

## MidCoast Watersheds Council

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010

1. Introductions were made, 12 present
2. Recorder's Report: no actions were taken last meeting.
3. Treasurer's report- End of fiscal year report: 1,000,699 of income this year, expensed was 1,018,676. Our balance as of 6/30/2010 was \$37,794.
4. Technical Team Report-- a written report was provided. Items included Beaver Habitat Case Study (will seek Council endorsement of having the State's Ecosystem Services working group look at a Beaver Case study), an update on the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve process, an update on the North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership meeting (legislation is moving through Congress that would provide 30 million in funding if it is passed; the Siletz is one of the designated strongholds ) and further discussion on updates to the MCWC action plan.
5. Cyreis Schmitt from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife was the speaker. Her topic was: Removing Derelict Fishing Gear from Oregon Waters. PowerPoint presentation was given and a video by PBS-focused on energy aspects was shown. Overview of recovery efforts. Lots of people come to take advantage of natural resources here off the Oregon coast-about 25,000 commercial trips off our coast. 675,000 Marine angler recreational trips-ODFW has a line and tackle collection program, SOLV has litter pick up programs. West coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health has a Marine debris action team which she and Fran Recht, PSMFC are a part of. Opportunities Projects-industry and agency partnerships, trawl nets and crab pots. Many of these partnerships came through marine debris money from NOAA. Reimbursement for nets caught in underground cables started a program. 10,000-15,000 pots lots each year lost off the coast of Oregon due to a variety of causes. Impacts-conflicts with other fisheries, resource impacts, navigation and safety issues, habitat degradation. Ghost fishing mortality of crabs, humpback whale caught in crab pot line. Ghost fishing mortality has decreased due to cotton rope use that dissolves in time. Some studies being done to minimize whale contact. Sometimes, starfish, anemones are caught. 2006-07 gear recovery efforts began with a pilot effort-tested variety of processes. Retrieved 4.5 nets, 325 crab pots, 30,000 pounds of other gear were recovered during this pilot project.

Techniques-Sometimes you have to pump for stuck crab pots-works in near-shore areas where it's sanded in. Grappling for cut off crab gear to snag the line. Doing this at the mouth of the Columbia River. Got a NOAA grant through the stimulus money \$700,000 with match from local agencies. The first year was a pilot effort off Charleston and Columbia. 12 days of time all together-gave us a base line information. Recovery efforts out of Depoe Bay, Newport, Columbia. 2009-2011 crab gear recovery includes coast guard flights over the sights, hotline reporting line-1-800-707-CRAB (2722). The plan is to recover buoyed pots, recover cut off pots and volunteer industry clean-up event, film documentary. OPERATION CRAB POT-stipend for

fuel costs with their donated time and boat use. 50 days the second year-1550 pots recovered.. About 10% of the pots placed get lost each year. Crab pots cost between \$200 and \$250 each. 95 % of found crab pots can be reused

Crabbers can bring in up to 25 pots that don't belong to them to drop off during the season. From the end of the season to 1 Nov can bring in any number. Log books are required now, number of pots, catch, lost pots, depth, etc. A maximum of 10% of lost pots can be replaced each year.

Side scan sonar and grappling results showed the detected pots and lines afterwards-60 pots per square mile-got about 75% of pots seen by sonar-we couldn't always tell how old the pots were. The bouy tag has the fishing year but the pot might only tell you the owner. Reuse and recycle-fishing for energy bins at Astoria, Newport, Garibaldi, and Brookings-old year's tags can be recycled. Outreach included working with high school students.

Prevention-crab fisherypractices and courtesy retrievals, crab fishery regulation changes so you can bring in others' gear, hotline. Video shown at 7:35 – starting with a question posed by a student: Dear Joel Greene-I'm curious, what is being done to keep our ocean clean? Program focused on the Fishing for energy program- Warrenton, Oregon a partnership with fishermen who bring in the nets, Schnitzer Steel (which chops up the collected nets) and Covanta Energy (which can use the pieces of nets in their waste to energy facility). 27 tons was collected prior to the filming-1 ton of nets powers a home for 27 days.

6. Technical Team Report-Beaver habitat enhancement-tech team case study revision will be done to go to the state working group. OWEB has asked for program ideas this fall. Alesa Bay die-off of eel grass. NOAA mitigation plans to return 3 acres to natural habitat through removal of fill. Nets are collected and sheared at metal recycler place SCHNITZER sp?-chopped nets used at energy plant COVANTA-burned to make steam that turns a turbine and produces electricity. Combustion cleaners in place so emissions meet standards. [www.Curiosity.org](http://www.Curiosity.org) with your ideas for programs
7. Siletz Basin Planning Team Report-Siletz-the position is open for basin coordinator and was re-advertised. They'll be going to the marine board again regarding restricting motor use above the water intake for the water system that serves Newport, Siletz, Toledo and Seal Rock (at various tmes of year); they're working with the health department and OR Dept of Env. Quality.
8. Yaquina Basin Planning Team-- a written report was provided. A mtg with Environmental Proection Agency staff to discuss better coordination and communication regarding Yaquina projects was held, an outreach presentation to 14 HMSC visitor center volunteers was provided, attended the rain garden workshop provided by the Lincoln SWCD and is considering a project with HMSC for collecting rainwater for gear

washing and other uses. Field trip to the Hwy 20/Eddyville/Pioneer Mt. ODOT project is planned for August 27th

9. Salmon Drift Watershed Council Report-a written report was provided. Big news was that the group was awarded a National Foret Foundation capacity building support grant of \$70,000 for staff and general operations support for the next two years. A part time project manager or other staffing is being considered. Pixieland work will begin this month on weed removal and demolition of concrete brdge abutments. The contract for large wood placement om Bear Creel was awarded.
10. Alsea Watershed Council Report-no report or representative was available.
11. Administrative Report-- the year end financial report and the budget for the 2010-2011 year were adopted; Staff Performance evaluation for Wayne was postponed until all admin members could be present.
12. Education Committee Report. Virginia provided a written report. Natural Resource Crew preparation wsa the main activity, with crews scheduled to begin work the week of July 1. There are 5 crew leaders and 25-30 crew positions (80 applications were received) Workplans will involve more feedback between “contractors” and crew leaders for increased satisfaction and understanding on both ends. Work includes South Beach Marsh Wayside Park Restoration, Salmon Seine research, invasive weed surveys, beaver dam surveys, Starr Creek work, fair set up and take down, youth native nursery, Beaver Creek, Silver spot butterfly habitat work, YHONA Garden Project, trash survey and clean up, dune lake biological surveys (snorkel and scuba) Salmon River, South Country Trails, and Mud Shrimp projects.
13. Coordinator report: Written report provided. Details of meetings and work with the Salmon Stronghold Partnership Mtg, Beaver Conservation work group, Cape Perpetua Community Team for Marine Reserved, and Port of Newport work was summarized. The annual report for the 2008-2009 fiscal years was distributed.
14. Announcements: Heather VanMeter reported she was continuing to gather information and ideas for the King Salvage clean-up operation.

Meeting notes prepared by Virginia Tardaewether and Fran Recht