

Depoe Bay Near Shore Action Team
Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 21, 2008 6:00 PM
Depoe Bay City Hall

PRESENT: Mike Fitzpatrick, Nancy Fitzpatrick, Loren Goddard, Roy Hageman,
John O'Brien, Lars Robison, Grant Snyder (arrived 6:04 pm)
Advisory Council: Terry Thompson (arrived 6:10 pm)
ABSENT: Rick Davilla, Morris Grover
STAFF: Pery Murray, City Recorder

Goddard called the meeting to order and established a quorum at 6:00 pm..

Approval of June 19 and July 17, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Robison moved to approve the meeting minutes as written. N. Fitzpatrick seconded.

VOTE: Motion passed.

AYES: M. Fitzpatrick, N. Fitzpatrick, L. Goddard, R. Hageman, J. O'Brien, L. Robison

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Marine Reserve Proposal

A draft proposal form dated 8/17/08 (copy attached to the original of these minutes) was reviewed with the following comments noted:

Page 1, Item 1.: the nautical mile distance from Yaquina Head is still needed.

Page 1, Item 2.: need to add wording regarding the ecological benefits of the site, Dave Fox, ODFW, will be able to assist on this item.

Page 2, Item 4.: the chart needs to be completed including percentages, Dave Fox has kelp surveys with specific areas and he advised to include experiential knowledge to provide percentages, providing a defined map later (looking for generalizations, not specifics). Discussion ensued regarding availability of accurate maps, the need to identify the island off Otter Rock as a navigational hazard and what is generally known about the habitat types.

Page 2 & 3, Item 5.: need to complete the lists of animal and plant species and note how the data was obtained. Thompson said he will work on corrections and additions to the list of fish.

Page 3, Item 7.: information on the organizations that attended the outreach meetings is needed.

Page 4, Item 8.: more information on research opportunities is needed.

Page 5, Item 10.: information on the location of the sewer outfall may be available from either the county planning department or from Bob Hickerson, Otter Rock Sanitary System.

Page 5, Item 11.: O'Brien noted this item is optional and asked if economic development monies or economic opportunities are made available, should these be pursued. Discussion included that it should be something beneficial to Depoe Bay and Newport fishermen, possibly underwater cameras for tourism.

Page 5, Item 13.: Lengthy discussion ensued regarding possibly advocating the site as a pilot project for marine reserves. It was noted that OPAC is reluctant to support pilot projects. Ed Bowles, ODFW, explained that pilot projects are still part of the overall program and while OPAC did not include them in the guidance document it didn't make a change to eliminate them. Pilot projects would help define "adequate baselines". Wayne Belmont suggested changing the reference to the June 28, 2007 letter to a reference to the draft MOU or to include both. It was agreed to add a reference to the draft MOU.

Ed Bowles reviewed the process: After the submittal deadline of September 30th, a two step review on proposed sites occurs, first course, then fine. If a pilot project is accepted the fine review would not

occur until the end of five years with data being collected during that time. Pilot projects are designated within a year, non-pilot projects are not designated until completion of fine review. It was noted that pilot projects are contingent upon funding and good candidates are communities that have already conducted outreach and collaboration efforts (only Depoe Bay and Port Orford). It was advised that in an adaptive management system things change and NSAT should work to ensure involvement in any changes over time. Onno Husing of OCZMA, supported by ODFW funding, is a resource to assist in the preparation of proposals.

Expansion of the proposed area was discussed. In an effort to propose the best ecological area, ODFW suggests including the entire reef area instead of cutting through the interface between sandy and rocky bottom at the west boundary. An option would be to include this expanded area as an MPA which would allow crabbing. Members voiced concern that there is no time for outreach meetings to present information on a change to the proposed boundary. It was agreed to not change the proposed boundary at this time, noting that the MOU speaks to possible future boundary changes after a couple years of data collection. Bowles suggested including language that speaks to NSAT recognizing the value of including the entire interface area (toes), however, there is a public information process necessary.

MOTION: N. Fitzpatrick moved to continue the process of preparing the proposal without a change to the boundary and address possible future changes in the MOU. M. Fitzpatrick seconded the motion.

Goddard said it was moved and seconded and called for discussion. It was clarified that wording will be added to say that NSAT recognizes the value of including the interface area (toes), however, there is a process necessary including a thoughtful public process.

VOTE: Motion passed.

AYES: M. Fitzpatrick, N. Fitzpatrick, L. Goddard, R. Hageman, J. O'Brien, L. Robison, G. Snyder

It was agreed to meet on Thursday, September 11th at 6:00 pm to finalize the proposal for presentation to the city council at their September 16th meeting for their approval.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Lincoln County

Lincoln County Counsel Wayne Belmont provided a brief background, noting that the state has developed a MOU with FERC on wave energy much like this MOU, bringing the scientific community and stakeholders together. He reviewed the draft MOU (copy attached to the original of these minutes). Bowles said the pilot project proposal needs to be addressed, noting that some areas do not lend themselves to prepost baseline studies and underfished areas are used as comparables to heavily fished areas. Rapid Area Assessments, used prior to shutdowns or to establish reference points of fish populations usually involve one year of study. It was advised that wording will change on what baseline studies include and establishment concepts as the process continues. Belmont offered to make changes to the draft based on tonight's discussions and provide to NSAT by the September 11th meeting. It was clarified that the MOU will not be finalized by the submittal deadline so it will be attached as a draft. Bowles suggests including MOU concepts in the proposal language, opposed to attaching a copy.

NEW BUSINESS:

U.S. Geological Survey Service Offshore Mapping Project

It was confirmed that Guy Cochran, USGS, arrived in Depoe Bay today, ocean conditions will need to calm before he can commence work. Dave Fox said the effort is to prioritize inshore areas and the proposed reserve site if possible in the timeframe allowed to this area.

Schedule Next Meeting The next meeting will be Thursday, September 11th at 6:00 pm.

Member and Public Comments

Goddard noted that N. Fitzpatrick had provided him with a letter from FINAVERA regarding the rescue of “BOB” the wave energy buoy. N. Fitzpatrick provided information on a proposed rule by the Minerals Management Service (MMS) for handling wave energy leases, a public comment period ends September 8th and she recommends encouraging collaboration with stakeholders in this process. It was agreed the city should provide comment, with a recommendation to the city council to do so, encouraging stakeholder involvement in processing of ocean lease agreements. M. Fitzpatrick said there is a meeting in Newport this evening regarding open access bottom fishing that potentially will put these fishermen out of business. He asked if NSAT would write a letter on this subject which he offered to draft. Goddard asked him to bring a draft to the next meeting for review. O’Brien said Oceana was present at an OPAC meeting on Tuesday and information was shared on 31 sites they feel need protection. The upcoming Heceta Head Conference (Oct. 24-25 in Florence) was discussed. N. Fitzpatrick will be attending for the Salmon Commission. Members interested in attending include O’Brien, Robison, Goddard, M. Fitzpatrick and Hageman.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Pery Murray, City Recorder

Loren Goddard, Chairman