

Neskowin Coastal Hazards Committee

Minutes of Meeting April 12, 2011

Members Present: Chair, Mark Labhart. Residents: Charlie Walker, David Kraybill, Guy Sievert, Alex Sifford, Leslie Gordon, Gale Ousele. Support: Laren Woolley, Pat Corcoran. Guests: Neil Marquis, Andreas von Foerster.

Welcome and approval of minutes: Approved, and sent March 2011 minutes to Christi for posting at NCA website. <http://neskowincommunity.org/>

March Community Meeting Debrief: Feedback from the meeting was overall very positive. Over 200 people attended, and it was standing room only at Neskowin Valley School. Many acknowledged the hard work that had obviously gone into putting together the presentations. Members reported that people engage them in great conversations before, during, and after the meeting. There was no sensationalism, and the rumor mill was calmed to a degree. All agreed that continued communication is important. Substantively, some people were surprised at the extent of rip rap infrastructure that exists, and that there is a connection between the beach front properties and the village. Some strongly advocated the continued maintenance of the system of rip rap to maintain property. Others felt that the issue of the connection between the beach and the village was not thoroughly addressed, and that is why there wasn't more controversy about it at the meeting. Some also noted the lack of seating space at NVS.

The attendance was excellent due to strong marketing by members, and also the recent distant tsunami event. The question was asked early on whether the NCHC is the forum for addressing the earthquake and tsunami danger in Neskowin. The members explained that the NCHC has considered this in the past and decided to focus on the chronic erosion from winter storms and not catastrophic effects of tsunamis. The reasoning included having plenty to do in terms of erosion, and that trying to include tsunamis would dissipate the energy and focus of the group. Neil Marquis was introduced as the local coordinator for a tsunami preparedness program led by the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. People were encouraged to work with Neil on the Map Your Neighborhood program and door-to-door education activities. More info is posted at the Post Office.

Further discussion of this at the April 12 meeting circled around whether there is more of a role for the NCHC regarding tsunamis. While it is certainly a coastal hazard, the long recurrence interval and catastrophic impacts of it were deemed beyond the mission of this group. (Especially since the focus for tsunamis is evacuation, while the focus for erosion is mitigation.) It was noted that the County Adaptation Framework makes reference to the Cascadia Subduction Zone, and that was probably adequate. The members agreed to link concerned people with the ongoing efforts of others. It was mentioned that the NCA website would be a good place to post tsunami info.

The sign-up sheet and index cards created a list of names of people that are interested in "information only." We will need to maintain distinctions between (in ascending order of accessibility): NCHC members with access to BASECAMP, the NCHC mailing list, this potential "Info Only" list, and the NCA website. Alex offered to add the Info Only names to the CPAC mailing list. As the Neskowin Sub-Plan works its way through its evolution, the CPAC will be the primary public forum for community exchange. The AP will respond directly to the specific index card questions that they received.

Thank you letters will go out to the entire list of participants. (Mark) A summary will go to Christi at NCA. This will focus on Charley's report "Where do we go from here." Thank you notes were already sent to

NVS. (Gale) NCHC is looking to contribute something in appreciation to the Neskowin Valley School for hosting the event.

Recent developments on the beach: Some damage to rip rap north of Mt. Angel St. Excavator doing some significant repairs on rip rap affecting 5 or 6 houses. This is a repair of work done 3-4 years ago. The rip embayment is changing a little and splitting to the north and south. Erosion is occurring at the outlet of Neskowin Ck.

Active Protection Sub-Committee: The AP is in conversation with Aquamarine about the potential of their wave energy facilities co-locating to the area. The idea is that the offshore facilities might mitigate wave impacts on the beach. Charley has been communicating with Theresa Weisener of Aquamarine in emails, and phone calls, asking pointed questions about their potential and their plans. There are several potential sites being considered and some of the needed shore side infrastructure (e.g. energy transmission facilities) might be lacking in Neskowin. The AP has is value-neutral on the merits of the project, their interest is exploring all options for active protection. Laren will keep group apprised of wind energy meetings and activities. DLCD is involved in this issue as it regards the Territorial Sea Plan (TSP), an element of Oregon's marine spatial planning. Kaety Hildenbrand, Sea Grant agent out of Newport, has expertise in this area and is available as a resource to the HCNC. (kaety.hildenbrand@oregonstate.edu)

Another issue being addressed by the AP is improving the Hawk Ck. bridge. It is a critical piece of infrastructure for vehicles and also municipal infrastructure (water and sewer lines, etc.). It is vulnerable to damage by winter storms. David will submit a request to Tillamook County to explore "bridge alternatives." (The bridge is owned and maintained by the County) The AP has been in communication with the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) about the feasibility of offshore structures and the NCHC and the County will also engage them on possibly helping with the bridge. Neil noted that this might be a time where the chronic erosion and catastrophic tsunami issues might be in alignment, as the bridge is a critical piece of infrastructure for tsunami evacuation.

Land Use Sub-Committee: With regard to the previous conversations, Gale noted that there would likely be land use elements to a wind energy proposal. Shifting to the Adaptation Framework, the Land Use committee is reviewing existing policy language for application to the Neskowin Sub Plan (NSP). Butch is again the lead for the county with Kristen's departure. Laren and Butch are working closely on this and copies to both on emails is appropriate. The process for approving and implementing the NSP were described as follows. The Land Use subcommittee generates an initial draft plan. The full NCHC considers, reviews, and generates the final draft of the NSP. This is then submitted to the Neskowin CPAC for consideration. (Any change in ordinance language would require community input through the normal CPAC process.) The CPAC may then submit the proposal to the Tillamook County planning commission for review and adoption. Once adopted, then projects can be pursued and funded and developed in accordance with the NSP.

Conversation revolved around how the Land Use NSP draft will present the Hazard Adaptation Techniques (HATs). Will there be just a list? Or will there be some prioritization? It was noted again that in contrast to the largely technical criteria of "feasibility" used by the AP for prioritizing options (Will it work?), the land use options include human values and preferences in addition to technical feasibility (Do people support it?). LU subcommittee will make an initial prioritization of options for consideration by NCHC at May 10 meeting. The idea is to then create a "matrix" of HAT options along one axis, and criteria for selection along the other. This matrix will then be presented at the May 29th community meeting.

Implementation Sub-Committee: What can we get started on in terms of funding? What do people value in terms of strategies for moving forward? The discussion focused on presenting our range of options to people at the May 29th meeting and having people “vote” their preferences. The idea is to get a first blush of preferences, not make any decisions at the May meeting! The group discussed using a Likert scale type of evaluation (rank 1 to 5 on a scale), or maybe colored dots. It was proposed was to describe to participants the various strategies of the AP and LU subcommittees, post flip charts around the room representing each strategy, and then let them vote. In preparation for the voting, Mark will give a brief summary of the March meeting. Gale will write up a short summary of the March 26th LU presentation and Bill will do the same for AP. These will be distributed as handouts at the May meeting as reference materials.

Neil has the Fire Hall reserved for the May 29th meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

Next NCHC Meeting: May 10, 2011. 9am-11:30am. Neskowin Fire Hall