

HMSC Marsh and Estuary Advisory Committee
Monday, 4/2/12, 3-5 PM, Barry Fisher Room, Guin Library, HMSC
DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Sally Hacker - Chair, OSU
Jonathan Allan - DOGAMI
George Boehlert - Ex officio, HMSC
Dan Bottom, NOAA
Maryann Bozza - Ex officio, HMSC
Brett Dumbauld, USDA-ARS
Sarah Henkel, HMSC
Esther Lev, Wetlands Conservancy
Steve Ferraro, for Walt Nelson, EPA
Derrick Tokos, City of Newport
Mitch Vance, ODFW
Steve Rumrill, ODFW

Not present:

JoAnn Barton, Port of Newport
Ralph Breitenstein, General Public
Roy Lowe, USFWS
Marsh Myers, Oregon Coast Aquarium
Tracy Crews, Oregon Sea Grant

Welcome and Introductions

Old Business

Action Items from last meeting

1. Committee members should comment on trail use policy, to be provided in an electronic format. Please send edits to Maryann.Bozza@oregonstate.edu.
No responses, so the trail use document is considered accepted.
2. Committee members should also provide comments about public use in response to the trail closure; this is likely to be a long-term closure, and signage, fencing and public access can be improved.
Discussed continuing use of trail by the public, and the possibility of the City rebuilding the trail. Derrick Tokos clarified that the City could not fund it outright, but could write proposals to request funding. How and where to move it, in light of continued erosion, remains a question. HMSC could partner with the city on a proposal, but the long-term stability of the area needs to be addressed first.
3. Develop a comprehensive map of land ownership delineating boundaries for stewardship areas.
See new business.
4. Develop a plan for quantifying trail users and uses.
This was not completed due to the need for development of an "IRB" (required by OSU for projects with human subjects). Plan will be reconsidered.
5. Examine developing a protocol and plan for baseline distribution data for

Cordylanthus maritimus.

Presence of this state listed species has not been assessed. It was reported last year by several campus members but never documented or confirmed. Steve Rumrill will investigate.

6. Committee members will look for documents that can serve as a model for guidance documents for best practices for each user group.

None were submitted.

Estuarine Trail , Project Monitoring

The first of five annual monitoring reports required as part of HMSC's JPA for the dynamic revetment was submitted to DSL in February 2012 and made available to the Committee. Discussed the possibility of obtaining a permit to replenish gravel on the north stretch of revetment installed in 2007. HMSC will wait to file a second annual report before considering preparation of a second JPA permit application to complete the 2011 dynamic revetment to the 500' mark. Accelerated erosion along the control area of the monitoring project has resulted in disappearance of some of the sites in the first several months of monitoring during severe winter storms.

New Business

HMSC's Marsh and Estuary: spatial planning

Discussed the need for spatial planning and outreach to prevent overlap of uses and potential conflicts between diverse user groups, including research, recreational harvest and education, i.e. school field trips. The Committee was interested in building on existing efforts, including that of ODFW with USDA, in which research projects in Yaquina Bay are updated and distributed as pdfs. Consensus was that OSU in collaboration with the Committee should take a leadership role in a spatial planning effort, at least for the OSU-adjacent areas, and including outreach/inreach and possibly an exhibit in the VC. A GIS layer with linked maps and references was considered, as was the possibility of the project being jump-started by a MRM student beginning with the HMSC shoreline and subtidal acreage, and possibly including a registration system of logging uses to identify potential conflicts. Steve Rumrill will look into the GIS model used for South Slough.

Guin House Update

Flooding of OSU's Guin House is imminent due to beaver dams, which have created protected coho habitat. The fix is perforated pipe for the culvert, an expensive proposition with high maintenance costs. A conservation easement followed by sale is being considered. The City is interested in its potential use for the Newport-Corvallis trail in the future. Ester Lev can help with conservation easement language, and Derrick Tokos requested a tour of the property.

Meeting was followed by a tour of the dynamic revetment along the HMSC Estuary nature trail.