

**HMSC Management Committee Meeting**  
**July 6, 2006, 10:00am**  
**Guin Library Seminar Room**

Attending: George Boehlert (HMSC), Mark Camara (USDA-ARS), Carol Cole (for Gil Sylvania - COMES), Brandon Ford (ODFW), Dawn Grafe (for Roy Lowe - USFWS), Ken Hall (HMSC); Mattias Johansson (HsO), John Lupton (NOAA-PMEL), Bruce Mate (MMP), Walt Nelson (EPA), Patrick O'Connor (OCCC), Brian Parker (NOAA-NWFSC), Cyreis Schmitt (ODFW), Al Stoner (NOAA-AFSC), Jessica Waddell (for Michael Banks - CIMRS), Janet Webster (Guin Library), Lynne Wright (for Jay Rasmussen - OSG), Pete Zerr (Ship Operations)

**Old Business**

**Update on Master Planning at HMSC**

George Boehlert reviewed progress on HMSC Master Plan development and gave an update since the last committee meeting. Interviews by OSU planning staff with all the major HMSC groups have been held, and we have sent queries to agencies with specific requests for information on future facilities plans. The outline for a written plan is in place: it covers chapters like Projected Facility Needs, Site Development, Design Guidelines, Transportation Improvement Plan, Parking Plan, Neighborhood Plan, and Maintenance and Infrastructure Plan.

Discussions of changes in layout have included no-development areas (including wetlands to be preserved), additional open space on campus, and general building clustering and infill. This includes a reorientation for the OCCC building, likely road and parking relocation, and facilities services relocation to minimize truck traffic through campus. Landscaping plans will be developed through a University of Oregon course in landscape architecture for fall, 2006.

Next steps will include mapping, a meeting of this group to discuss plans, and some HMSC-wide meetings to discuss plans and to get additional input. As it is developed, we will also solicit further comments on the draft report. The Committee expressed support for having Master Plan-related materials available on a website for HMSC personnel to be able to review and weigh in on progress reports, draft plans, maps, etc. On a related issue, concerns were voiced about the excessive speed of some vehicles traveling on HMSC property. Committee members asked whether speed limit signs, speed bumps, or other measures could be taken to address this issue, which is a pedestrian safety concern.

**Action Items:**

1. Website to be developed on HMSC master planning with concepts, presentations, and, as developed, maps and new information.
2. Agency groups on campus to respond to email from June requesting information on future facility requirements.
3. HMSC-wide meetings on master planning to be convened at appropriate times.
4. HMSC Safety Committee to address issue of speed limits on campus roads and discuss approaches to slow traffic down, including speed limit signs and speed bumps.

**New Business**

## **HMSC Picnic**

The HMSC community picnic is scheduled for Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at Moonshine Park on the Siletz River. Picnic will be pot-luck, with drinks and main course items for barbecue provided by HMSC. Families and friends are welcome to attend. For anyone interested in camping out at the park on Friday and/or Saturday night, a group campsite has already been reserved.

The HMSC Social Committee is re-forming and needs members to help coordinate the picnic and other activities. Ken Hall has scheduled a first meeting for Weds. July 12 at 11am in the HMSC staff lounge. A representative from each agency/building is requested to serve on the social committee.

Action item: 5. Social committee to begin organization and get the word out on the picnic.

## **Future of SeaFest**

Over its first four years, SeaFest proved successful as an annual open house event for HMSC, attracting both local community and regional visitors for a day of activities centered around themes of science discovery and celebrating our marine and coastal environment, resources, and heritage. The decision to take a year off from hosting SeaFest in 2006 has provided a chance to reflect on the value of the event and the time and resource commitment it represents.

The idea of having the city of Newport / Chamber of Commerce assume greater ownership of SeaFest and play a larger role in organizing/hosting or expanding the event has been explored, but has not moved forward in any real way. The Chamber has suggested some benefits of scheduling SeaFest on the same weekend as "Taste of Newport" in early October (Columbus Day Weekend), but some downsides to this linkage have also been noted.

Discussion about the "best" weekend for SeaFest highlighted the pros and cons of different times of year for various participants – including organizers, exhibitors, and potential visitors. October might offer greater opportunity for involvement of OSU students, fishing industry, and others for whom June is a particularly busy time. Conversely, October would be difficult for many EPA, NOAA, and other federal agency staff preoccupied with end-of-fiscal year preparations in September. It was also noted that the question of who is our primary audience for the event (local community or beyond?) is of obvious relevance to the deliberation.

Recognizing that HMSC will likely remain as the principal organizer/host for SeaFest if it is going to happen, the question of what time of year works best for HMSC personnel seems a particularly important question to ask. In response to a straw poll question asking whether June or October would be the preferred time of year for SeaFest, one third of those present voted for retaining the mid-late June date, and two thirds expressed no strong preference for either June or October.

Action item: 6. SeaFest date options for 2007 will be evaluated and a decision made by mid-September.

## **HMSC Annual Report**

Discussion regarding format, content, and distribution of the HMSC annual report: consensus on the importance of having an annual report compiled each year, as permanent record of research and education activities and publications for future reference. No need to print and distribute hard copies as long as PDF is made available online.

Comments on the glossy color "highlights" version of the annual report produced last year indicate that it has been useful. Given the cost, it is too expensive to produce annually, but

worth putting out every 2-3 years. It need not contain the details of an annual report, as the value is in having a broad overview of the full range of research and education programs at HMSC.

Action item: 7. All unit leaders are asked to get their reports in to Monita ASAP for inclusion in 2005-06 annual report.

### **Sustainability Committee**

Recognizing a growing public interest in sustainability issues and the relevance of those issues to our mission(s) at HMSC, Ken Hall and Randy Walker have been discussing the creation of a committee at HMSC to focus on sustainability issues. The committee would investigate best practices related to sustainability and consider possible demonstration projects and improvements that could be made in terms of energy efficiency, reduction of waste streams, and other areas. Ideally, committee would have broad representation, with at least one member from each agency or building on HMSC campus.

Action Item: 8. Ken will post an announcement to the HMSC community list about the formation of the sustainability committee.

### **Roundtable updates**

Hatfield Students Organization: HSO elected new president, Mattias Johansson, to take over position that Abby McCarthy has served in for the past year. Kate Boersma is the new VP.

Ship Ops: Wecoma preparing to go out on 3-day cruise. Expecting some visiting vessels at the OSU dock this summer.

ODFW: Acoustic telemetry monitoring of Siletz reef near Depoe Bay is going on now – part of the ongoing assessment of rockfish recovery plans. Razor clamming season is currently open. New crab pot regulations have been issued to address marine debris problem (estimated 20,000 crab pots are lost annually).

CIMRS: New director is Michael Banks. Jessica Waddell and Andra Bobbitt are working on revamping the CIMRS website in preparation for administrative review of cooperative institutes this Fall.

USDA: Structure of small boat dock is very shaky and in need of repair.

COMES: Two most recent COMES faculty hires are now at HMSC: Markus Horning (pinniped ecologist) and Scott Baker (cetacean biologist, will also serve as Assoc. Director of the Marine Mammal Program). Michael Banks's COMES appointment is down to 60% time with his taking on CIMRS director position. Recent acquisition of \$500K of federal funds to administer program that will work with commercial fishing fleet to collect salmon samples for genetic testing.

Guin Library: New repository being set up for secure digital storage of publications, theses, etc. Designed with open architecture to allow wide access to content in repository.

Alaska Fisheries Science Center: Field work going on this summer in Kodiak and Bering Sea, with additional funding slated to support research in Bering Sea on climate change.

PMEL: Spring 2006 expedition to Mariana Arc with Bob Embley as chief scientist recorded active seafloor eruptions, including rare glimpse of red rock lava emanating from ocean floor at NW Rota 1 site. Images and video clips are visible on NOAA's Ridge 2000 website.

HMSC: NPDES permit covering our seawater outfalls is out for public review and comment. Randy Walker has worked with EPA and ODEQ to finalize this version of the permit.

Ken Hall is working with DOGAMI on a plan to solve the erosion problem along the estuary trail, and will be developing a permit application to the DSL.