

I am so sorry to see you are having a struggle with Kohler and Company in Wisconsin - his home place! I looked at your website, and your situation seems similar in some ways to ours.

What Kohler's company did and/or participated in on our south coast is a kind of long and involved story. Let me summarize briefly, and then you can ask more questions, would that be of help?

Curry County, the southernmost county in Oregon on the coast, has limited income for a variety of historical reasons. In 2011 one of the County Commissioners, George Rhodes, championed the idea of having a little less than half (625 acres or so) of Floras Lake State Park, owned by Oregon Parks Dept., be given to Curry County. The County would give some other land it owned, which the State Parks Dept. did not want, incidentally, to Parks in exchange. The County would then combine the Floras Lake Park state land with about 635 acres the County owns in the same area. Rhodes' plan was to turn the whole 1,263-acre parcel over to an unidentified company to build a golf resort, to aid in adding to Curry County's revenue stream. Rhodes steadfastly refused to divulge the company's name, but rumor was rife that it was Kohler Company. As it turned out, that was accurate.

The idea of transferring 625 acres of a cherished State Park to Curry County for lease to a private company for a resort was very unpopular in Oregon, and eventually the Parks Commission turned the proposal down and said "no" to Curry County. But *before* that happened, someone dug sixteen illegal pits in Floras Lake State Park, in the area proposed for transfer. They entered illegally with a backhoe, dug the pits and left. State Parks turned the matter over to the Oregon Dept. of Justice. Eventually DOJ determined it was not possible to prosecute, but as a result of Oregon Coast Alliance's efforts, the files were made public.

We discovered in the files that a golf course consultant named Grant Hornbeak was working with George Rhodes, though apparently not on the County payroll. He had ties of some kind DOJ never could quite pin down to Kohler Company. The files also showed that the illegal pits were dug by a local geologist named Geoff Garcia. He was paid by Grant Hornbeak for much of his work, including an evaluation of the geology of the area and suitability for a resort. DOJ could not determine the source of funds Hornbeak used to pay for Garcia's work, whether from Kohler Company or another source. But at least one Garcia bill was paid directly by Kohler Company, as the police discovered in his files. I've attached two of Garcia's bills -- one to Hornbeak, and one directly to Kohler Company. Also Garcia's contract with Hornbeak for the illegal pit digging and subsequent evaluation of soil types. Hornbeak fled Oregon once the investigation got underway, and has not returned.

Also, there is a letter from Rhodes to Kohler directly, and another to Mr. Hoekstra, the same person to whom Garcia presented his bill; and a correspondence with the

attorneys hired (presumably) by Kohler or perhaps by Grant Hornbeak to evaluate the possible resort. All these are also attached.

The Parks Dept. put all the police files from this investigation online, so you can go through them all should you wish. It is clear from all this that Kohler was tied to this unbelievable proposal to raid Oregon treasured State Parks for a proposed resort. Here is the URL:

<http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/pages/commission-floras.aspx>

Kohler Company has not returned to the Oregon coast since this fiasco, that we know of. But since the company was willing to participate in, and pay for, a geologist's work (or part of his work) to vandalize a State Park as part of an investigation prior to building a resort there *and* work with a County to complete a deal which would turn over 625 acres of a popular and ecologically important State Park for private purposes, we remain exceedingly vigilant of any future activity by that company. My own work consists of protecting the Oregon coast, and that is where I am able to watch. If Kohler tried a deal in another part of the state, I would unfortunately probably not hear of it.

I hope that helps, please let me know if I can be of further assistance in your own struggles with Kohler Company's proposal in Wisconsin. I have maps and other documents of our situation, if that would be of assistance.

All the best,

Cameron

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