

MidCoast Watersheds Council Meeting September 2008

1. Introductions

Introductions were made, 22 people were in attendance

2. Recorder's Report

Fran gave report, one official action from last meeting. To have Wayne The draft letter to Oregon Department of Transportation asking them for action on knotweed and other invasives on Hwy 20 and other areas was approved for submittal with one abstention.

3. Treasurer's Report

Jan gave report, \$16,000 in bank, full report available

There was a question about the sources of the money for the Council; the report was given to the questioner to review.

4. Education Program: Common Ground Part 2

Video promoting the reasons for and benefits of Marine Sanctuaries/Reserves off the west coast was shown, with interviews of local fishermen and others. Changing conditions result in a crossroads where decisions must be made to assure a healthy ocean into the future. The idea is to create safe havens off the coast for fish and wildlife that live there while protecting economy of the coastal communities. The reserves aim to protect habitat and biodiversity. Larger-older females produce more eggs than smaller, younger counterparts. Reserves give us a cushion against global changes. Reserves potentially cost less than any one of those fished species being put on the endangered list. Marine Reserves can support stabilization of the populations and thus the economy. www.oregonmarinereserves.net or www.ouregonoceans.org

The discussion included questions about geology and mining. There is some history of mining on shore as well as off-shore. This is ongoing dialogue in the community. You are welcome to engage in the process, with proposals due October 1. The State of Oregon has jurisdiction out to 3 miles, so reserves would be beach to 3 miles or less. Research and sampling will occur. 15-45 fish species are associated with our nearshore area so hopefully this would be compared with extraction areas and no-extraction areas. ODFW-Dave Fox-assures there will be baseline data. Cooperative research projects with fishermen and agencies. There will be a meeting at the end of October (Oct 22-23 in Florence-Heceta Head conference where a report from ODFW will be given on the proposals and project). Budget needs to be linked to the proposed projects. Paul has extra copies of the video to lend if anyone wants one. He also has publications that summarize the data on the existing marine reserves.

5. Refreshment break

6. Public comment: Harlan resident that had come to meeting complained that two folks went onto his property without permission, though they stated when confronted that they had permission. The resident thought the people were working for the MidCoast Watershed Council, but this was not the case. The people were with the Siuslaw Waterhshed Council.

7. Technical Team Report: John Spangler

a. There was a discussion of regulation changes about coastal cutthroat trout. Catch and release only NW and SW regions-instead of 2 fish as now. ODFW staff are not supporting this. They'd like to see continuance of regulations as they are now- with improved monitoring. ODFW has 4 years of data on cutthroat showing a stable trend in cutthroat numbers across the landscape. ODFW doesn't know which are sea-run cut throat. 1997-2001 some areas were closed, population remains stable with 2 fish limit. Rainland Flycaster are encouraging the change in regulations. They want to create a "blue ribbon" fishery on sea-run cut throat. These fish are not easily caught in the ocean. Life history tracking data is suggested by Bob Buckman-ODFW. Typical size is larger in sea run and coloration is different. Is there a protocol for sea-run cut throat?. Don reported 30 sea run in one school on the Siletz.

Fran Recht made a motion, seconded by Mark Stone to have Wayne Hoffman send a letter to ODFW letter about cutthroat trout fishing regulations, relating to the central Oregon coast, and advocating for continuance of the existing cutthroat trout fishing regulations but with improved monitoring of the population.

Motion passed-2 abstentions

b. Steven Brown came from PSU with a model for restoration evaluation process. It would involve 8 hours of tech team time, organizational time and capacity. What would it cost? Large commitment of time-Unclear what the benefit to the council would be. Does the council want to do this? If he could participate more fully it might be useful.

c. Water forum 30th of September at HMSC 12-5:30 Roundtable discussions. Sponsored by OSU.

d. Governor's Headwaters to Ocean initiative being organized by (OSU). Materials distributed to tech team members and will be discussed at next meeting.

e. Bummer Creek denied last cycle. The reason for the denial was discussed and the proposal will be modified and resubmitted for OWEB's Oct cycle.

8. Basin Planning Team Reports: Siletz, Yaquina

Siletz: The Mill Site ramp is being worked on, great picnic at last meeting.

Reviewed what they'd been doing. Kip Wood and Mark Stone will float the river and do a trash survey and mark locations of trash with a GPS unit for clean-up. Among other items, there is a big I-beam off water at Morton Park. Spring river cleanup every spring in May.

Yaquina- the coordinator is dealing with family business and had to postpone first meeting in the Newport area.

9. Salmon Drift Watershed Council Report: Corrina Chase

Handout was provided outlining the work being done. Salmon Drift NRC crews worked on Salmon River plan. Toxin levels high in Devil's Lake. Blue-green "algae"-cyanobacteria toxins.

Carbon Co-op has an opening for administration of program. 503-392-9068, 503-866-4489 Guy Sievert. Area is within a 10 mile radius of Cascade Head. People who are generating carbons, can pay a “guilt tax” that can be used for restoration, planting and harvest cycle extensions. This has to be ‘added value’ not area already protected. Siletz Keys dike removal in the planning. Next meeting Sept 9th 6:30 at N Lincoln Hospital

10. Administrative Committee Report

- a. Reviewed and approved financial report.
- b. Discussed Feagles Creek bridge and the undercutting that is occurring to the abutment as the force of the river is directed to that area. There has been landowner concern and a complaint regarding this. Damage report came in from OWEB and ODFW. The Admin Committee approved expenditure of \$1000 necessary to pay a temporary fix while longer term solutions are being sought.
- c. MCWC will define contractual relationship with LSWCD.
- d. Work plan revision in the works. Awaiting new guideline from OWEB
- e. Executive session discussion, independent contractors or employees.
- f. Personal services contract-draft policy for temp employees.
- g. Heard that Alsea Watershed Council had made a request to the County Commissioners to be a separate council for OWEB support.

11. Education Committee Report:

Monthly report was provided as a handout. Working on final report for 07-08’s activities and has two pages of questions to answer and writing 09-10 OWEB grant, following their new format. Yaquina Bay Cleanup on 27th 9-11:30, lunch at noon, drawings at 12:30 Sign up at Yaquina Bay Yacht Club in Newport and Shed 5 Georgia Pacific at Toledo end.

12. Coordinator’s Report

- a. Wayne has filed and will be on the ballot for the upcoming election to be a Lincoln SWCD board member.
- b. TMDL (EPA water pollution designation process) meeting in August. Meeting was about Policy issues of how to go about this. Inadequate Monitoring was a theme throughout. Clean water act still needs more work, not functioning well. Many streams have inadequate monitoring so we don’t really know their population status. 28 basins in Oregon, 40% of streams surveyed, 2/3 of this 40% impaired. They are interested in trading programs so there is a market for improvements. How to evaluate restoration projects? How do you decide how much plantings/shade, etc are worth. Non-point source pollution, gradual flow off of land is more of a focus now. Oregon needs to strengthen enforcement. (Discussion-- watch the assumptions. TMDL calculation examples-algae blooms-reservoir was where the problem was, but treatment didn’t take into the reservoir as part of historic landscape. We need to watch that TMDL’s use a realistic baseline.) Clean-up trades were part of the marketing discussion. TMDL discussion around climate change-What it is likely to mean for snowpack. Oregon isn’t going to get dryer, more rain, less snow, snow disappears earlier. We need to manage for resilience. Flood plain conductivity, flow through the summer. Manage rain events more in winter. Uplands manage for

resistance for wildfire, if Global warming happens as predicted, to plant things that are adapted to the coming climate, not the ones that aren't. Expect more 303D listings for streams. Low DO is common. Different agencies in charge of different parts make it more difficult to manage. MidCoast is toward the end of the process in Oregon (2010-11). Fairness is an issue.

13. Announcements

Jan-National Forest Fdn, Sea Grant has a pot of money to facilitate master naturalist program.

Lincoln Sept 25th

Jennifer-Starker Forest-results from ODFW, permission call came in put they didn't know the name of the stream

Randy-BLM in Grants Pass

Roger Wood-died yesterday OWEB grant

Paul-warm bodies available for work-Oct 3, 4th

Fran-DSL has revised wetland rules up on the website, public comment

14. Adjourn: 9:00 pm