

OTTER ROCK MARINE RESERVE COMMUNITY WORK GROUP –
BIOLOGICAL/SCIENTIFIC

Meeting Notes/Summary

Date/Time: Thursday, September 23, 2010 – 6:00 PM

Location: Otter Rock Community Hall

Present: Chair Brian Haley, Jim Burke (arrived 6:45 pm), Paul Erskine, Terry Thompson

Absent: Gary Wise

ODFW: none

City Staff: Pery Murray

City Councilor Jack Brown was also in attendance.

REVIEW of MINUTES – AUGUST 26, 2010

No comments.

UPDATE on SCIENCE PROGRESS (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER)

No ODFW staff present, Alix Laferriere email (via Cristen Don email) with attached September 23, 2010 report had been received and copies available.

FUTURE SCIENCE PLANS – Biological Working Group Plan Draft Manuscript, Data Collection (Field Work) Assistance

Haley has not received the electronic version of the sample goals & objectives document from ODFW, therefore, he has not prepared a draft for tonight's discussion. The timeline for the draft plan to be completed was discussed. It was suggested to use the goals stated in the MOU (copy included in member's handbook). The first goal is to obtain data, from ODFW, and by other means. Haley has spoken with persons at OSU who would be willing to help. He questioned if it is acceptable to use other sources to obtain data, or if the work must be conducted by ODFW. The status of availability of information on sea lions, fish species and whales, and a bathymetry map of the marine reserve was questioned. It was agreed that an ODFW representative must be at the meetings, to provide needed information.

Haley said this group needs to develop a document defining Statement of Purpose and Goals. Should this group move ahead with data gathering through means other than ODFW, by using volunteers. It was noted that the marine reserve waters are dangerous, even for experienced divers. Data could be gathered surface-side by volunteers which could include observation and counts of birds and marine mammals. Erskine noted that a great observation spot for sea lions is from the lawn area by the Inn at Otter Crest restaurant.

Murray reported that the Human Dimensions Working Group will be requesting scientific information from this group in the future. City staff will provide (via email) meeting minutes from each working group to the other to share information. Haley asked for a copy of the other group's goals and statement of purpose.

Burke arrived, Haley asked if he knew if a map of the reserve is available. Burke is aware that mapping work has been done, but hasn't seen a map yet. Alix's report was reviewed, Burke plans to meet with her tomorrow to offer assistance. He (OCA) has volunteered diving services to ODFW, he can work his own schedule and provide data to ODFW. Burke wants to use a video camera, which hasn't been done yet, but he needs to know what to look at and what data to collect. He noted the PISCO divers working for ODFW were counting fish and

invertebrates, and we may want to continue this work. Haley asked Burke if this group can ask him to collect data. Burke responded yes, for Otter Rock marine reserve only, but he needs defined tasks and areas of study, and needs to know what is there first to determine ongoing study areas. The key is to conduct surveys the same times each year, using the same methods and in the same locations. He wants to be sure the data gathered can, and will, be used by ODFW. We can look at what others have done and what methods they have used. Burke would like to see ODFW provide the underwater video camera and identify tasks, then he and volunteers will collect the data and provide to ODFW for analysis. Haley suggested this be recommended to ODFW.

Discussion included: The changeable presence of fish, mysids (tiny little shrimp), etc. thereby necessitating study at different times of the year. Thompson is interested in juvenile fish populations where the barrier reef breaks off. This could be included in the goals as a study to be conducted. Most of the research work to date has been conducted at the Redfish Rocks marine reserve, there is much work to be done in Otter Rock marine reserve. The term "baseline" may mean different things to different people, this term should be clearly defined. Thompson referred to the MOU, which states that the reserve won't be closed until baseline studies are done. Thompson defines baseline as "stock assessments conducted quarterly for one year". Burke concurs with that definition. Erskine noted the first dive was done in August, the reserve is scheduled to be closed by July 2011. If the ODFW baseline is one week of diving, we could repeat quarterly for a year to establish a baseline. The diving period and locations need to be the same in each quarter's research. The Otter Rock area is a good area for volunteers to conduct bird and sea lion counts from land. Erskine has observed eagles and other birds routinely visiting the site.

The next meeting is scheduled for the 4th Thursday of October (October 28) at 6: 00 pm, location to be determined. It is agreed that if ODFW staff can not attend, the date will be changed to accommodate their presence, which is absolutely necessary. Haley will, upon receiving the electronic goals and objectives document, draft a statement of purpose and goals for review by members.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.