

**HMSC Management Committee Meeting**  
**May 26, 2010 1:30 PM**  
**Library Seminar Room – Guin Library**

**Attending:** George Boehlert (HMSC), Maryann Bozza (HMSC), Caren Braby (ODFW), Rick Brown (NMFS NW), LTJR Andrew Colegrove (NOAA), Stephen Hammond (NOAA-PMEL), Nancee Hunter (Oregon Sea Grant), Tom Hurst (NOAA-AFSC), Roy Lowe (USFWS), Don Mann (Port of Newport), Bruce Mate (MMI), Walt Nelson (EPA), Candace Rogers (HMSC), Jessica Waddell (CIMRS), Randy Walker (HMSC Facilities), Janet Webster (Guin Library), Pete Zerr (Ship Operations)

Not represented: Hatfield Student Organization, COMES, USDA-ARS

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

**NOAA Marine Operations Center-Pacific:** Don Mann, of the Port of Newport, briefed the committee on the progress of the NOAA port construction. The site preparation was completed in April. The underground utilities are now being installed. Bids are currently being accepted for the larger components of the project. Smaller bids will be accepted in June and July. The JPA will be submitted this week. Overall the project is on target with a completion date of May 2011.

LTJR Andrew Colegrove, of NOAA, explained that he has been involved in the project since its inception. His role is to work with the Port of Newport to make sure the project meets legal and NOAA requirements. He also meets with other agencies and departments involved in the project. The final determination, regarding the G.A.O. investigation of the flood plan issue, is expected to be announced May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Don Mann added that one of the biggest challenges has been site mitigation, in particular that related to the disruption of the eelgrass beds. They are planning on trying to remove and transplant some of the beds. George Boehlert suggested checking with PNNL on that subject. The Port may solicit input on this issue later in the process by perhaps holding a meeting of experts and researchers on the subject of mitigation. Currently they have been working with an environmental scientist. The Port will be required to monitor the site for ten years.

Questions and Answers:

**Q:** Rick Brown – Will the Port coordinate with HMSC when doing the site dredging so it doesn't foul our seawater intakes?

**A:** Don Mann – Yes

**Q:** Janet Webster – Will there be a 30-day public comment period? Is an Open House being planned?

**A:** Don Mann - Yes to both questions. The JPAs will be publically accessible on the Port's website. The Open House might be held at HMSC.

**Q:** Rick Brown – Will the immediate area's signage be updated and coordinated?

**A:** Don Mann – That will probably be handled by the City of Newport within their South Beach Transportation Project.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

HMSC Sustainability Committee: Sea Grant now has a member on the committee, Lynne Wright. The Sustainability Committee, after their monthly meeting, has started providing emails to the HMSC Management Committee with brief updates on important issues covered. Maryann Bozza reported that the transportation survey is almost ready to be distributed.

### **Action Items from Past Meeting (s):**

- ODFW is encouraged to appoint a representative to the HMSC Sustainability Committee.

- SeaFest: George Boehlert said the Director's office has notified the media that SeaFest is cancelled for this year. A letter to the editor was published in the Newport News-Times, which solicited public comment.

- Smoking at HMSC: George Boehlert said that new signage has been installed but there is a continuing problem with smoking close to the Library entrance, particularly by the public attending meetings.

**Erosion Control Project Status:** Maryann Bozza updated the committee on the progress of the current erosion control project. An application has been submitted to the Oregon National Guard and is pending decision. If approved, the earliest the Guard would be able to take on the project is January 2011. The actual work will be very similar to that done on the first erosion project in 2006. If the Guard does not approve the request for construction assistance, we will need to check into other means. Maryann is preparing, with Walt Nelson and Randy Walker's help, the necessary permits. Two staging areas will be requested, the one used in the previous project plus one south of the EPA building.

Randy Walker explained the project will use river rock to stabilize the shoreline. It might also have a sand berm if storage, timing and placement can be worked out. He is working with the Port of Newport to get sand that is being removed from the NOAA port site.

George Boehlert asked for input on how to notify users of the shoreline around HMSC of the environmental sensitivity of that area. He gave as examples signage or physical barriers

The discussion continued later in the meeting: Maryann Bozza said she and Roy Lowe had previously discussed writing up a handout for our marine educators about which plants on HMSC property are on the endangered species list. Roy Lowe said he supports the idea of designating one area on property for group use to control ecological damage. He also thinks that interpretive signage is a good tool. Walt Nelson asked if OSU has written policy in place regarding property usage.

### **Action:**

- Walt Nelson will get information from Duke Marine Lab and other sources regarding their policies and signage.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Enhancing HMSC Partnerships - Communications within HMSC:** George Boehlert led the discussion on how to improve the intra-HMSC communications between all agencies. Several options were explored. The consensus was that for non-emergency communications, an email should be sent to the Management Committee members who will then be responsible for making sure it gets forwarded to everyone in their group. Emergency communications should still be sent out via the HMSC Emergency Phone Tree list.

**Action:**

- Candace Rogers should update the HMSC Emergency Phone Tree list every six months and distribute to the committee members.

**Enhancing HMSC Partnerships – HMSC Picnic:** The discussion centered on whether the summer picnic should continue and if so, at what location. Janet Webster suggested having it at HMSC if Moonshine Park seems too far for some people. Walt Nelson requested, if we continue with the picnic, that the date be decided and announced early each year to avoid it overlapping with the EPA's picnic.

**Action:**

- Maryann Bozza will send out a poll to HMSC personnel addressing some of these issues.

**Enhancing HMSC Partnerships – Employee Orientation:** Maryann Bozza introduced the idea of having an orientation, organized by the Director's Office, for all HMSC staff, faculty and grad students. These could be scheduled quarterly, on Wednesdays, with all invited that had started HMSC since the last orientation. A tentative schedule might be:

- Orientation: ½ hour
- Tour of HMSC: ½ hour
- HsO Donuts: ½ hour
- Meet with George Boehlert: ½ hour

Tom Hurst thought the written information should be given to new personnel when they first start HMSC, rather than waiting for the orientation. He liked the idea of making introductions at the HsO Donuts.

Maryann Bozza asked that all agency supervisors emphasize to new personnel the importance of attending the orientation. She also asked for input on the best way for her to know who the new personnel are in each department. It was suggested that she develop contacts at each agency that she could check with periodically.

## **ROUNDTABLE UPDATES:**

Walt Nelson: Some Newport EPA staff will soon be leaving to help with the Gulf oil spill situation.

Janet Webster: She has been attending the city's meetings on the South Beach Peninsula Transportation Plan. She brought in some posters of the project, which she explained to

the group, and also has the entire plan for anyone interested. There will be an Open House on 8/4/10. The city is hoping to complete the project by May 2011.

Roy Lowe: After three years of planning, the tidal marsh restoration project on the Coquille River will be starting in June and is a very large project. Newport USFWS will be hiring a volunteer coordinator. This is a two-year position that may become permanent. The listing will be posted on the *USAJobs* site.

Rick Brown: Two of NOAA's research ships will be docked at HMSC during the first week of June. There will be tours of the *Shimida*, for a limited number of HMSC personnel offered on Monday, 6/7. Rick will send out an email invitation around June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Nancee Hunter: The team conducting the formal museum assessment on the Visitor Center will be here June 16-17. Nancee asked that anyone interested in participating in the review contact her.

Pete Zerr: The proposal submitted by OSU/COAS to operate a ship to be built for ONR was not successful. He estimates the *Wecoma* will be in service for another 5-10 years.

Tom Hurst: Improvements are still being done to the quarantine facility but NOAA is continuing to come up with more restrictions.

Caren Braby: The process for building a new ODFW building on property has stopped because of lack of funding. The process had never reached the point of selecting building plans but it did articulate what ODFW's needs are in a new building.

Maryann Bozza: In conjunction with the Port of Newport's groundbreaking for the NOAA port on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Senator Merkley will be visiting HMSC and Representative Cowan hosting a Town Hall in the Visitor Center. On June 6, there will be a public celebration of the NOAA port hosted by the Port of Newport across from HMSC.