

**Neskowin Coastal Hazards Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes, October 12, 2010**  
Submitted by Pat Corcoran

**Members present:** Chair: Commissioner Mark Labhart. Residents: Alex Sifford, David Kraybill, Pete Owston, Guy Sievert, Charlie Walker, Leslie Gordon. Support: Kristen Maze (Till. Co. Community Development), Tony Stein (State Parks), Laren Woolley, Matt Spangler (DLCD), Mitch Rohse (consultant), (Patrick Corcoran (OR Sea Grant). Guests: Jonathan Allan (DOGAMI), Peter Ruggiero (OSU), Heather Baron (OSU), Kris Weiland (Fire Chief), Neil Marquis (Tsunami outreach coordinator), Andreas von Foerster (resident)

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes:** Mark welcomed the group and thanked our host. Minutes for September were approved. (And subsequently sent to Christi for posting on the NCA website <http://www.neskowincommunity.org/>)

**Old Business:** This placeholder is to remind us to address unfinished business from last meeting early on and not let it get lost.

**Recent Developments:** The riprap at South Beach needed repair work which is completed. A Neskowin resident (non-member) reported on the Web that sand levels in front of Pacific Sands dropped nearly 10 feet in 48 hours following a recent storm. It was noted that the rip embayment north of Proposal Rock is a perennial hotspot. Beach profiles by DOGAMI are posted on the NANOOS website. ([www.nanoos.org](http://www.nanoos.org))

**Active Protection Sub Committee:** (Bill, Dave, Pete, Charlie, Tony, Guy, Bob) Dave submitted a report and posted it to Basecamp. Bill, Dave, Guy reported on their site visit to see the “dynamic revetment” at Cape Lookout State Park. The visit was hosted by Jon Allan. The dynamic revetment is a hybrid between hard and soft protective structures. It is an artificial dune fronted by a cobble berm. This was installed in 1999/2000 at a cost of \$120,000. Riprap was probably the preferred option at the time, but Goal 18 precluded this option. The structure dissipates some wave energy but does not prevent overtopping. Other downsides of this approach include the space the structure takes up on the beach, it does not protect the beach because it doesn’t replace sand, and it changes the character of the sand beach by introducing cobbles. This may be an option down the road to reinforce the dune between Corvallis St. and North Neskowin, but the consensus of the committee and group is to take this off the list of viable alternatives. The list of viable solutions now includes offshore reefs and/or breakwaters, dune management and beach re-nourishment. It was noted that the mothballed fleet of Navy ships in San Francisco may be a source for an artificial reef. Discussion ensued about the ability of riprap to protect properties and their effects on adjacent properties and beach. Jon Allan fielded these questions and the summary of it is: if the system is maintained, riprap should

protect the community from the erosion of dune sands; and so far the riprap hasn't caused much impact on adjacent properties other than some erosion at the south end of the riprap in North Neskowin. (Note: riprap provides no protection for the impacts of waves that overtop the riprap.)

The quality of the design and materials used in riprap is a big factor. Neskowin has a range of different riprap structures as noted in Tony's evaluation. While some older riprap is not up to today's standards it is still functioning due to its location in less critical areas. Note: the riprap has not been truly tested under the types of severe conditions that occurred in 1999. Without riprap, the high erosion zones will continue to occur landward as modeled. The sub-committee is in conversation with the US Army Corps of Engineers about what help they can provide to Neskowin. Representatives of the USACE is expected to meet with the subcommittee later this fall.

**Technical Presentation:** Peter Ruggiero, Heather Baron, and Jon Allan gave updates on their work measuring coastal erosion and shoreline change. This was an illuminating presentation and Q&A that I cannot capture here. They described the methods and models they use to measure shoreline change and showed preliminary data comparing the Neskowin littoral cell with other places in Oregon and on the Long Beach peninsula. The group asked lots of questions of the experts. Nothing was reported that was a game changer in terms of the groups focus on solutions. (Results of their research will be posted on Basecamp when it becomes available.)

**Land Use:** (Gale, Kristen, Laren, Matt, Mitch) Kristen reported that the groups is putting together a more detailed "matrix" of the viable options for maintaining the beach and protecting properties. A draft will be available in November. Conversation ensued about the role of the County's Adaptation Plan (AP) and the Neskowin sub-plan. There was concern that the County level AP might not address the same concerns as those identified by the NCHC. The clarification was that the County AP will ingest the concerns and strategies developed by the NCHC. Mitch will write a sub-plan for the Neskowin cell that includes this information. The Neskowin CPAC will then have the County AP and the NCHC strategies to use as guidance when developing local land use strategies to address erosion. Land use planning goals require community input before making changes.

**Implementation:** (Mark, Guy, Charlie, Kristen) The sub-committee submitted a draft report seeking approval by the full committee. This will be posted to Basecamp in November. One key aspect is how to close the gap in understanding of the erosion threat between the members of the NCHC and the community at large. This is particularly challenging given the high percentage of non-permanent residents with property in Neskowin. Thus, education of the community will be one element of the Implementation Plan. Others are developing recommendations,

implementing recommendations, and funding options. It was discussed that while there is lots of analysis of the problem there is less analysis of the effectiveness of potential solutions. All viable potential solutions need to be considered, and at least ball park cost figures should be developed for implementing them. Coastal engineering firms may be helpful in this step to describe what other communities did and at what cost. Dune management plans have already been developed in some Oregon communities (Pacific City, Manzanita) and can inform efforts in Neskowin.

**Tsunami Education:** While the NCHC is focused on chronic coastal erosion not catastrophic tsunamis, a new program aimed at helping communities cope with earthquakes and tsunamis has some relevance to the group. Neil Marquis is a local person hired by DOGAMI to coordinate outreach efforts for tsunami preparedness. One project discussed that has relevance to the NCHC is the Map Your Neighborhood program. This program will map out the community by neighborhood and establishes voluntary block captains to take inventory of their neighborhood in terms of who might need extra help in an emergency and what resources are available in the neighborhood (generators, expertise, etc.) Neil reported that, so far, there are 26 block captains signed up from Cascade Head to the Nestucca River. These folks can also be helpful in the case of severe storms and flooding, etc. Additional thoughts on dealing with erosion in the context of tsunamis are posted on Basecamp. Evacuation maps are available at the Fire Hall and online <http://www.oregongeology.org/sub/earthquakes/Coastal/Tsumaps.HTM>

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Next Meeting: Note new location!**  
**November 9, 2010 / 9AM – 11:30 AM**  
**Neskowin Fire Hall**