

HMSC Management Committee Meeting
January 12, 2010, 1:30 PM
Library Seminar Room – Guin Library

Attending: George Boehlert (HMSC), Brett Dumbauld (USDA-ARS), Stephen Hammond (NOAA-PMEL), Nancee Hunter (Oregon Sea Grant), Mattias Johansson (Hatfield Students Organization), Walt Nelson (EPA), Candace Rogers (HMSC), Cliff Ryer (NOAA-AFSC), Maggie Sommer (ODFW), Gil Sylvia (COMES), Jessica Waddell (CIMRS), Janet Webster (Guin Library), Randy Walker (HMSC Facilities), Pete Zerr (Ship Operations)

HMSC Sustainability Committee Members attending: Anjanette Baker, Todd Cross, Judy Mullen, Sharon Nieukirk, Tom Wainwright, Randy Walker

Not represented: Marine Mammal Institute, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

OLD BUSINESS

ODFW Building update: Maggie Sommer reported the process is currently stalled and in further discussions. They may have more information later this month.

NIST Building update: George Boehlert reported that the proposal to NIST for building funding was not successful. The earlier attempt, where federal funding appeared available, was stalled in the State Legislature over the matching funding. OSU/HMSC will now regroup to plan the next strategy on how to secure future funding.

South Beach Peninsula Transportation Connections Project: Janet Webster noted the next meeting on this project will be with the Newport Urban Renewal Committee on 1/25/10, 7:00pm at City Hall. George Boehlert added that information and drawings of the project can be found on the City of Newport's website.

NEW BUSINESS

Future of Sustainability Committee at HMSC: Members of the Sustainability Committee were present to talk about the accomplishments of and future for this group. The committee was formed in 2006. Current membership includes personnel from most of the HMSC groups except for ODFW, Sea Grant, USDA and USFWS.

Tom Wainwright gave a power point presentation that detailed the committee's objectives and projects the committee has been involved in at HMSC:

- *Improve HMSC facilities & operations:* projects that have helped conserve water, encourage use of fuel efficient vehicles for HMSC business, improve the HMSC waste-stream, & installation of more efficient heating systems
- *Support and facilitate agency mandates:* sharing ideas, coordinating actions & tracking progress
- *Educate employees/public about local & global issues:* monthly brownbag seminars at HMSC for staff and special events for the public

- *Lead by example:* demonstration projects like the solar panels in front of the Visitor Center, EPA's rainwater collection system, sustainable landscaping at HMSC and public visibility

Projects currently in progress: expand installation of LED outdoor lighting and solar panels on Library's roof. Potential future projects include: metal recycling and expanding the rainwater catchment system.

Sharon Nieukirk stressed, given HMSC's organizational complexity, one of the committee's challenges is coordinating projects. She encouraged managers to start thinking ahead and give the committee suggestions for future projects or notice of projects their group is undertaking. Judy Mullen added another use for this feedback is that the topics for the Brown Bag seminars could be tied in to agency goals and concerns.

Randy Walker explained that water consumption on property has dropped dramatically since the upgrade projects were started in 2004. Janet Webster suggested letting the HMSC community know how much we spend on water to encourage further conservation.

George Boehlert noted the importance of public awareness and proposed writing articles for both the Newport News-Times and campus publications about sustainability projects at HMSC.

Additional topics discussed were the coordination of carpooling, installing bike lockers/racks, the LED light project, using the City Loop bus (whose new schedule is now convenient for HMSC staff), and the possibility of HMSC parking permits.

Action:

- Sea Grant and ODFW will appoint members to the HMSC Sustainability Committee.
- HMSC Sustainability committee to provide brief bullets on important issues by email to HMSC Management Committee members each month in lieu of the more detailed minutes.
- HMSC Sustainability Committee to administer the bus transportation survey requested by Port of Newport in association with LEED certification of the planned buildings.

SeaFest 2010: George Boehlert explained that SeaFest 2010 has definitely been cancelled, given the problems of funding, amount of time required to plan and staff burnout. There has been some interest in rotating the event between Astoria, Charleston and HMSC. Nance Hunter added there has already been some media advertisement of the 2010 event. The Visitor Center is considering doing a smaller, special event in anticipation of extra visitors that day.

Action:

- Director's Office to contact local organizations about removing SeaFest from calendars.

Estuarine Trail Status:

Randy Walker reported on the continuing problem of erosion of the estuarine trail. An

on-going survey done by Todd Cross shows a four-foot loss just in December 2009 alone, probably caused by the unusual amount of east wind and high tides that month. The area of greatest concern is the eastern shore by the EPA building that could possibly put the Sea Water System at risk. We will consult with DOGAMI and others about developing a cobble and berm arrangement similar to that done to the area northeast of the Barry Fisher building in 2005. That project cost \$11,500 - an unofficial estimate for this new project would be substantially higher. To start the project, two permits must be secured and a contract written.

George Boehlert added that funding will be sought from a number of sources.

Action:

- The Director's Office (with assistance from EPA) will start the permit process.

SHORT DISCUSSION ITEMS

Smoking on Campus:

George Boehlert announced that the area around the entrance to the Guin Library has been designated as a no smoking area. This became necessary because of the uptake of smoke from there into the offices on the second story of the Education Wing. He opened the discussion to the possibility of more areas on property becoming restricted to smoking should OSU institute a policy as a "smoke-free" campus in Corvallis. Discussion centered on whether this would cause undue hardship to employees that smoke, whether the other agencies would follow if OSU enacts more restrictions, and if designated smoking areas are developed, the best way to determine where those should be sited.

Janet Webster emphasized the importance of good signage around any restricted area. She gave as an example that many of the smokers around the Library are from outside groups attending meetings and would not otherwise know about the restriction.

Sharon Niekirk commented that perhaps the best suggestions for location of designated smoking areas would come from the staff that does smoke.

Action:

- Area outside the Library is to be signed and placed off limits for smoking.

HMSC Social Committee and Events:

Candace Rogers ask for input on how to encourage more participation in the committees that implement social events at HMSC. She explained that the Holiday Party committee in particular is often understaffed and those that do volunteer are basically the same people year after year.

Nancee Hunter shared that she assigns two Sea Grant staff to the SeaFest committee and rotates who is assigned yearly and suggested that perhaps this could be done with the social committees. Janet Webster added that often people are reluctant to volunteer for a committee but respond if ask to do a specific task.

Roundtable updates:

Mattias Johanssen reported that the HsO raffle at the holiday party was the 2nd most successful on record.

Pete Zerr reported the *Wecoma* is currently dockside until the first of March, when the ship will be leaving for a trip to the equator. The main deck crane is being replaced with a new crane of greater lifting capacity. OSU-COAS has submitted a proposal to the Office of Naval Research (ONR) to be one of two operators for new research vessels they are planning on building in the near future. The new vessel will be more capable than the *Wecoma*, and if selected, would replace the *Wecoma*, once the new ship is built.

Steve Hammond reported on the large amount of media coverage given to the NOAA/PMEL research being done on the Tonga eruptions.

Maggie Sommer reported ODFW's Marine Reserves team is still working with the community. This team has leased and will be moving into the building east of Flashbacks Restaurant in South Beach. The Nearshore Research Task Force is meeting in Newport 1/21-1/22 at the Hallmark.

Nancee Hunter reported that SeaGrant is working with the American Association of Museums on a project to improve Visitor Center operations. In the coming year, they will complete a self-study, have a site visit by a peer reviewer and begin implementing recommendations. She also explained that starting in February, the Visitor Center will be doing more family programming, similar to the Chetauqua model.