

OTTER ROCK MARINE RESERVE COMMUNITY WORK GROUP – HUMAN DIMENSIONS

Meeting Notes/Summary

Date/Time: Friday, January 21, 2011 - 2:00 PM

Location: Oregon Coast Aquarium-Conference Room, 2820 SE Ferry Slip Rd., Newport, OR

Present: Chair Kerry Morgan, Caroline Bauman, James Carlson, Melody Lavrakas, Michelle Mileham (new member)

Absent: Nancee Hunter, Edward Barrilleaux, Jr.

Staff: ODFW Team: Melissa Murphy, City: Pery Murray

Review of Minutes – November 16, 2010 No comments

Creating a Citizen Science Program Melissa reported there is not enough staff to do the work that needs to be done, creating an opportunity for volunteers. She and Alix Laferriere will define projects such as: observing activities at the marine reserve, if a camera is placed at the site people will be needed to watch videos, there may be some extraction activities. Nothing needs to be done immediately, this is a future need (volunteers needed by July 1st). There will be pilot reserve site work for sure, funding for evaluation reserve site work is still an unknown. Kerry has set up a citizen science program which is in the pilot stage, the existing network could be used. Volunteers are trained in content and skill sets. The Coastal Masters Naturalist Program has contacts here and south coast. Nancee Hunter will be at south coast next week, questions could be sent with her. Melissa will research ODFW volunteer program, Kerry will contact Coastal Masters.

Review Planning Documents Discussion: While NSAT proposed the Otter Rock Marine Reserve (ORMR) site, it is acknowledged that this was a good faith effort and it should not be assumed that NSAT is supportive of marine reserves in general. A problem with the ORMR is a question of its ecological value due to its size, while a benefit is knowledge of near shore habitat and fishery, providing a good opportunity for education and outreach. It is easy to educate on the science yet difficult to explain the connection between fishermen and the reserve. Marine reserves are great for the environment, not necessarily for the fishing industry. Need to get fishermen involved in science research and education and outreach, maybe they could be teachers. Depoe Bay has invested time and energy into eco-tourism (now referred to as “nature-based tourism”), other fishing communities are being encouraged to do so as well. This Group’s job is developing ideas, not creating jobs. Caroline offered to assist in developing economic ideas and opportunities. Kerry noted that fishermen are one of the identified target audiences and they should be a high priority on the list. She has updated the target audience list and suggested that “create advocates” could include a list of economic development ideas. The Group should make a balanced presentation, providing both sides of the marine reserve issue, and let people make their own decisions.

Jim recapped Oregon’s marine reserve efforts: HB 3013 established the two pilot marine reserve sites and opened the door for four more evaluation sites. OPAC recently voted to move forward with three of the evaluation sites (no consensus on Cape Falcon) and voted for a full network of marine reserves in the territorial sea. Legislation is being drafted, a decision is hoped for by March. Some think that the legislature has no money to fund marine reserves, therefore marine reserves will go away. This won’t happen, there will be a trust, funded by contributions, to finance future work on marine reserves.

Kerry introduced new member Michelle, asking her to describe her project. Michelle, grad student at OSU, masters project on marine reserves, educating volunteers. She just finished at Hatfield Marine Science Center and has lots of information. She hopes to use her work for signage and education for volunteers. Kerry feels there is a need to educate people/volunteers on marine reserves in general. Caroline reported a recent survey of Depoe Bay non-fishing business people shows a 50-50 split for vs. against marine reserves. Melissa feels Michelle’s information will be useful for marketing. Jim feels spatial planning needs to be tied in, the territorial sea plan is in process. For Michelle’s benefit everyone introduced themselves and provided a brief bio.

Grand Opening Day

Kerry asked if there is any funding for an event. Melissa will check with Cristen Don, ODFW Project Team Leader. Kerry asked if the Group feels there is value to this event and does the Group want to take this on. Suggestions for the event included hiring charter boats to take people on marine reserve tours on the day of the event, inviting speakers from ODFW and the science community, develop brochures for handout, call it "Marine Reserve Dedication Day", have an annual event, schedule it in conjunction with Redfish Rocks event, (they are looking at Friday July 1st), find partners to help with the event, use the event to promote businesses including charter boats, Caroline using her budget (Lincoln County Economic Development) to sponsor chartering a boat, invite senators and congressmen. It was agreed that this Group will proceed with a ceremony, that it is good public relations. Kerry will contact Redfish Rocks and specific activities and assignments will be discussed at the next meeting.

Review Planning Documents, cont.

Kerry has narrowed the target audience list down to eight, the Group needs to prioritize since can't do them all. She asked members to look at 3 – 7 goals and place them with audiences and email to her. Once done, then discussion on tangents can begin. Melissa asked if the next meeting could be before the NSAT meeting in February. Kerry will doodle dates for the first two weeks in February and asked everyone to provide their input to her by February 1st.

Caroline advised the Group of two state programs that will pay workers through the Community Services Consortium. Persons involved in the programs are unemployed, low income, qualifying for public assistance and would be excellent workers. She was offered two workers, volunteers for her since paid by the state. It was suggested these workers could be involved with Marine Reserve day work.

Meeting ended at 3:40 p.m.