14, 2021.