

## Mid Coast Watersheds Council Meeting Notes 5 March 2009

**Introductions:** 22 folks present

**Recorder's Report:** There was one official act to election  
Sam Adams is chair, Rennie Ferris is vice-chair, Jan Christensen is treasurer, Fran Recht is recorder, At large-Stacy Polkowski, Jennifer Breathe, Anne Sigleo

**Treasurer's Report:** money market account used for deposit earned \$32 this last month, copy available at meeting

### **Educational Program: Jeff Light-The New Alsea Study**

Biologist based in Toledo. Alsea and Siletz have had this presentation. Jeff added more info since those presentations.

Forest practices regulations are ever changing-Concerns about non fish headwater streams, cumulative effects on, quantitative information, renewed interest in paired watershed studies. Paired watershed studies: One watershed is held as the study and one is not treated (control). Results are compared, information used.

Original 1959 study, strong historical role in establishing forestry effects on fish and water quality. Deer Creek was done at the same time. The original watershed study-early studies examined first entry older forests, newly constructed) The temperature trace 1965-1973 \_\_\_\_ Creek 55 to 57, Needle Branch 55 up 14 degrees after harvest 69 degrees, Oxygen went down, fish died off, each year after the conditions in the water improved almost to the 55 degrees.

New study: contemporary forest practices, contemporary science, not paper based data, real names attached. Hinkle Creek compared study one phase of harvest and started a second phase of harvest. Trask system up north, mixed landowners and geology. Alsea is USFS and Plum Creek. Watershed Research Cooperative.

Looking at: Sediment, discharge, temp, nutrients, organic matter and fish habitat. Complete survey-Needle Branch Creek 2006 Habitat type survey, sampled every August  
Hinkle Creek, Trask and \_\_\_\_\_ 2006 dry spots, 2007 fewer dry , 2008 not dry

BIO: invertebrates and fish (focus on cut throat)  
Check bugs habitat and in fish guts

Fish Response: distribution and abundance, fish movement, density , biomass, growth, survival, cut throat trout emphasis (electronic gate used)  
Needlebranch and Flynn? Juvenile Coho 2006 electro-fish and handle every fish in the system. Diagrams made blue is fewest, red is most. They tagged everything over 100 MM and over every year. Needle branch and Hinkle fish are young, don't live long.

2006 in same fish and all the way to the end of fish  
2007 graph expanded,  
2008 lots of water fish down lower

Does forestry affect the hot spots and how hot the spots are? Large woody debris was not included. Predation: mink poop held fish tags, who else is eating them? One heron could pick the pool clean in one day without protection. Increase complexity should increase hot spots.

Flynn Creek numbers haven't been compared to 60's. Has good gravel and poor cover. Stream corridor is alder and brush, larger timber away from river. No large debris and this is a Low gradient system.

Needlebranch has more large wood and timber

Hinkle creek, phase one harvest, (to non fish headwaters), no buffer, no significant effect of harvest on fish growth, density or survival, biomass

Phase 2 is now underway: taken down to stream with buffers

{above fish bearing stream areas, the forest practices act says you can cut down to the stream and no buffer is required}

Conclusion: watershed research is a revival

Cause effect relationships, manipulative experiments, effectiveness of management and restoration activities-site specific, cumulative

Innovation approaches and technologies, opportunities for quantum leaps in our understanding of forestry fisheries interactions.

Alsea: Needle branch creek, next steps: first harvest is 2009, continue monitoring, second harvest in 2013, wood debris placement. Within each watershed there is rich set of data.

Discussion: Describe riparian fish bearing portion of Needlebranch: immediate edge is alder corridor. Harvest will leave a buffer; no hardwood conversion will be done. Use the General 50 foot riparian management area, leave some basal conifers. Will the work answer the question "Is the forest practices act good enough? " Why adding large wood? This would change the returns on data wouldn't it? If you really want to see the impact of harvest, the large wood could mask this and change predation numbers. They want to explore the large wood placement results since there is not a large data base of this information. Is a five year lag enough time to really see the difference? What is the mechanism of sediment delivery? There is no expectation for fine sediment but it is being collected in suspended measurement tools that are already in place. Forest chemicals could be measured in after storm events through the tools in place.

Field trip to the site was suggested with interest from the audience.

**Break** with goodies provided by Jan

**Technical Team Report:** handout provided

Marine Reserves Report: recommendation that Council provides a letter of support for the process of Marine Reserves. The letter would be a support of ecosystem plans. Protected area is: management with components, such as one fishing style, with specific specs about cables, wave energy, etc. Reserve is a no-take area with nothing distractive or destructive. Endorsement from OPAC Nov 09 letter is a handout, this recommends two sites as pilot project reserves, and analysis on 4 additional sites. The Oregon Governor is moving this forward. The letter would help move this process forward. Sea Grant and ODFW should be involved. Discussion followed/everyone was not in agreement; something needs to change-Aug 2002 RCA formed and has helped the rebound of rockfish. RCA crises management plan-is not a reserve-125 fathoms, fish line, long lines, hooks OPAC has already endorsed this plan. Should MCWC include the ocean? More discussion is needed. Ask TECH team to move forward and invite a new mix of folks to the forum. If MCWC stops at the shoreline, do we need to change our goals to include this arena? Reserves are permanent-difficult to sign on to a forever plan. What does a pilot mean, does this mean a real pilot so if it doesn't work, it won't be permanent. Further evaluation is needed by community. Females are 50 years old-we need to leave the large fish there for reproduction. At the edge there

are still fish to catch in time. Reefs are needed for the fish habitat. Not a good recall on what we decided before when we discussed this. Projects would concentrate on estuary upstream, but not a consensus item. Crab harvest of males only has no impact on numbers so restricting crabbing is difficult to understand as part of the reserve process. Sandy bottoms aren't generally focus of the reserve site; Buffers around the reserve is part of the planning needed. Reserves aren't intended as a fisheries management plan. There are no places to go that are natural oceans places that we can go study that are not impacted by mankind.

Paul made motion that we move forward with the letter-Wordsmith the letter so that all are in accord. Anne made a second of the motion-Still not comfortable with reserve.

- 15 marine protected areas, 1800 marine sanctuaries, the Oregon coast is a marine sanctuary. Adapted management stage is in the plan, analysis is in that stage. This letter is to move forward to conservation strategy. There is a misspelled word that needs to be fixed.

Vote: Favor:14, Opposed: 2, Abstentions: 3

OWEB spring cycle: active two technical assistance grants, design work. Due April 20  
1-South Beach culvert in a tidal area. 2<sup>nd</sup> is 5 Rivers fishway. Approval needed on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to submit. Wayne Proposes that we move TECH team to 26<sup>th</sup> of March, review, and then submit to Council in April. Fran moved that we move TECH team move and vote electronically, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rennie. Jeff is gone that week. Vote: in favor all but 1, abstention: 1

David Young wants to come look at Alsea Bay eel grass (japonica, narrow shorter leaves, further up) Effects haven't been studied.

### **Basin Planning Teams Siletz, Yaquina Report**

Siletz: they had Jim Reed (extension) on monarch migration, water quality in Mexico. The Oregon parks and rec grant meeting, Mill Park Funding, April 4<sup>th</sup> Siletz cleanup. No March speaker on 17th

### **Salmon-Drift Watershed Council Report**

Career Tech lower river cleanup April 4<sup>th</sup> is a possibility. No March 10<sup>th</sup>? speaker.

Moved to new offices paid at same rate. We can hold tech team and board meetings there.

Hiring an office manager that will do financial and other duties. Reviewed 14 candidates, interviews start and choose one by end of month. 10 hours a week minimum\

Risk management seminar, Salmon Drift wants to work on Tamara Quays and Pixie Land-Meeting with Wayne and Jan this Friday. This is part of the conservation grant. Want to discuss this further. Pixie Land has a fisher crew working now. Volunteer on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March.

Tech Team will take about Schooner Creek LFA. Bear Creek-Trask team completed. Trask would like to have the outreach of the next stage to be community support phase. Talk about submitting one grant for the three of them. They got the list and recommendation to the OWEB cycle. Water quality monitoring rec for funding. Siletz dyke was not rec for funding.

### **Administration Committee Report**

Keep the board more informed about projects as they are improved and completed. These should go on the web site too, summary when completed with photos-approachable. Meeting Friday with USFS grant with Corinna. Discussed educational program: ways to approach the way the grant is written=simplified approach: Alignment of education with goals and objectives of the watershed council. Web page design discussion.

Phone call and email: KORC radio, wants us to sponsor them to make statements against METH-no

**Education Committee Report** see handout

**Coordinator's Report** see handout-10 years of service

**Announcements** federal stimulus funding

1: Calls from Ken \_\_\_\_\_ wants more information on possible stimulus money going into the hopper

2: Concepts are turned in, not written out proposals. Issue of council process that these are good projects.

Corinna: OWEB funding feedback? No specific items

Jan: Siletz Cleanup at 9 am, lunch served

March 15<sup>th</sup> for Port of Newport Board position

**Adjourn 8:56**