

Neskowin Coastal Hazards Committee
Meeting Minutes, June 8, 2010
Submitted by Pat Corcoran

Members present: Chair: Commissioner Mark Labhart. Residents: Leslie Gordon, David Kraybill, Gale Ousele, Pete Owston, Bill Busch, Alex Sifford, Robert Wulf. Support: Gerald Parker, Kristin Maze (Till. Co. Community Development), Laren Woolley and Matt Spangler (DLCD), Mitch Rohse, Tony Stein (State Parks), Patrick Corcoran (OR Sea Grant).

Welcome: Mark welcomed the group and started the introductions. Gale asked, and the group agreed, to donate to Neskowin Valley School \$14 collected previously for meeting room rent at the post Office location.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for May were approved. (And subsequently sent to Christy for posting on the NCA website <http://www.neskowincommunity.org/>)

Discussion of Mission: Before we started on the agenda it was clear folks needed to respond to the several emails that had exchanged since the last meeting centering on the direction of the group's energy as it relates to the NCHC mission statement. In the end, the proposal to change the mission statement was deferred for consideration at the next meeting. Discussion revolved around the specific multiple, and potentially conflicting interests, of the NCHC to "maintain the beach" and "maintain beachfront properties" and "protect the village." These interests are referred to collectively in the mission statement as "...maintain the beach and protect the community through short and long term strategies..." Briefly, some members feel strongly that the focus now should be on shorter term actions to maintain the riprap system and beach front properties as a way to protect existing homes and the village behind them. Others lament the loss of the beach "as people knew it" through continued armoring, and see retreat as the only option to maintain a beach. Others look to the adaptation plan to offer a combination of options to choose from. Others see no impediment by the NCHC to any idea moving forward by individuals. Nobody sees any easy solutions.

Recent Developments: The good news is that there has been little erosion in the past two months. However, there has been little rebuilding of the beach as of June, and a rip embayment is setting up in front of the Pacific Sands. A little erosion was reported at the south end of north beach. The latest DOGAMI shoreline change update has been posted for May 2010.

Research/Library/Google Group. The space is available for use by NCHC at the Pacific City branch of the Tillamook County library system. Copying is a nominal cost, and the library would consider purchasing select books or documents. The Neskowin Coastal Hazards Committee has a website hosted at Google groups. Anyone (member or not at this time) can go the URL <http://groups.google.com/> and type in "Neskowin Coastal Hazards Committee." There are no

passwords or any hassle. On the right hand side of our page are tabs titled: Home, Discussion, Members, Pages, Files. I have posted a number of documents under Files. Check those out. Discussion, can be used for back and forth thoughts on mission statement or anything else. The idea of this site is to make managing our “stuff” easier. For example, if someone wants a copy of Mitch’s PowerPoint I can have Mitch send it to me, and I can post it once on the Google site. All I have to do is send an email letting people know that it is posted (I won’t have to do that once people get used to checking it regularly). This prevents sending large files to the entire list and filling out email Inbox with unnecessary stuff. I will continue to send the unapproved version of our meeting minutes to everyone instead of posting them. Once approved, I will post them as an archive on the Google site.

Short-term Strategies: The log jam response is on hiatus until the fall when in-stream work can occur. There is no safety issue currently, but folks will monitor it over the summer. Tony summarized his survey and evaluation of the riprap system in Neskowin (as described last month) and produced a map with conditions listed by tax lot. Of the 74 tax lots evaluated, 63 were in Good or Fair condition and 11 were rated as Poor. That is, 85% were Fair to Good, and 15% Poor. (Definitions provided in document). The county parcel is not rip rapped and not evaluated. Tony explained that “settling and sinking” of riprap is a big problem in Neskowin due to the beaches large sand grain size, steep beach face, and deep sand. The riprap sinks under its own weight during storms. Tony sent out letters at the end of May. He received one response thanking him for the information. Tony will follow-up with a separate letter to the properties with a Poor rating for their riprap. Laren and Butch reported that the county parcel is not within the Neskowin “exception” area and cannot be riprapped. Tony noted that the area is functioning as a dune and is not causing any concern. If conditions change, alternatives to riprap may include putting up a sand fence, or planting beach grass, etc. (see list of options) The Short Term Strategies sub-group completed their tasks and recommend that long term subcommittees form under three categories: Active Protection, Land Use and Implementation.

Long term Strategies: A Long Term Strategy Committee was formed under three areas of emphasis Active Protection, Land Use and Implementation. These sub-groups will work outside of NCHC meetings and report to the group. Initial leadership for the Active Protection group include Pete, Dave, and Bill. Gale is lead on the Land Use group, and Mark is lead on the Implementation group. Others are invited to participate. (These sub-groups may want to use the Google group site for posting their info.)

County Adaptation Plan: Mitch presented slides and led discussion on the adaptation plan. (I will post on the Google site) I noted that a “hazard” was defined as “threat + probability.” And “risk” was “vulnerability x probability.” The plan will address our vulnerability to the threats given the probability of them happening. Mitch will provide frequent updates to the NCHC as work continues. A public process for the adaptation plan will include a local advisory committee

(starting with the Neskowin PAC members). This underscores that the adaptation plan and the NCHC are independent but mutually supportive entities. Mitch reiterated that nothing associated with his work bars any short term actions that might be taken independently by NCHC.

Membership: The members discussed group membership. The monthly meetings are open to the public and that will remain the case. The issue is how to maintain an open policy for membership while still getting things done as a group. There was concern about the group dynamics of people coming in and out, and who votes, etc. Discussion revolved around freezing “membership” based on geographic criteria. It was acknowledged that the current group (see Agenda for membership list) is representative of all of Neskowin—with some debate over whether north Neskowin is adequately represented. It was decided that the current members constitute the membership of the NCHC, with the option of recruiting someone from north Neskowin.

Communication: Butch spoke at the neighborhood meeting May 31st and updated folks on the mission of the group, and actions to date. He said there was interest and positive feedback.

Next Meeting: July 13, 2010. Neskowin Valley School. 9am.