

Siuslaw Estuary Partnership

An Integrated Multiple Objective Approach To Watershed Protection and Restoration

Community Stakeholder Group March 31, 2011 Meeting Notes Draft 4/5/11

Thursday March 31, 2011
5:00 – 6:20 p.m.
Florence City Hall
250 Highway 101, Florence

Present (except where noted absent):

Stakeholders: Adele Dawson, Lane County Audubon Society & Local Birding; Rob Shepherd, Florence Board of Realtors (absent); Lisa Walter-Sedlacek, Florence Area Chamber of Commerce (absent); David Huntington, Recreational Fishing (absent); Mark Tilton, Florence Planning Commissioner; Clarence Lysdale, Recreation-Kayak and SCUBA; Nancy Nichols, Lane County Planning Commissioner; Anne Caples and Sue Noble (absent), Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition; Bill Hennig, Salmon Trout Enhancement Project (absent); Gus Gates, Surfrider (absent); Jean White, Volkswalkers; Tiffany Rogato, Florence Area Hospitality Association (absent).

City of Florence Staff (City): Wendy Farley, Senior Planner; Sandra Belson, Community Development Director, Project Manager; Carol Heinkel, Planning Consultant, Project Coordinator; Mike Miller, Public Works Director (absent).

Guests: Tom Steinberg, Siuslaw Watershed Council Leadership Board

1. Welcome and Introductions

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves.

2. Agenda Review and February 24, 2011 Meeting Notes (Attachment)

Carol Heinkel, Facilitator

Carol asked if there were any changes to the notes. There were none. She went over the agenda and asked if there were any requested modifications. None were requested.

3. Public Comment

No public comments were presented at this time.

4. Climate Change Report Draft 3/24/11 (Attachment)

Carol Heinkel, Facilitator

Carol said the revised Draft Report was included in their packets. She said this draft incorporated comments from the Stakeholders and she thanked them for their excellent contributions. She said one of the new pieces of information was a map that shows the low elevation areas in Florence. She said this map was created from an on-line tool developed by the University of Arizona that allows one to zoom in on an area and it shows the low elevation areas. In Florence, this is along the estuary and the North Fork and at the northern end of the aquifer boundary. She said the tool indicates that these areas would be inundated with a 3 foot rise in sea level, which is predicted to occur by the year 2100. She said there are limitations to the tool because tectonic conditions are not taken into account. However, other sources cited in the report, especially the Oregon Climate Change Assessment Report, state that the entire Oregon coast is likely to be inundated under this scenario, including Florence. So, taken together with the other data in the report, these would appear to be vulnerable areas to sea level rise.

Carol said the report has also been reviewed by Kathie Dello, staff from the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI), and that OCCRI staff will present the information at the April 25 Open House.

Carol asked if there were any requested changes or edits to the report; none were offered. She said the report will go to the open house, following review by the Elected Official Stakeholders; and the Group nodded in agreement.

5. Draft Newsletter (Attachment)

Wendy Farley-Campbell

Wendy handed out an updated mock-up of the newsletter and explained the changes made in response to comments received since the mail-out. She asked for comments.

Nancy suggested using the word “permeable” in place of pervious; because it is a more commonly understood term.

Wendy went over several changes requested in an email from Gus Gates, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Several other changes were requested and Wendy marked these on the newsletter draft. She said she is flying out first thing in the morning and will make these changes tonight; and add the photos of the Stakeholder Groups to the newsletter. Since several members were absent, she said she would use the photo taken last year for the newsletter and then get an updated photo for the web site at their meeting on April 11.

Wendy said she will print the newsletter out and Tiffany Rigato will hand out copies from the Oregonfast booth at the Green Fair on Saturday. She said it will go to the printers tomorrow (Friday) and will be mailed to all residents and businesses around April 14.

6. Targeted Outreach and Web Links

Wendy handed out a card that she created to advertise the project and the Open House. She asked the Stakeholders to please take some of these and hand them out to their groups. She said she has additional ones and to give her a call if they need more. Wendy said Surfriders agreed to add a link to the project on their web site. She said they want to add their link to the project web site as well. Wendy will forward that link to Carol to put on the project web site.

7. Wetlands and Riparian Areas (Attachment)

Sandra Belson and Clarence Lysdale

Sandra went over the memo in the packet that was prepared by her and Carol Heinkel. She said she will cover the topic of wetlands and that Clarence Lysdale, Community Volunteer, will cover the topic of Riparian Areas.

Sandra said the memo provides background information to set the stage for a discussion of the Florence Wetland Inventory and policy options at their April 11 meeting; and then to present to the public at the April 25 Open House.

Sandra said the study area for this project includes areas outside the city and the UGB; so, the county may want to adopt portions of the inventory and measures to protect them that apply outside the UGB. She said that is optional and up to the County and that the hope is that the representatives from Lane County, Nancy who is on the Planning Commission, and Jay Bozievich, who is on the Board, would be able to help make that determination and help facilitate the process, along with Lane County staff who serve on the Interdisciplinary Team.

She said the land use measures in the overall project, including this element, apply within the Florence Urban Growth Boundary. She said, ideally, Lane County will co-adopt the City's Comprehensive Plan policies; but, if not, then the policies will be implemented solely by the City for the area within the city limits.

Nancy asked if the study area included Forest Service land and, if yes, were they informed and involved. Sandra replied that yes Forest Service land was in the boundary and that staff from the Forest Service serve on the staff Team.

Sandra explained the meaning of the terms in the memo and the process for conducting the inventory. She said the City has an existing inventory that was done in 1996 and the same firm that did that inventory is the consultant for this

one: Pacific Habitat Services; because they had the best proposal in response to the Request For Proposals. She explained that the wetlands were assessed using the Oregon Rapid Assessment Protocol (ORWAP) in which the consultant answers a series of questions about each wetland. She explained the criteria for determining “significance” in the Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR). She said that two of the criteria currently used in the Florence Inventory are “Public Use & Recognition” and “Provisionary Services.” She said the OAR does not require these criteria be used; and, thus, it is an option to include them or not. She said there are 4 or 5 wetlands that would be considered significant solely on the basis of these criteria.

In response to a question, Sandra said that the tribal lands would not be affected by the City’s protection measures because they are outside the UGB and the land use measures in this project extend only to the Florence UGB.

Sandra said that more detail will be included in their packets for their April 11 meeting; and, at that meeting, they will be asked to provide their input on what to present to the public at the open house.

Clarence then presented the Riparian Area Inventory background information. He said that riparian areas include stream banks and lake shores; and there is a lot of similarity between wetlands and riparian area procedures. He said the Urban Riparian Inventory and Assessment Guide (URIAG) is parallel to the ORWAP for wetlands. He said the URIAG was adopted by the State after the 1996 Florence Wetlands and Riparian Areas Inventory was completed. He said, like wetlands, it is necessary to do an inventory, an assessment, and then to ultimately decide significance and how to protect the significant resources. He said one of the issues is that the extent of the riparian areas in the Guide is determined by the typical height of the dominant tree species and the “typical heights” are listed in the Guide but do not always match up with reality for specific locations. He said in Florence, the dominant trees are Douglas Fir, which the Guide gives a typical height of 120 feet, and Shore Pine, which the Guide gives a typical height of 50 feet.

He said the realities on the ground are that 120 feet is too wide of a riparian width in most cases. He said that the state allows local jurisdictions to use an alternative, consistent, rational approach; so, in doing the inventory in Florence, he went with the criteria in the 1996 Florence Inventory, i.e., where there is a natural break in topography, in some cases, and typical tree height in others.

He said each area is broken into “reaches” which are further defined and assessed. He passed the inventory information over to Pacific Habitat Services and they are preparing the analysis for the report. He said the assessment criteria include water quality, flood management, thermal regulation, and habitat. The final step is to determine how and to what extent to protect the riparian areas.

Sandra referred the Group to the Guiding Principles for Wetlands and Riparian Areas. She explained that these Principles have been endorsed by all partners except the Port. She said staff will use these Principles as a guide in proposing values and protection measures for wetlands and riparian areas.

Anne asked why the Port did not endorse the Guiding Principles. Sandra said that they supported the project itself but were concerned that the Guiding Principles could ultimately lead to more regulations.

8. Information Items and Update Reports:

- Water Monitoring Program Status (Attachment)
- Key Estuary Wetlands

Mike Miller was absent due to illness; so, the Water Monitoring Program Status Report was continued to the next Stakeholder meeting. There was no update on Key Estuary Wetlands since the last meeting.

9. Public Comment

Tom said he was glad to see the Team prepare a realistic Climate Change Report and that it is important to protect the natural areas being studied in this project.

10. Sum Up and Next Meeting Agenda Topics

Next Meeting: April 11, 2011, 5:00-6:20 pm

Sandra said it looked like Wetlands and Riparian Areas will be the primary agenda topic for next meeting along with the Water Quality and Quantity Report and preparation for the April 25 Open House. The group agreed.

11. Adjourn The group adjourned at 6:20.

Key Dates:

- Monday, April 25, 2011: Public Open House, Florence Events Center, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

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