

MidCoast Watersheds Council Meeting 5 June 2008

New site at Thompson's Sanitary Service Conference Room

Greetings and introductions: 21folks

Recorder's report: Bylaw changes including, article 6 changes

Treasurer's Report: \$27,288 in the bank, \$1,153,000 in projects this year

Tracking Gray Whale migration past Yaquina Head: Joel Ortega

OSU Marine Mammal Institute: establishing baseline data on Gray Whale behavior off Yaquina Head-funding by wave energy trust. Our goal is to gather the most accurate data we can. 4500 miles of migration each year (twice), migrate within 100 miles of coast. Bering Sea foragers in the summer-Migrate south. Not all migrate every year, summer winter or summer over. They tagged 12 whales in 2005 and followed by satellite. Some new behaviors were noted such as forage close to shore off Alaska (West AK). Previous studies have been done. 1978-81 observation to determine the migration pattern. Late December peaks 28-29, then declines, mid Feb all whales are gone then the whales start coming back north. Adults come first-pregnant females and males. Mothers and calves come next. Come north in second peak in May. Group size: 4 whales usually, mother and calf. Distance off shore: less than a mile off shore, especially mothers and calves. Most are within 2 miles of shore. Jan-March-1990 another study aerial surveys off Washington and Oregon: Gray whales close to shore. This baseline will be used to compare if changes occur when wave generation is in place. 2 seconds of degree accuracy tool is used to track location from shore. Yaquina Head is 25 meters, 12 miles horizon at that height. Joel used a software program that they developed. Mathematical Adjustments made for tide, surf and atmospheric refraction. Binoculars, compass tool, computer entered. Yaquina Head supported them a lot. They calibrated with the Discovery Tour GPS unit. Most errors are less than 4%. Less than 0.1 miles error when within 1 mile. 121 track lines of whales. They saw Minke Whales but no Humpbacks this year. They also have a tracks on boats in the area. They travel 1.5 mph, 4-5 KM per hour. They stop and eat if they find abundant crustaceans, but this is not a major eating time. There is a population study going on from Monterey, CA: 20 years or so. There is deep water close at Monterey. The whales come close to shore here, while at Yaquina Head they are off the coast more. This year the whales were further away from shore than previously reported. The whales seem to follow a constant depth of around 20 meters/60 feet.

Break

Technical Team Report: Wayne gave the report-first thing discussed from Polk County to build a reservoir at Valsetz, store water for public water supplies. The old reservoir held 4000 acre feet, they want to store 8000 acre feet the water at full would be 55 feet deep. Bob Buckman and Dan Avery-ODFW has some concerns about wetland and spawning habitat that would be flooded and changes in hydrology down river. The plan would be to pull the water out at the city of Siletz but the river would be used for the transport from Valsetz to Siletz so fish would be impacted. They have submitted a grant

to water resources in April. They propose splitting the water between Polk Co and Lincoln Co and the cost would be split too. Enough water for 230,000 while we have 45,000 people in Lincoln Co. No decision was made

Announcement: that the small grants program is in effect now again. Restoration of less than \$10,000. Get the forms on OWEB website, send grant to Fran Recht. Small culverts, small plantings, large wood, etc. \$100,000 in the fund and apply as you are ready so only a 30 day waiting period

Oregon 150 Oregon signature animals. Due in late July. decided to resubmit the beaver grant with improvements.

Basin Planning Team Reports Siletz Bay Wildlife Refuge presentation. They want to design some public access to the Refuge. They plan some additional lands. They talked about the dike breaching. Still working with Marine board problems. Wayne has been working on a letter to the Marine board. Surfriders are the program.

Yaquina Basin: July 28th to August 7th Olalla Creek Festival. Steve Task and Mary Holbert gave the presentation.

Salmon-Drift Watershed Council: Written report is available. June 10th is next meeting. Meeting on Lamprey, conservation. September meetings start again. Grant to support a fisher crew in salmon river basin culvert survey. Tony Summers wrking at OSU as an intern. Presentations through Sept. Doing canary reed grass projects this summer. Native wetlands gardens, will take a supporting role with Lincoln shore: culvert and blackberries were what were noticed most. Down by the Riverside trash cleanup. Had to stack tires on top. Attended the new coordinator's meeting. Paul Katen golf course wants to extension-the want 30 more wells for watering the course. Progress was not made so filed a protest to the application. Details are missing. This will have a new impact on water level and the adjacent marshes. The have an electronic bulletin board posted:<http://salmondrift.org/phpBB2/index.php>

Climate change and impact on birds in Oregon: Kathleen. Chickadees, gray jays won't be here year round. Mostly we will have fewer birds. Summer education program is pulling together, July 7th. 10th kayak on Salmon River. Pete McSwane is the alternate for Salmon Drift

Admin Committee Report: Reviewd the financial report and approved it and started on the workplan. Worked on Admin budget for next meeting. Next month meeting dates: admin and board meeting on July 8th. Admin at 1 and the [Council Meeting on Tuesday on the 8th of July](#). Yaquina Needs to approach the whole process differently. 4pm June ? OWEB is changing the format for workplans and we need to update ours. We sent a letter to our representatives for salmon fishermen relief monies granted by congress. Bills are in Congress now and we want support, hire out of work trollers to do habitat restoration work. We would like permission to send these letters. Moved by Corinna, if you want addition names added they are encouraged to do so by sending to Wayne or Fran. Motion is seconded by Sam. Passed

Education Committee Report: handout available. Outstanding volunteer to Joe Steere for our kayak trailer.

Coordinator's Report: 1) email and call from Louise Holiday: Deptment of State Lands looking at a new way to look at a new way to manage coastal resources. She's looking for linkages between east and west. Wants to include what's important on the beach to work east of the mountains. We might be able to get some overall insight for restoration projects especially in estuaries. If we learn more about energy flow from land to the ocean our work might have some impact on management of ocean resources. Wayne suggests that we avoid too much involvement in ocean management: sharing data and research on linkages is good but sanctuaries, etc. might now be a great idea. Education is an appropriate level of involvement. We could have a representative at meetings in the early stages.

Corinna thinks that we could have a larger role win the land ocean connections to off shore. Rennie: we try to reach out to as wide a constituency as possible so that folks don't fight for rights. If the projects make sense, they we could look at them.

2) The center for wild salmon is looking to nominate some wild salmon strongholds. Siletz basin has been accepted and is going to be designated a salmon stronghold. They would like the Council to be a co-sponsor of this. They are making an effort to find funding from different pots of money. Elk River in Southern Oregon and Smith River are also nominated as is Sandy River. Designation is Partly social and partly biological. The Siletz has fall and spring Chinook, winter and summer steelhead, has chum and Coho so that's why it is high on the list. Will other streams without this designation be left behind? This is a question that needs to be addressed as **every basin** needs to be productive. Meeting is 18th and 19th of June in Portland

3) 19th is **tech team** should we **move it back** to the **26th of June**. YES

4) Last summer OWEB report and investigations to make investment to get along better with other councils in the area. Mediation program is going to happen. Some work with Alsea Watershed council would be helpful. ½ day training program for the council members, how to be productive, etc. Insights would be useful for all of us. Then there would be meetings between with Alsea and MidCoast to discuss issues, concerns, point of conflict, etc.

5) 2nd to 11th vacation. The meeting is the 8th so someone else would need to facilitate the meeting.

Announcements: Sam: next month cleanup on Hwy 20 section on July 12th.