

## Siuslaw Estuary Partnership

### *An Integrated Multiple Objective Approach To Watershed Protection and Restoration*

## Community Stakeholder Group April 29, 2010 Meeting Notes

Thursday April 29, 2010  
3:30-5:00 p.m.  
Florence City Hall  
250 Highway 101, Florence

### **Present:**

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

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

### **1. Welcome and March 11, 2010 Meeting Notes (Attachment)**

Wendy welcomed the group to the second meeting and asked the group to introduce themselves. Wendy asked for corrections or additions to the meeting notes from March 11. It was explained that Lisa Honsler's name was misspelled and should be corrected.

### **2. Public Comment**

Wendy explained that this item on the agenda is an opportunity for members of the public to bring issues to this group's attention.

### **3. Products and Local Agency Roles**

Carol Heinkel handed out the Products and Timeline chart. She explained that the timeline will change over time; but the products are what was promised in the grant. Carol asked if the members who were new to the process would like a brief overview of the project and several members nodded. She reviewed the purpose of the Siuslaw Estuary Partnership and the six major elements of the project. She explained that there is also an Elected Official Stakeholder Group – that will be explained more in a bit. An Interdisciplinary Team comprised of staff from various agencies develops all the different products.

Carol explained that the website should be up and running by the end of the meeting so people can start going on the website to find out more information. She said the website is [www.siuslawwaters.org](http://www.siuslawwaters.org). It is still a work in progress and Carol encouraged people to check it periodically as it is improved over time.

This group is the Community Stakeholder Group. This group will be a sounding board for the products.

There is also an Elected Official Stakeholder Group formed by the City Council to get the public agencies together and on the same page as the project proceeds. The agencies on that group have some sort of official role in the project. At the last meeting, you said that you would like to have an exchange of information between the groups. So, meeting notes from both groups will be posted to the website. Carol explained the Table of Products and Elected Official Stakeholder Group Roles.

#### **4. Community Involvement Events and Opportunities**

Carol handed out the newsletter that has gone to print. Wendy handed out the Public Involvement Plan (PIP). Carol handed out the Public Involvement Plan Implementation Tracking. Wendy explained that all the handouts were included in the e-mail except the newsletter.

Wendy began the discussion with the Public Involvement Plan which lays out the direction for the project. The first section is target populations. The second section identifies the tools and methods to foster public education. The section on page 4 describes the Stakeholder Group role. The Stakeholder Group actually uses other tools to get information out the public. Wendy explained that the Stakeholder Group is responsible for helping to get information out about the project as well as provide feedback on the various project products. Also, the members of the Stakeholder Group can act as a liaison to your groups, for instance in utilizing our powerpoint presentation.

The next section of the PIP is Key Messages – convey accurate information and dispel myths. The final section is the Guiding Principles that Carol will be explaining in more detail.

Wendy then began to discuss the PIP Implementation Tracking Document. It takes the tools and methods and puts them into a chart form. The website will be coming out soon. Dive-In Design is the consultant hired to create the website. Carol is working on the content. The website will include general project information, upcoming events, information about the different projects and analysis.

The Open House is May 19 from 4:00 to 7:00 at the Florence Events Center. Many of the partnering agencies will be there. If you have an interest, we could use your help at this event. If you have information from your groups that you want to get out, we'll have a table for that purpose. Mark Tilton asked if different agencies would be doing presentations. Sandra Belson responded that there would be presentations about the project at 5:30 and that agencies would have information at the table.

There is a Wetlands Kick-Off Event on May 5 from 5:00 to 7:00 at the Florence Events Center targeting property owners who may have wetlands on their property. Bill Henning received one of those mailings and said the explanation was very poor and would cause concern about what would happen with their property. Del Phelps said that many property owners don't know what makes a wetland, and that's something that we could do, is get that information out. Carol Heinkel said we could also include information like that on the website as well.

Staff is available to make presentations to your group.

Estuary Trail Visioning is happening this summer. This group won't be meeting before then, but Wendy will be calling on some people to help.

Wendy then explained that the newsletter is currently at the printer. We are mailing to the 97439 area code which is larger than the study area, but it was not worth the staff time to remove them. We are also printing extras so we can provide copies for you to distribute. The newsletter will also be available on the website. It is also hitting two zipcodes south of the bridge, some of whom are also outside the planning area. The mail out is expected to be Monday, May 10.

Wendy asked if anyone had any questions or comments on the PIP Tracking. Del Phelps said that in the future, it would be good to list the members of the Stakeholder Group and Elected Officials Group. Carol said that we're hoping people will be interested enough to go to the website. Carol said that we would like to post a picture of the Stakeholder Group and contact information if you're comfortable with that. Del added that not everyone has a computer. Wendy did say that we list staff so they can call staff. Tiffany said she brought her camera, the group agreed to a group photo at the end of a meeting. Carol added that we can provide links between websites, so we can have linkages between your organizations and the project website. Send an email to Wendy if there are any of these opportunities that you want to follow-up on and we'll respond.

Del brings up a great point, at the Open House, we'll have the Stakeholder listings, so over the next week, let us know what contact information you would like to provide to the public. We hoping that a lot of people show up to the Open House.

Wendy said that there will be updates to the website and more newsletters, so we would welcome photos if anyone has any that they are willing to share.

## **5. Draft Guiding Principles**

Carol passed out the Draft Guiding Principles. She stated this is an important product for this process. EPA normally requires measurable outcomes before approving the grant; but due to the complexity of this project, they agreed to develop outcomes as a product of the grant itself. She explained that the Guiding Principles were developed from the outcomes developed by the Interdisciplinary Team since last October. She explained that short term outcomes were those that could be expected to occur during the project, in three years; medium term outcomes were three to ten years; and long term were beyond ten years. She said the long term outcomes were then translated into goals or guiding principles.

She gave an example of a measurable short-term outcome: “to get the word out about water issues and concerns in the watershed to 4000 people” and the task associated with that outcome is the newsletter which will be distributed to at least that number of people. The Interdisciplinary Team has been working on creating measurable outcomes for short, medium, and long term. Staff will compare products with the short term measurable outcomes.

She said the team wants your feedback on the Guiding Principles, which are broad; they are described in greater detail in the measurable outcomes. She said the Team will also get comments from the Elected Official Stakeholder Group and from the public at the Open House. The Team will then take those comments and craft Guiding Principles that address everyone’s input. The City Council would then be asked to approve the Guiding Principles because they would likely become Comprehensive Plan policies. We would also like endorsement from other agencies as well; in the ideal world, all of the groups involved will endorse them.

Nancy asked if we can add anything? Carol said that she will go around the table and take comments from everyone individually and ask: what is missing and should be added, what is there on the page that should be taken off, and what needs to be fixed or explained better. She advised the group that they would not try to get the exact wording down because that can become tedious in a meeting and also because the wording will likely change as more input is given from the other groups.

Carol said that she would go around the room and ask for comments, section by section.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP**

Tiffany thought each one of the six was very clear and didn’t need any more.

Gus talked about incorporating whatever we’re doing into the existing education institutions. Maybe add something more specific about environmental study and science programs. Add landscapers to #5 (in addition to builders and developers).

Ann – OK.

Jean - #4, add younger people including scouts, school kids, and older groups (Thursday Trail Trekkers)

Adele – OK

Clarence – OK but no mention of media, it’s implicit but could be explicit

Mark – OK

Nancy – either part of #5 or separate one – give continuing education credits to realtors, need to involve them. Realtors are meeting people new to town who are coming from an entirely different environment. Mark added what was mentioned before – what are wetlands. Maybe include contractors as well.

Lisa – Supports getting the word out about what will be involved in the development process. Service groups, presentation groups to Rotary and getting the Business Groups involved.

Bill – Had service groups as well. #4, Stream Team is an active group.

Sue – Points have been covered.

Del – Points have been covered.

## **WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY**

Del – Need 4-season baselines. Maybe it goes into #1 or #2. Carol said sounds like something more like monitoring, taking those baselines into consideration. Thinks this section will be the hot-button section from what he reads in the letter to the editor.

Sue - #3 delete “unplanned”, Carol acknowledged her mistake in leaving that in; it was not intended to be included.

Bill – educate folks about throwing things into the creek. Doesn’t take much to kill a lot of fish. Small things have a big impact. What people need to do to protect it (include the don’ts) – add to newsletter for next year. Carol explained that even if everything doesn’t make it into the Guiding Principles, it will be include in the project somewhere.

Lisa – Encourage people to conserve water, then we don’t have to worry so much about new water sources.

Nancy – Likes the improved knowledge of the public.

Mark – Some of the information would be for current residents – not just for new development or redevelopment. Irrigation, application of fertilizers and pesticides.

Clarence – For much of UGB, development exists and discharges exist. BMP efforts recognize that fact so that the solutions range from slightly improved to perfect. Want to make sure people can take small steps even if they can’t reach perfect. Maybe in #5, we could recognize a range of solutions.

Adele – Agrees with Lisa’s comment about conservation and Clarence’s comments about existing development. Carol suggested that we’re talking about changing people’s behaviors and that would rise to a policy level.

Gus - #1, don’t know if the Aquifer translates to where the water actually comes from – people need to know where their water is going. Totally agree with Lisa’s comments about water conservation and needs to be tied in to education. People think we live in a wet area, and we do, but we have limits to our ability to store water. Provide opportunities for people to take steps on their own property for water catchment systems.

Tiffany – Like what he was saying that #1 is that that’s where we get our water.

## **WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN AREAS**

Tiffany – Do we have maps of city-owned wetlands? Carol replied that we will have.

Gus – pass

Ann – Add something about climate change and if we have increased water, where it’s going to go and how it will change the estuary. Am I going to have river-front property?

Jean and Adele – Agrees with Ann

Clarence and Mark – nothing additional

Nancy – is there a way to inform people who are buying property about the presence of wetlands? Is there a guide to provide people about how to restore wetland and riparian areas.

Lisa – nothing

Bill - #3, what about other government and public wetlands and riparian areas, #4, retain vegetation cover (one of stakeholders removed vegetation on Ackerly Creek – difficult to fix after the fact). Educate owners and contractors. Lisa said contractors do what the owners ask. Nancy and Tiffany brought up fines. Lisa said that would come up as community education credits for contractors.

Sue – nothing

Del – Educate not only how, but why. Cause and effect.

This category dovetails with the prior category. An opportunity to retain water when we have too much and let it out slowly to support downstream wetlands. #5 of previous section partially captures. Reduces flooding downstream and enhances wetlands with a higher flow.

## **ECOLOGICAL GROWTH**

Del - #3 lots of flooded forests do not qualify as wetland

Sue – nothing

Bill - #2, may want to create rearing areas, don’t have much area where fish can actually spawn. Need to add gravel back to creeks.

Lisa, Nancy – OK.

Mark - #2, reinvigorate the natural resource economy – don't understand what that means, needs more specificity. Do think it would restore recreational and commercial fisheries. Does it mean timber, agriculture?

We're going to be supporting increased nature-viewing opportunities for both visitor and residents which has an economic impact, particularly on recreation.

Del added that the natural resource economy is moving target.

Clarence - #3 overlaps with Water Quality and Quantity. Develop implementation techniques for these things whether it be zoning or public education. Aren't we talking about how do we make it happen.

Adele, Jean – nothing

Anne - #2 migration of birds. Have to have places to land and refuel. Both migration and habitat. We're part of the west coast flyway.

## **KEY ESTUARY WETLANDS**

Gus – Siuslaw Water Trail and recreational uses and awareness of access, need some educational and interpretive opportunities as people want to get out and stretch their legs

Del – a dike was breached on the North Fork that made it a saltwater estuary, but for a few years it looked terrible. Was that a good thing or a bad thing?

Nancy replied that a whole new plant community needed to be established.

Mark stated that it's moving the estuary more back to its original form that would enhance the salmon.

Gus added that restoration is a process that takes a long time. He's seeing improvements. Mark said that it added flood storage capacity and Anne added to that.

Carol suggested that with such good discussion, we could schedule longer meetings to allow for discussion.

## **6. Sum Up and Next Steps**

Wendy closed by summarizing the opportunities to get involved and encouraged members to get in touch with her and hope to see everyone at the Open House on May 19 and perhaps on May 5 at the Wetlands Kickoff as well.

## **7. Adjourn: 5:05** (Carol took pictures of the Group for the web site)

# **Guiding Principles Flip Chart Notes**

## **Community Stakeholders Input 4/29/10**

### **Public Education and Stewardship**

1. Integrate project into the existing education system working with existing environmental and science programs to get to schools and kids.
2. Add landscapers to #5.
3. #4 – add scouts, school kids, trail trekkers.
4. Add something about involving the media.
5. Add continuing education credits, e.g., for realtors.
6. Add Service groups, e.g., Rotary.
7. #4, add Stream Team

### **Water Quality and Quantity**

1. Add 4 seasons baseline data in monitoring – take into consideration.
2. #3, cross off “unplanned.”
3. Add: educate people about not throwing things into Munsel Creek and the damage that causes.
4. Water quantity – opportunities, education, policies related to climate change and conservation and storage capacity – tie in with education
5. Some of the information should focus on current residents, ie, best management practices, application of pesticides and herbicides.
6. BMPs, what things can you do to improve an existing situation, e.g., land use, stormwater, run-off, etc. – what is the range of solutions – will hopefully cause people to change behaviors that harm the environment.
7. #1 – need to know where water comes from; add: sources of drinking water.

## **Wetlands and Riparian Areas**

1. Add something about climate change and where water will go and how it will change the estuary and how it may affect private property, e.g., erosion of the coastline.
2. Educate new owners of wetlands and riparian areas; find a way to get information to them when they buy property; also, restoration opportunities and techniques.
3. #3, what about other government/publicly owned wetlands, besides the City?
4. Educate owners and contractors about why and how to manage property adjacent to wetlands or riparian areas.
5. Utilize natural systems that exist to store water and release slowly to reduce flooding downstream and enhance wetlands with higher flow.

## **Key Estuary Wetlands**

1. Siuslaw Water Trail: recreational uses, awareness of, and access to: interpretive and education opportunities.

## **Ecological Growth**

1. #3, flooded forests, indicate those that are wetlands only.
2. #2, create rearing areas (only a few areas where fish can spawn).
3. #2, “reinvigorate natural resource economy” is not clear. Change next section also – draw people to the area...clarify what this means. Clarify “recreation” more specifically, what are you going to benefit?
4. #3 overlaps with water quality and quantity; talk about implementation techniques – how we make it happen.
5. #2, Bird migration – address specifically – both migration and habitat