Dick Smith welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 7 pm in the Jackson Bottom Wetland Education Center.

Sheriff’s Deputy W. Johnson reported on recent activity in the area. He learned from Linda Gray that items have been stolen from a barn on Rosedale Road. He advised that if your property is remote and for sale, do not allow the real estate company staff to post a “For Sale” sign as it may draw attention to thieves and give them an opportunity to have additional access to the property.

Milton Ewing and Becky Mehringer described the public safety levy renewal request and answered questions. Over the last four years, juvenile crime has declined and all hope that trend will continue. The levy funds 19 positions in the District Attorney’s office and provides one pod (60 beds) in the jail. The last levy received 58% support from voters.

Eva Calcagno, Director of Library Services discussed the renewal request for the library levy. Both levies are on the November ballot. The levy provides about a third of the funding for library services and the other two thirds come from the general fund. In addition to traditional library services, our library served 25,000 children in summer reading programs, provides practice SAT and GRE tests, offers early literacy skills for parents and childcare providers, and mails materials to the homebound residents.

Tom Brandt provided an update on Jackson Bottom Wetland. He shared that the Port of Portland is involved in a seventeen acre mitigation project at the site. The total property is 725 acres. Next year the non-profit Ducks Unlimited will build a 50 acre lake at the site. He answered questions about the invasive species known as reed canary grass. To remove it one may dig 18” deep or shade it or cover it with black plastic/cardboard. Their fundraiser “Tweet of Dreams” is scheduled April 30 so plan your bird house to enter soon.

Meeting topics brainstormed included: Candidate Forum, the Sheriff, Invasive Plants, Elder Law, South Hillsboro Planning, update on School District.

House Candidate Sandy Webb attended the meeting and indicated that she would be willing to participate in a candidate forum if her schedule allows.
Members completed the Metro Survey on Community Investment Strategies/UGB issues and Linda Gray will send to Metro.

RROMAC Report – Bill Ewers shared that the county has 220 miles of gravel roads and only one mile is converted to hard surface per year. The group may ask for gas tax funds to improve gravel roads. The county is considering a roundabout for the intersection of River and Scholls Ferry Roads. He encouraged everyone to review the Road and Design Standards (over 200 pages) which allow for design of 60mph corners before the end of September.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Notes provided by Linda Gray