

Depoe Bay Near Shore Action Team
Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 16, 2008 - 6:00 PM
Depoe Bay City Hall

PRESENT: Mike Fitzpatrick, Nancy Fitzpatrick, Loren Goddard, Morris Grover (arrived 6:08, departed 8:00), Roy Hageman, Lars Robison, Grant Snyder
ABSENT: Rick Davilla, John O'Brien
STAFF: Pery Murray, City Recorder

Goddard called the meeting to order and established a quorum at 6:05 pm..

Approval of September 11, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: N. Fitzpatrick moved to approve the meeting minutes as written. Hageman seconded.
VOTE: Motion passed.
AYES: M. Fitzpatrick, N. Fitzpatrick, L. Goddard, R. Hageman, L. Robison, G. Snyder

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Marine Reserve Site Proposal

Goddard announced that the NSAT proposal was submitted before the September 30 deadline and it was the second proposal submitted. He distributed a "Draft OPAC Review Process" handout (copy attached to the original of these minutes) from a recent meeting in Reedsport. Discussion ensued regarding information from that meeting and the importance of the upcoming OPAC meeting in Florence, October 23 and 24. It was noted that NSAT needs to make it clear that NSAT was not contacted regarding other site proposals in the Depoe Bay area. NSAT should encourage others to attend the OPAC meeting to testify on economic impacts, or write letters. Hageman distributed a draft testimony letter for use by others (copy attached to the original of these minutes). It was agreed to use the letter, allow persons to add personal notes as desired, then print and sign their name. Also, to draft a similar letter for other businesses such as lodging, restaurants, etc., and ask Peggy Leoni to assist with distribution.

Review of site proposal numbers 1, 5, 8, 9, 17 and 20 (copies attached to the original of these minutes) began. M. Fitzpatrick suggested noting statements that conflict with the Governor's guidelines, focus on any objections to specific items in each proposal, and suggest that bad proposals be out instead of moved to the bottom of the priority list. Comments on site proposals included the following:

Site Proposal No. 1- Whale Cove to Devil's Punchbowl The statement that most crabbers are further out than 3 miles is incorrect; need to confirm with Jerome Grant regarding inclusion of his name and references; re-introduction of sea otters has been attempted before without success; there are many errors in this proposal.

Site Proposal No. 5 – 20 Miracle Miles The statement that a member of NSAT provided technical input into this process was questioned. It was noted that two members attended a meeting but no input was provided. It was agreed that NSAT needs to prepare a statement "While NSAT members may have attended a meeting, there was no support of this proposal expressed or implied."; listed activities encouraged are those already in use, with some eliminations; disagree with the statement that a larger size marine reserve is better; there was no site specific collaboration; disagree with statements relating to depleted fish stocks, fish stocks are not depleted; names on maps are incorrect, maps are provided by ODFW; there is no mention of the Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) currently in place which limits fishing 8 months of the year in 40 to 100 fathoms; need to address effort shift impacts of marine reserves; also need to address the statement "there is a very small port at Depoe Bay".

Site Proposal No. 8 – Cascade Head I The statement that this proposal avoids significant negative economic and social impacts is erroneous; areas identified as “not fished” are false, there is much fishing north of D River; bottom trawling is already prohibited, the trawl fleet will likely comment on this; the statement that Depoe Bay is not affected by MPA is incorrect; disagree with statements relating to the Community Action Team conducting interviews and adjusting the proposal to reflect feedback, should NSAT comment/make a general statement on over-statements made on community support; there was no refinement reflecting community priorities; NSAT repudiates any implied endorsement of these proposals; disagree with statements that the Heads/Cape are similar.

Site Proposal No. 9 – Cape Foulweather I This proposal is very similar to No. 20, it appears that there are different ideas among the Our Ocean group; disagree that this proposal leaves important fishing areas open; disagree with areas cited as prime fishing areas; this proposal will create huge effort shift impacts; statements throughout the proposals relating to “avoiding significant economic and social impacts” need to be substantiated; there is no information available on meetings and outreach efforts.

Site Proposal No. 17 – Cascade Head II The statement that this site is out of range for the vast majority of sport fishing boats is untrue; this proposal includes erroneous terminology and statements such as “recreational charter fleet”, “undesirable to crabbers”, “typically late August through September”; a question was raised as to where the “abundant seafood” would be caught; also a question of the LCNAT meetings stated to have occurred February through September; general review statement for this proposal is that there was a lack of collaboration and it includes inaccurate fishing information.

Site Proposal No. 20 – Cape Foulweather II Reintroduction of the sea otter is not realistic, attempted and failed; this proposal speaks to effort shift as a positive while it is a negative; it is not realistic to assume that sightseeing will replace fishing, sightseeing trips augment income but are not an income source, many efforts over the years to expand eco-tourism have proven unsuccessful, eco-tourism is not a viable income source; there are contradictory statements relating to short term economic loss in this proposal; there is no “buy in” by Depoe Bay; the statement that a review was requested of NSAT and the request is being considered must be rebutted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Additional Public Outreach

It was reported that this is in the hands of the state at this point of the process.

Recap of OWET Conference

Goddard reported that the two day meeting was very interesting, with much information on wave energy. While wave energy is coming, the economy may slow progress.

Recap of October 7 OPAC Meeting

Reviewed earlier in the meeting.

Heceta Head Conference Attendees

Brief discussion ensued on who is able to attend. It was noted that the city has registered as a conference supporter, providing for 5 attendees.

Member and Public Comments

A letter from John Holloway, Chair of Recreational Fishing Alliance, to Scott McMullen, Chair of OPAC, was read into the record (copy attached to the original of these minutes). Goddard suggested a letter of support be sent to Don Mann, Port of Newport, for the terminal work that the port is conducting, which includes a revision from removal of old ships sunk for use as docks to encasing the sunken ships to prevent environmental hazards. It was agreed to forward a recommendation to the City Council that the city send a letter of support to the Port of Newport. Brief discussion ensued regarding letters of support for the proposed Otter Rock Marine Reserve site from other entities. It was noted that the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners is providing a support letter. Robison encouraged support for the Port of Toledo bond measure to fund the purchase of the Fred Wahl Marine facility due to its importance to Depoe Bay boat owners.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Pery Murray, City Recorder

Loren Goddard, Chairman