

HMSC Management Committee Meeting
March 26, 2014 1:30pm
Library Seminar Room, HMSC

Attending: Renee Albertson (HMSC-HsO), Maryann Bozza (HMSC), Rick Brown (NMFS NWFSC), Bill Chadwick (CIMRS-PMEL), Bob Cowen (HMSC), Brett Dumbauld (USDA-ARS), Dawn Harris (USFWS), Bruce Mate (MMI), Walt Nelson (EPA), Candace Rogers (HMSC), Steve Rumrill (ODFW), Cliff Ryer (NOAA-AFSC), Gil Sylvia (COMES), Janet Webster (Guin Library)

Not represented: Oregon Sea Grant, Ship Operations, USGS

Bob Cowen started the meeting by stressing the importance of good lines of communication at HMSC and that the meetings of this committee are an important component of that system.

OLD BUSINESS

Marine Studies Campus at HMSC: Bob Cowen supplied the group with details about this major campus expansion initiative. Tentative plans are for a curriculum of 75 full-time classes, 25 faculty and about 500 students. A Marine Studies Campus Executive Committee has formed on the Corvallis campus and is starting program development. In addition to chairing this committee Bob sees his main involvement as building a worthwhile program and minimizing possible negative impacts on HMSC.

Fund raising for the new Marine Studies building at HMSC has already started. The building's design is still being refined. Bob explained that it will be located west of the Library, with those two buildings serving as the hub of student activities.

Q: Brett Dumbauld asked about the timeline for this project.

A: Bob explained the Valley Foundation is visiting HMSC next Tuesday, April 1st. If the Foundation decides to fund the project, then a request will go to the State Legislature for matching funds. If those funds are secured, construction could start in 2016 with completion in either 2017 or 2018.

Q: Gil Sylvia asked when will the formal announcement be made of the Marine Studies Campus?

A: Bob said the OSU Foundation will determine the timing for that announcement.

Dynamic Revetment: Erosion of the shore along HMSC's nature trail is on-going, especially during high tides or when we have an east wind. A consultant has been hired to help with the permit process to stabilize the next 100 yards of shore south of the last revetment. Design details are still being worked out to include fish habitat in addition to shore stabilization.

Marine Science Day & HMSC 50th Anniversary: Maryann Bozza updated the group on this year's Marine Science Day on 4/12/14. The COMES 25th anniversary will be highlighted. The plenary talk at 3pm will be given by Gil Sylvia, Terry Thompson & Michael Morrissey. Gil Sylvia added that COMES will be hosting a reception that Friday evening, 4/11, at the Maritime Museum on the Bay Front.

Next year is HMSC's 50th anniversary. Special activities will be planned through out the year to celebrate. More information will be supplied at the next meeting of this committee.

Proposed Experimental Seawater Facility (FSML): Bob Cowen briefed the group on an FSML grant proposal. If the funding is awarded, the project will be for upgrading our chlorination system. Jim Lewis will give a more detailed report to the next Sea Water Committee meeting.

New HMSC signage: Maryann Bozza said the next phase of the new signage project, the on-property exterior signage, is in progress. Those working on the project will do a final walk-through before the signs are printed. The signs will be modular so can easily be changed or moved, based on need.

Update on HMSC Emergency Procedures: Maryann Bozza stated that OSU is using the HMSC procedures as a template for university wide procedures which she will circulate to the committee when those are done. The City of Newport is optimistic of receiving a FEMA grant to finance additional improvements to Safe Haven Hill in South Beach. Planned are improvements to the walkways up the hill and an on-site storage unit for emergency supplies. In light of the two HMSC closures this winter caused by snow, the group discussed closure policies for HMSC and the various on-site agencies.

ROUNDTABLE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bruce Mate: Said the *RV Pacific Storm* will be in dry dock in April and reminded the group that it can be chartered when available.

Brett Dumbauld: The latest US Federal Budget did not fund the Shellfish Genetics program.

Steve Rumrill: The annual meeting of the Pacific Estuarine Research Society will be in Newport this year, April 3-5th, at the Hallmark Resort. ODFW will be suspending the sea urchin permit lottery for two years. ODFW is working on a license fee increase which if finalized will start in 2015.

Walt Nelson: Two long-time EPA staff stationed at HMSC will be retiring soon.

Rick Brown: The hosting of NOAA leadership at HMSC last week was an important step in maintaining a NOAA presence at HMSC into the future. It was the first time that some in the group had ever been at HMSC.

Cliff Ryer: His program is shifting to more Arctic research, trying to expand to long-term species predictions. He is on the Oregon Coast Community College search committee for their new president. They have interviewed 4 candidates and hope to select and announce their choice in April.

Dawn Harris: USFWS is working on 2 environmental assessments for salt marsh

mosquitos that have become a problem at Bandon Marsh. Comment period is through 4/9/14. Dawn alerted the group to the issue that kite surfing activities by members of the public close to the HMSC mudflats might be a disturbance for migrating waterfowl and shore birds.

Bill Chadwick: The NOAA/PMEL VENTS program has been reorganized into two programs: Acoustics headed by Bob Dziak and Earth-Ocean Interactions headed by Bill.

Janet Webster: Killdeers have been spotting nesting again on HMSC property so caution is needed to not disturb. The OSU Marine Biology spring class starts next Monday. The Library construction project is progressing with the Library staff manually shifting the collection.

Renee Albertson: HsO earned \$3,000 at the HMSC Holiday raffle.