

Siuslaw Estuary Partnership

An Integrated Multiple Objective Approach To Watershed Protection and Restoration

Elected Official Stakeholder Group April 29, 2010 Meeting Notes

Thursday, April 29, 2010
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Florence City Hall
250 Highway 101, Florence

Present:

Stakeholders: Jim Grano, Siuslaw Watershed Council Leadership Board/Executive Committee Member, Chair; Phil Brubaker, City of Florence; Debby Todd, Heceta Water District (p); Jerry Nordin, Heceta Water District (a), Dianne Burch, Lane County Board of Commissioners (r) (p=primary, a=alternate, r=representative)

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

1. Welcome and March 11, 2010 Meeting Notes

Jim called the meeting to order. He asked for any edits to the meeting notes and explained that they would be posted on the website. He asked for any edits or additions.

Dianne Burch stated that, most of the time you say “Ms. Burch”, but left out one ‘n’ in Dianne.

Carol explained that once the draft minutes for each Stakeholder Group are edited, both sets will be posted on the website.

Dianne asked about conversations between the two groups. Carol explained that there isn’t anything set up to do that at present, but that we will be asking what contact information Stakeholders want to provide for the web site. We will then post that information on the website so people can then communicate with each other as desired. They can also read the notes from the two groups’ meetings. During the focus groups in the third year, there may be an opportunity for members of the two groups to participate together if they choose to participate in that process.

In response to a question from Debby, Carol said that focus group process is a big commitment of time and she would not necessarily expect all Stakeholders could devote that kind of time to the project; although they will be invited. Debby then went over some typographical errors in the notes.

2. Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

3. Elected Official Stakeholder Group Consensus Process

Carol referred the group to the document "Consensus Process (Clarification #1)". She then went over the changes by pointing out a typographical error. The little "a" meant something different at the time it was first prepared. Staff added information about how the alternates would participate in discussion but not on the thumbs sensing process. She said all the consent items would be on the agenda, and then the group at the meeting will be able to state agreement at the meeting. If consent items are not on an agenda, members will have the option to state their agreement at a later time or the next meeting. Carol asked if there were any questions about the process. Debby said she loved the thumb sensing process.

4. Stakeholder Group Roles

Carol then reviewed the Table of Products and Stakeholder Group Roles. She said that this Table was unanimously supported by the Group at their March 11 meeting, with the caveat that Dianne was to check back with the Commissioners since this item was not on the March 11 agenda as a consent item. Carol asked Dianne if the Commissioners had any comments or anything to add. Dianne explained that she gave Commissioner Fleenor the notebook and he had some concerns but that she was not sure that he fully understood the project and the diverse project elements. She said she thinks he believes this project is somehow related to, or primarily focused on, the intergovernmental agreement for groundwater monitoring; that she thinks he thought this whole project could be named a monitoring resource. Dianne said that the Commissioner was then going to meet with the Mayor and Bob Hursh in the hopes of getting a better understanding.

Dianne asked for clarification of the connection between what the Commissioner was talking about and this process. Carol referred to the Water Quality and Quantity Project Element in the Table. She said that the first task listed (III. a) was a Surface and Groundwater Monitoring Program and Reports. Carol said that, although this task could involve Lane County, that is not required, which is why Lane County is listed in that section of the table as "a" ("approval voluntary") and "C" ("coordination needed/desirable"); whereas, the City is listed for almost all items with an "A" because these are City products that must be adopted or approved by the City. She said, for example, the data from the surface and groundwater monitoring will be used by the City in their Drinking Water Protection Plan and Stormwater Management Plans and practices.

Debby then brought up the draft Intergovernmental Agreement currently being discussed among the City and County and Water District. Carol explained that that IGA is voluntary. She said that IGA is not required by EPA or even mentioned as a product in the EPA-approved Project Work Plan. She said the aspect of the EPA Project that is related to the IGA with Lane County is that the County Board agreed to participate in the project and receive money to compensate County staff for their time and that money is included in the grant budget. She said the groundwater monitoring program is governed by the EPA-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan. She said she believed it was the

hope of the City's that the County would decide to participate and receive compensation for doing so. She asked City representatives in the room if what she said was correct and if they had anything different to say or to add. The City representatives indicated that they did not have anything more to say.

Carol asked Dianne if the Commissioners requested any changes to the Table. Dianne responded that no, he did not. Carol explained that, since the Group already agreed unanimously to the Table, no further consent process was needed since there were no changes. She said the next step would be to just remove the footnote to the table and post it to the website.

5. Community Involvement Events and Opportunities

Wendy asked if everyone had a copy of the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) and the PIP Implementation Tracking. The Products and Timeline Chart was handed out.

Wendy briefly reviewed the PIP that had been presented at the previous meeting; targeted populations, tools and methods; and key messages. She pointed out that on page 4, there is a description of the roles of the Stakeholder Groups. Debby said that she didn't see anything about the Elected Official Stakeholder Group participating in the Focus Group. Wendy explained that when the PIP was initially written, only one Stakeholder Group was envisioned. Council decided to form two Stakeholder Groups, and that change wasn't reflected in the Public Involvement Plan, but there was no reason why members from both groups couldn't participate, if they want to. Nobody had any other questions for Wendy.

Wendy then reviewed the PIP Implementation Tracking. She said that this table takes the tool from the PIP and puts it into a chart. She highlighted the website, www.siuslawwaters.org which should be up either now or tomorrow. City has contracted with Dive-In Design to put the website together. It will include an overview of the project, upcoming events, and opportunities to get involved. Debby asked if there would be information about people involved. She would like to be contacted at the District Office. Wendy explained that we do hope to have the stakeholders listed, so we need to know what contact information you would like to provide. Carol added that the website at this point is draft but will be improved over the next couple weeks. We will be adding content, photos, documents, and links.

Wendy then described the Open House, May 19 at the Florence Event Center from 4 – 7. There will be information about the project and information about how people can get involved. In response to a question from Dianne, Wendy explained that you could provide information about your own organization, but that we would not be asking agencies to provide presentations. It's also an opportunity to become more informed about the project so you can better represent it to your constituency. Carol added that many of the interdisciplinary team members will be at the Open House and so it will be a good opportunity to meet those people and ask them questions. Wendy said that we would like you all to help get the word out about the Open House.

The next public event is the Wetlands Kick-off on May 5 at the Florence Events Center from 5 to 7. This event targets property owners that may have wetlands on their property. We have done a mailing to the property owners that may have wetlands and asked permission for the consultant to enter the property. In response to a question from Debby, Wendy explained that getting onto the property would provide more accurate information, but that there are other ways the consultants can identify wetlands such as through LIDAR.

Carol handed out the newsletter that is now out to print. We printed 9200 copies, most of which will be distributed in the mail. Wendy explained that this newsletter is the first of three for the project. It was mailed to everyone within the 97439 zip code and other areas in the study area including south of the bridge. She said it should be going out on May 10 and we will have extras that we can provide to you if you wish to distribute them. She'll send an e-mail when they are available.

Wendy explained that the Estuary Trail Visioning Project will be starting in June.

Staff is available to give presentations to your organization or other organizations that you know of who would be interested in learning more about the project. There will be opportunities on the website to request presentations. Wendy explained that from her experience, information is best communicated by word of mouth. We will be covering the media as well.

Phil asked about dates for the Estuary Trail Visioning. Wendy said that there are target dates on the timeline. He suggested making sure that we coordinate on dates with the Tribes, the Port, and adjacent property owners. Jim added that the Watershed Council would be interested as well.

6. Draft Guiding Principles

Carol referred to 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 Inter-disciplinary 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. She said the Team also asked for input from the Community Stakeholder Group and will ask for input 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.

Carol asked the group if there is anything missing, if something should be removed, or changed. She recorded all comments on Flip Chart Notes, attached to these meeting notes.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP

Debby - #4, actually involve kids, not just value them. State how to involve kids and retired people. Debby said it could be coloring sheets for grade school kids.

Jerry - #5, builders and developers should understand about impacts they are having on environment. Dianne asked if that is something that could be made available during the permit process. Jim suggested adding realtors.

Carol explained that Guiding Principles are broad and will be implemented in City Comprehensive Plan policy, City code changes, and City programs.

Dianne – landowners or animal owners need to understand that here are certain areas that are off-limits to dogs, livestock

Debby – doesn't see something for emergency services – is there a part for them to play? Jerry added that maybe in responding to clean-up of a spill. Make sure they are included in the education loop. Dianne said that it's interesting that we are relying on them to educate us, and how would we get information to them. Jim said he would like to think that they already know about hazardous waste, containment, or spills.

Jim - #4 – agreed with Debby on involving kids

Jerry - #6 would like some elaboration. Add more detail. Phil said the focus on #6 is cumulative impacts.

Dianne - #2, who is leading the way when it comes to coordinating that effort? Carol responded that the City will need to approve or adopt the Guiding Principles because the Guiding Principles will guide the development of products that will be adopted by the City, such as the Drinking Water Protection Plan. She said whatever other group that wants to endorse the Guiding Principles will endorse them and that that would make a good statement. For example, when the City adopts Comprehensive Plan policies consistent with the guiding principles, we'll already have support from the agencies who had endorsed the guiding principles.

Jim – develop lesson plans for school children. Debby suggested looking at the EPA website for examples.

WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY

Jim – OK

Phil – doesn't see a specific item related to water quantity

Sandra reminded Carol – should have left out “unplanned” effects in #3

Dianne, Debby and Jerry – OK

Debby – is non-point source pollution covered?

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN AREAS

Debby – is there a reason we are only restoring city-owned and not county? Phil suggested stating publicly-owned.

Phil – What's a significant streamside? Is it just for erosion? Does significant have a scientific meaning?

Jerry – define ‘native’ in #4, Jim added that the second sentence states that we need to manage the invasive plants. Carol will clarify.

Dianne – add something about mitigation banking

KEY ESTUARY WETLANDS

Jim – thinks #2 is covered in #1, remove #2

Jim – Bob's not here, but wetlands have a cultural value (to be added to #1), Diane added historic as well

ECOLOGICAL GROWTH

Dianne – add history and historical values here and in the EDUCATION & STEWARDSHIP

Debby – research is becoming a baseline, make it clear that part of this process is setting a baseline. Let's try and improve from here rather than going back to what it used to be.

Carol clarified that the outcomes will be posted on the website. They are a lot more detailed. For this process with the elected officials, we are looking for broad statements in principles.

Debby - 5th bullet under #2, uncomfortable with wording of drawing people to the area. None of this stuff has anything to do with growth.

Jerry – promote environmental programs in last bullet, should include tourism/visitors

Debby – maybe hotels should have copies of the newsletters in the rooms

Carol asked if everyone here is OK with these going forward – does anyone disagree? Everyone indicated they are OK with these going forward.

7. Sum Up and Next Steps

Carol said staff will type up notes and e-mail them out for your review. The Inter-disciplinary Team will develop a revised set of Guiding Principles for presentation at the Open House.

Dianne asked about the next meeting of this group. Carol referred her to the Products and Timeline Chart and said the next meeting is currently anticipated to be next Spring, but that there are lots of other opportunities to stay involved in the meantime; and that staff would be in touch via email.

Jerry thinks the newsletter looks good, it grabs you, he thinks people will read it.

Jim reminded people to let Wendy know of who would be attending the Open House, contact information to be made public, and to let her know if there is information you want to share at the Open House.

8. Adjourn

Guiding Principles Facilitation Notes

Elected Official Stakeholders Input 4/29/10

Public Education and Stewardship

1. #4, state how – be more active – how to involve children and retired people – give some examples.
2. #5, builders and developers and realtors should understand when they are building in wildlife areas – focus education on them.
3. Landowners and animal owners need to understand there are some areas not good to have them in.
4. Make sure emergency services role is included and that they are included in the education loop; information comes from them, e.g., flushing, it is important to get information to them.
5. Add more detail to #6 to say how that would be done.
6. Develop units/lesson plans that connect information that is developed in the project, see for example, EPA web site.
7. Add: history of species, add historical values.

Water Quality and Quantity

Need specific item(s) related to Water Quantity.

Use term non-point source pollution.

Wetlands and Riparian Areas

1. #3, change to publicly-owned.
2. #4, “significant” streamside? Does “significant need to be included? What does it mean?
3. #4, clarify a little more.
4. Add something about mitigation banks.

Key Estuary Wetlands

1. Delete #2, it is redundant of #1.

2. Wetlands have a cultural component that needs to be included in #1, add “cultural resources” to #1.

Ecological Growth

1. Add: history of species, add historical values.
2. Clarify that part of the process is setting a baseline – all we can do is keep it from getting worse and maybe a little better.
3. #2, 5th bullet, “draw people to the area” can be read to promote growth – should be reworded.
4. Last bullet in #2, promote local environmental programs – add “visitors.”