

Neskowin Coastal Hazards Committee

Minutes of Meeting January 11, 2011

Members Present: Chair, Mark Labhart. Residents: Charlie Walker, Bill Busch, David Kraybill, Guy Sievert, Alex Sifford, Pete Owston, Gale Ousele. Support: Mitch Rhose, Matt Spangler, Pat Corcoran. Guests: Neal Marquis, Bridget Brown.

Welcome and approval of minutes: Approved, and sent to Christi for posting at NHA website.

<http://neskowincommunity.org/>

Recent developments on the beach: The area south of north Neskowin has been cut back 10 – 15 feet between December 22 and 29 in areas associated with rip embayments. These same areas were also low spots in 1967. Today, scarps are being developed that precludes sand build up. As erosion eats away at the dune, it forms a scarp (a vertical face, versus sloping face) on the ocean side. As storms impact the vertical face, it causes more catastrophic erosion than when waves impact a sloping surface. Bigger chunks fall off and leave another vertical face of the dune exposed to wave action. This viscous cycle is the same pattern that led to rip rapping the Village 10 years ago. A few locations show minor sand build up but these are limited in scope.

Active Protection Sub-Committee: Pete, Guy, and Bill walked the beach with Tony and Sally Hacker. Sally is an OSU researcher with expertise in sand dune ecology and management. Typically, dune management plans are intended to get rid of sand (e.g. Pacific City) than to build up dunes. To build dunes, grasses can be planted to trap blowing sand. However, Sally said that Neskowin's dunes already have mature diverse vegetation and planting grass would probably not do much good. It is these very dunes with mature vegetation that are eroding. Sally said that she would write up a report of the site visit, and offered to help design a study for future work to build the dunes. One possibility is to change the composition of beach grass species to a species that is better at building dunes. The three species available are native rye grass, American beach grass from the east coast, and European beach grass. Their different blade shapes and root structures are different and some build dunes better than others. The committee will defer discussion with land owners in the Corvallis St. area since there is no news to report. The committee will meet in January with Laura Hicks, USA Corps of Engineers. The committee submitted questions to the USACE for consideration. The key question is "are there structural options?"

Land Use Sub-Committee: The new schedule for the Tillamook County Adaptation Plan Framework is as follows. Draft of Framework to Land Use sub-committee by January 25th. Committee meets January 21 to edit. Jon Allan will also review draft during this time. Revised draft to full NCHC by February 28. After approval by NCHC, the County will send it out to all of the CPACs for review. The Tillamook Co. Planning Commission will review and make recommendations to the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners for adoption. The approval of the county Framework Plan precedes the Neskowin Sub-Plan. The Sub Plan will be a product developed by the NCHC. Once the Neskowin Sub Plan is approved the NCHC can implement elements of the plan as the NCHC deems appropriate. Thus, the County Framework Plan will identify a suite of options that any community in the County can use; and the Neskowin Sub Plan will be the subset of those that NCHC chooses to implement. Discussion ensued about the role of the Neskowin CPAC and how it will weigh in on the Neskowin Sub Plan. Members felt that the ground work and stage setting to date, plus the community meeting March 26 will help toward that end.

Implementation Sub-Committee: To further the goal of implementing future adaptation strategies the NCHC seeks to inform the Neskowin community about what is going on in terms of coastal erosion, and what the NCHC is doing to address it. A community meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2011 from 1pm

to 3pm at the Neskowin Valley School. Mark drafted and sent out a letter of invitation. The agenda for the meeting is as follows. Introduction and welcome by Mark. This will be followed by a series of PowerPoint presentations. (Note: originally, the idea was to use posters and have guests move around to different posters and chat with committee members. The Active Protection sub-committee has subsequently proposed to instead use a series of PowerPoint presentations. I'm going with that option now, but we can review it at the February meeting.) Background on the "science" will be addressed by Bill B. The "situation and issues to date" will be addressed by Pat C. The "Rip rap survey and subsequent repairs" will be addressed by Tony S. "Active protection options" will be addressed by David K. The "Neskowin land use plan" will be addressed by Gale and Kristen. The "county wide plan" will be addressed by Mitch (or Laren). The "road map for implementation will be addressed by Charlie and/or Guy. Pat C. will keep the presenters on time and will facilitate Q&A. The most important thing is for presenters to develop your presentations in time for the NCHC to review them at the March 8th meeting. It is predictable that everyone will want to show more slides than anyone else wants to see. We need to refine the key messages that your neighbors need to know. (As opposed to telling them everything you know, or would like them to know.) I encourage the creation of no more than 3-5 slides. (Five slides times seven presentations is 45 total slides! That's really pushing the limit of our audiences ability to absorb what we're saying.)

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: February 8, 2011. 9am-11:30am. Neskowin Fire Hall