

Depoe Bay Near Shore Action Team
Regular Meeting - Thursday, April 21, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Depoe Bay City Hall

PRESENT: Chair L. Goddard, N. Fitzpatrick, J. Grant, R. Hageman, J. O'Brien, T. Ray, M. Roberts
L. Robison, G. Snyder

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: none

STAFF: none

ODFW: Melissa Murphy

Chair Goddard called the meeting to order and established a quorum at 6:00 ish pm in the parking lot.

Approval of March 17, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March 17, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously as written.

Meeting continued (estimated 6:30 pm) in Council Chambers.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Jim Carlson, Human Dimensions Working Group, reported the HDCWG is asking NSAT if a marine reserve event in August is a good idea, and which weekend would be good to schedule an event. Melissa Murphy, ODFW, said the event would provide an opportunity to inform people of the marine reserve and include the stakeholders so everyone benefits. It was agreed to look at the last two weekends in August or the first weekend in September (Labor Day weekend) as possible dates, with Labor Day preferred. Carlson asked for NSAT input on what type of activities could be included. A question was raised if the marine reserve regulations will be included in the ODFW recreational fishing guidelines. Murphy replied that the pamphlet is in early development phase at this time. ODFW is working with both marine reserve working groups to create an overall look for Oregon's marine reserves, and information specific to the Otter Rock and Redfish Rocks marine reserves. This work needs to be done before the event. The Human Dimensions group has finalized their Goals, including revisions suggested by NSAT. Carlson said Redfish Rocks has a brochure and they have had a couple events already. There is a liaison person from their group who will be working with the HDCWG, to coordinate efforts. The Oregon Coast Aquarium's graphics department will be assisting in the work, which is a great resource. He will report back to HDCWG that Labor Day weekend looks like a good event day.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update from ODFW Regarding Status of Pilot MR Closure Delay

Goddard referred to an email from Cristen Don, ODFW, relating to amending the closure date of the reserves to January 1, 2012 (copy attached to the original of these minutes). The Redfish Rocks Team was also contacted about the proposed delay and is providing a support letter similar to NSAT's letter. Don will be presenting both letters to the Fish & Wildlife Commission on June 3rd, requesting adoption of the amendment.

Hageman referred to a copy of the letter that was to go to the MOU signatories that was in the meeting packet. Goddard said it was an oversight and will be corrected.

NEW BUSINESS:

Briefing on HB 2009

Goddard said he was in Salem two weeks ago for the first hearing in committee on House Bill 2009. The bill includes financing for marine reserves, the pilot reserves and the rest of the reserves on the list. When the Coastal Caucus presents a bill, the agreement is that they can't go forward with any legislation they introduce

unless they have a consensus. Two days before the hearing, Rep. Krieger decided there needed to be amendments to the bill. At the hearing he was unwilling to present the amendments. Rep. Jean Cowan has since reported that things are moving ahead. Last Tuesday the bill should have moved out of committee to House Ways and Means. Murphy said the bill is in subcommittee. Goddard noted a couple of minor amendments he would like to see to the bill, including a broader spectrum of rockfish species and marine mammal studies. Fitzpatrick commented on the ability to change marine reserve boundaries. Discussion followed on the possibility of a ballot initiative and the future of the Oregon marine reserve program.

Goddard added a discussion item: Wave Energy The City Council has asked NSAT to keep abreast of activities relating to wave energy. Roberts reported that the FISHCRED group discussed wave energy last night. He is allowed to talk about it, but not bring the maps to a NSAT meeting, because NSAT meetings are public. Eco-Trust has a new map for commercial and charter fishermen that shows every square mile of the territorial seas and a dollar amount of the average product take from each area for the years 2004-2008. Fitzpatrick asked if there a disclaimer to reflect that an “X” percent of the industry was approached and included. Roberts said they took data from the interviews they’d conducted and extrapolated that data to those that did not participate. FISHCRED questioned the map, they would like to see data from crabbing and fishing log books. Murphy is aware that Eco-Trust was also including catch landings information. Other data is being used and models are being created. Hageman thought the Eco-Trust mapping project had been put on hold. Roberts had reported that all that NSAT had agreed to was release of the composite map that showed colors. Eco-Trust will be coming back to each port to meet with participants. Fitzpatrick asked if interviews were conducted in Tillamook and Astoria. Roberts is aware that approximately a dozen were conducted in Garibaldi, and there is data from Tillamook and Astoria shown on the map. Recent news reports that a wave energy site has been approved just above Yaquina Head. O’Brien had seen the same news report and wondered where it is and what impacts there may be to the reserve. Murphy confirmed it is a test site for OSU, Kaety Hildebrand could provide information. There are a number of meetings upcoming on wave energy issues and there is an online survey looking at ecological aspects of wave energy. It was suggested to invite Kaety Hildebrand to a future meeting to obtain further information. Goddard will contact her.

Goddard mentioned the Depoe Bay Salmon Enhancement Commission, reciting a brief history of their activities, noting that the number of eggs provided to the Commission each year has been reduced from 100,000 to 20,000. A new ODFW biologist, Christine Clapp, has been assigned to the Depoe Bay STEP project. NSAT should be involved and provide a letter of support of the Depoe Bay Salmon Enhancement effort to her. Robison said when Depoe Bay was receiving more eggs, streams other than Depoe Bay Creeks were supplemented, such as Big Creek and Fogarty Creek. Discussion ensued on the ODFW fish hatchery and STEP programs. Goddard offered to work with the Salmon Enhancement Commission to draft a letter of support and bring back for NSAT approval. Everyone agreed.

Member and Public Comments

Fitzpatrick apologized for having missed meetings. Ray wished everyone a Happy Easter. O’Brien reported that the original “Jimco”, Fred Robison’s first boat, is in the harbor. Robison said Jim Connolly, (AKA Big Jim, Lucky Jim) had it built and his father had bought it and fished it for a number of years. The boat was in the boneyard in Port Townsend until the current owner brought it down to Depoe Bay.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. (estimated)

Chair Loren Goddard

Transcribed from J. O’Brien notes and audio tape
Pery Murray, City Recorder