

**Joint Meeting of HMSC Management Committee  
and HMSC Master Planning Committee  
Tues., June 23, 2009 2:00 p.m.  
ODFW Bldg. Conference Room**

**Meeting Minutes**

Attending: Michael Banks (CIMRS), James Bassingthwaite (City of Newport Planning Dept.), George Boehlert (HMSC), Caren Braby (ODFW), Rick Brown (NOAA-NWFSC), Mark Camara (USDA-ARS), Faith Cole (for Walt Nelson, EPA), Dereck Cole (City of Newport Planning Dept.), Matteo Costamagna (Community Representative), Peter Dale (for Don Mann, Port of Newport), Dave Fox (ODFW), Dawn Grafe (for Roy Lowe, USFWS), Ken Hall (HMSC), Mattias Johansson (HsO), Bruce Mate (MMI), Pat O'Connor (OCCC), Al Stoner (NOAA-AFSC), Gil Sylvia (COMES), Randy Walker (HMSC Facilities), Janet Webster (Guin Library), Pete Zerr (Ship Operations)

Not represented: NOAA-PMEL, Oregon Coast Aquarium

**Master Planning Update**

1. Proposed expansion of ODFW building:

Caren Braby reported that ODFW is working with architectural firm SRG Partnership, Inc. on development of plans for a new building to accommodate projected growth of Marine Resources Program staff and ODFW regional office personnel based in Newport. They have just started the programming phase, which includes analysis of how the agency works, interactions with the public, collaborations with others at the HMSC, etc. – factors to be considered in determining optimal site for new building. All options are on the table, including building sites off the HMSC campus. Programming phase will be followed by schematic design, design development, and construction documents before any ground is broken.

Questions and discussion followed on various topics, including:

- Funding (so far, secured only for the programming phase)
- Timeframe for deciding building location
- Would the new building be scalable, allowing possibility of other users leasing space until ODFW staff growth meets building capacity? Dave Fox estimated that staff is projected to grow to 170 FTE from current level of just under 100.
- Are there specialized lab needs (e.g. for necropsy work) that could be provided or shared with other users at HMSC?
- Parking to accommodate projected staff growth and public-serving functions
- Measures to reduce light pollution
- Consideration of new building's potential to provide a second story evacuation spot for non-ambulatory personnel in case of tsunami

- Creating spaces that foster collaboration and enhance “community”-building objectives of HMSC Master Plan and Strategic Plan
- Opportunity to re-think building footprint and expansion possibilities now that plans for Aquarium Sciences building have been dropped

Caren acknowledged the dichotomy of the current ODFW site being on the “edge” of the HMSC campus, yet also one of the first buildings visible on the approach to HMSC.

## 2. Status of proposed new Marine Mammal / Marine Genomics building

George Boehlert reported that the proposed Marine Mammal / Marine Genomics building is under consideration for the next round of federal funding (\$60M) allocated by NIST for construction of research facilities. The proposal requires \$9M in matching state funds, which OSU has requested from the legislature. NIST will decide in July on which projects to be funded. If we do not get selected in that round, there will be another chance to re-submit, but likely competing with many more project proposals.

## 3. Status of proposed Aquarium Science building

Pat O’Connor reported that OCCC is proceeding with its plans for a single-story building of approximately 5,000 sq. ft. for its aquarium science program, to be located on the new central campus.

## **Facilities improvements at HMSC**

Randy Walker presented an update on office and lab renovations that have been underway since late 2008 and continue in the west wing of Bldg. 900. These include the move of OSU researchers and Sea Grant personnel into offices previously occupied by ODFW regional office staff in the west wing, allowing recovery of lab space for research.

Recent improvements to the HMSC housing complex (outdoor areas) include the finally completed picnic shelter, re-paved basketball court, and new hoops.

Randy also gave a summary of deferred maintenance and other projects funded by the “Go Oregon” stimulus package, including:

- Renovation of labs in the education wing used for teaching (both university level and K-12 classes) and research;
- New system for treating seawater effluent from tanks in Visitor Center and west wing;
- Asphalt rehabilitation (repaving) and slurry seal on parking lots and roadways;
- Replacement of aging rain gutters with stainless steel gutters; new exterior doors; and seismic upgrades to secure rafters to the tilt-up walls;
- Upgrade of plumbing systems that have not been replaced since original construction.

Janet Webster asked about striping of parking lot spaces and possibility of creating smaller spaces for compact cars closer to building entrances.

Randy discussed plans for replacement of library roof, using same materials as used in re-roofing RSF building last year. The HMSC sustainability committee has recommended

installation of photovoltaic panels as part of library roof replacement projects, taking advantage of current tax credits and incentives offered through state and federal programs.

### **Port of Newport – bid for NOAA Marine Operations Center (update)**

Peter Dale (Port of Newport) reported on Newport's bid for NOAA's Marine Operations Center-Pacific base. Newport is the only Oregon bid, currently competing with three others from Washington: Bellingham, Lake Union (Seattle), and Port Angeles. Decision is expected in August. An environmental assessment comparing the different sites competing for NOAA-MOC-P can be found online at: [http://www.seco.noaa.gov/MOC-P\\_EA.html](http://www.seco.noaa.gov/MOC-P_EA.html)

### **SeaFest 2009**

Ken Hall provided an overview of what is planned for this year's event, happening on Saturday, June 27 from 10 am to 4 pm. He thanked all of the agencies and research groups for their financial contributions to the budget for this event and for contributions of personnel time and effort on displays and logistical support. HMSC employees are requested to park by EPA or in the gravel lot behind RSF to make room for volunteers in the back parking lot and general public in front lot and ODFW lot. State vehicles are requested to be moved to grass lot behind EPA building.

### **Communications**

Internal: Ken Hall reminded management committee representatives that submissions for the HMSC annual report are due July 15. OSU groups are also requested to submit space use reports, as well.

External: Ken reported on HMSC's relationship with the Newport News Times, which has a new publisher and has offered to provide space for a weekly column -- an opportunity for increased coverage of agency and program activities at HMSC. Ken asked committee members to consider their interest and commitment to provide content for such a space and to identify the appropriate person for Ken to work with to assemble content.

HMSC has been approached by local community members of Toastmasters, Inc. to see if there is interest in forming or hosting a local chapter of Toastmasters to provide people with opportunity to practice public speaking and presentation skills. Please contact the HMSC Director's Office if interested in supporting this idea.

### **Other New Business**

None

### **Roundtable updates, announcements** (submitted after meeting, via email)

Update on Wave Energy, submitted by George Boehlert: Last fall, the US Department of Energy designated OSU and its partner the University of Washington as the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center, with OSU focused on wave energy and the UW on tidal energy. Nominally located at the HMSC, the NNMREC is really a virtual center with principal investigators located in several locations; the center will have a laboratory

here and is working on developing a "mobile test berth" to be located off Newport. Discussions are underway with ocean stakeholders to identify appropriate locations, and a NEPA process will shortly be underway. The principal activities at HMSC will be the evaluation of the environmental effects of wave energy development, and several faculty have submitted proposals. In addition, we will shortly have a new addition to the HMSC staff. Dr. Sarah Henkel is a benthic ecologist who will take a position as a research assistant professor starting in second week of July, focusing on wave energy issues.

Any requested edits / corrections to these meeting minutes should be sent to Ken Hall (email: [ken.hall@oregonstate.edu](mailto:ken.hall@oregonstate.edu))