

# READERS' OPEN FORUM

## Flood-control efforts

Another window for fixing flood solutions is passing quickly, without noticeable results, but the old-timers are still fighting for some fixes and it is to them that we owe much appreciation and lots of thanks. Without their efforts, nothing would have been done. "The squeaky wheel gets the grease."

Since the 1996 devastating flood, the meetings/organization began with two meetings a month headed by Patty Blondo, then Don Coleman, Sue Cameron, Jerry Dove, commissioners then (if my memory serves me, it was they who were responsible for the hiring of Tom Manning, Emergency Mngement director, the most responsible and tireless public servant any community could have); Leo Kunz, a fearless engineer, who goes right out in his boat in the storm to see what those mad waters are doing to our environment and property; Dale Buck, who cleaned up his farm, then headed out to help others whose equipment wasn't working and who were still trying to dispose of dead cattle everywhere, monitored the feed and aid that poured in from all over the state.

There is always a danger in naming names because someone gets left out. But there are many in there still going to meetings and plugging away: President Doug Rosenberg and Tilda Jones (as the only staff since the organization of Tillamook Bay Habitat and Estuary Improvement District (TBHEID), organized as a nonprofit entity to solicit funding from those being flooded year after year to try and get help and solutions), Rudy Fenk, Gus Meyer, Don Hurd, Denny Pastega, Bub Boquist, Barry and Judy Mammano, Frank and Kathleen Didier, Wendell Hessel-tine and Paul Levesque.

More recent and, most thankfully, Commissioner Mark Labhart, Sen. Betsy Johnson and Rep. Deborah Boone have dedicated renewed efforts to some sort of solution/abatement to our flooding. They have brought in the Oregon Solutions team, with Dick Townsend as over-all head. TBHEID Vice President Chad Allen is working hard with the Corp of Engineers.

All of these deserve our support and thanks. When you see them, be sure to tell them you appreciate them and their efforts. May God bless these continuing efforts with great results before another flood season is upon us.

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