

Neskowin Coastal Hazards Committee
Meeting Minutes, May 11, 2010
Submitted by Pat Corcoran

Members present: Chair: Commissioner Mark Labhart. Residents: Leslie Gordon, David Kraybill, Gale Ousele, Pete Owston, Charlie Walker, Bill Busch, Larry Glickman, Guy Sievert, Linda Duggers. Support: Gerald Parker, Kristin Maze (Till. Co. Community Development), Laren Woolley and Matt Spangler (DLCD), Tony Stein (State Parks), Patrick Corcoran (OR Sea Grant).

Welcome: The meeting started with a welcome by Mark and a review of our mission.

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

Recent Developments: Mark started with a note of interest about the Whisky Ck. oyster facility and the negative impacts on spat survival that they have seen from pH changes in the bay water. Dave reported that the Weather Channel folks who visited Neskowin to film ghost forests were not interested in erosion issues. Tony reported that things seem to be calming down for the season and there were no dramatic changes in the shoreline in recent weeks. Linda from the Neskowin Homeowners Association updated the group on the log jam in front of the Hawk Ck. Café. (The bridge over the ck. is county owned and carries water and sewer and local access.) The idea is to get rid of it, but it is on public land and in-stream. Leann Welch (public works) visited the site and notes that the work requires permitting or waivers and an access agreement. Dave Stewart (ODFW) said it was possible to apply for a variance to do the work out of season and on an ongoing basis, and if the material is removed from the site it will not need an additional permit for replacing it back into the stream. Linda (NHA) indicated the NHA is setting aside some money for the work. Actions: Alex (CPAC) is pursuing the variance to get short-term work going and no action is needed by the group. The county or a contractor will do the work. The timeline is this “summer” as determined by the time it takes to apply for and get the access agreement and variance.

Research and Information/Library: Dave noted that Jonathan Allan’s 2007 Beach Survey Report is available from DOGAMI in paper and CD. Guy noted as excellent the chapter on shore protection ideas from a USA Corp of Engineers (USACE) 2009 Coastal Engineering Manual. The group reviewed the annotated bibliography that Mitch submitted to the group as part of his adaptation planning work. This will grow as work proceeds. Some pubs require payment, but Mitch noted that the state library has free access and sometimes free copies. It was also noted that the county has access to DOGAMI file reports without going through The Nature of the Northwest website. Other ideas included the library system or local club may pick up some of the acquisition costs of materials. Pete reported that the Tillamook Co. Library is ready to house NCHC materials. He will check on their ability to acquire (pay for) materials and will report back on that in June. In June, Pat will share with the group information describing the project he is

working on with Jonathan and Peter Ruggiero and Nate Wood and how it connects to and supports the efforts of the NCHC.

Short-term Strategies: The short-term sub-committee recommended, and Tony Stein, Oregon State Parks, executed on 4/20 a survey on the condition of the riprap on each property from South Beach to North Beach inclusive of Proposal Rock Inn. Tony reviewed for the group the template he developed to evaluate the riprap. For each tax lot and address ratings from one to five were ascribed to rock type and size, estimated slope, sinking, unraveling, placement, and overall stability. Overall stability was described as Poor, Fair, Good. In June Tony will provide an initial analysis and a map to highlight hot spots. (Currently, three public access locations are becoming dangerous near Mt. Angel and Amity and Sheridan Streets. These are critical sites for emergency vehicle access to and from the beach.) Conversation included a desire to write informative letters to both directly affected property owners, and the community at large. The connection, again, is that the first row of dunes protects the lower village behind/east of the beach. The integrity of the entire system of riprap is important to protect the both the beach front properties and the village behind it. Tony's survey is intended to assess this system for near term protection. Maintenance is critical to preserving the system. Given the evolving nature of the riprap and the rules that guide it over time, there is sometimes confusion about who is responsible for maintaining the riprap, stairs to beach, etc. It was noted that each riprap permit received by a property owner describes conditions for maintenance and even pre-permit properties must comply with Oregon Revised Statutes (OARs) for maintenance. The question came up about un-rip-rapped property owned by Tillamook County near Corvallis St. It is set aside for recreation and does not meet Goal 18 Land Use Planning requirements, so it is not eligible for riprap. The fact that all of Neskowin has a Goal 18 exemption may allow the county to riprap. This will be an agenda item for June. Sub-committee report and Risk Scenario Matrix, and water level calculations are on file. (We need to post these somewhere for access.)

Action: Tony will write a letter to send to property owners telling them of what he observed at their property, permit requirements, and options available to them. (Attached) This will be at the request of the NCHC but on Oregon State Parks letterhead. (Critical properties may number 5 or 6 out of 70+ total properties) Another more general letter of information would be sent to all residents. A public meeting would follow at which Tony would present a color coded map for public education and the NCHC can address questions.

Action: Tony will send to the group his report on Property Damage Mitigation Options on the Beachfront. These were selected primarily from the Western Carolina University publication "Property Damage Mitigation Options." Each are checked as to whether they are feasible, temporary, or permanent for Neskowin. (Thank you, Tony)

Long term Strategies: A sub-group, the Long Term (strategy) Committee was formed to suggest longer term actions. They will work outside of NCHC meetings and report to the group. The LTC will be comprised of three sub-committees: alternative active shoreline protection strategies, land use planning approaches, and a sustained implementation group. This conversation led to a broader issue of “mission creep” and the concern by some that the group is moving away from the goal of “maintaining the beach” in favor of “adapting to change.” This conversation continued on email in the interim and reflects a natural tension between the two areas of emphasis. Some see a broader umbrella of planning and actions incorporating both, others feel strongly that we’re drifting from the group’s primary focus. At the June meeting, Mitch will report on his scope of work and the adaptation plan and process. This will help to articulate how and where the adaptation plan fits into the short-term and long-term activities. Pat will describe how the SARP project fits in. While sometimes uncomfortable, it has served to keep the group focused on values and priorities.

Communication: Pete reported on his presentation at the Coast Conference. He provided the group an update on issues and actions to date by the NCHC, and met with others who may be resources (or speakers) to the group. These include: Steve Schell, board member of Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition; Peter Ruggiero OSU for wave heights; Curt Peterson PSU on sand movement; Leslie Ewing CA Coastal Commission for engineering approaches; and Mark Hixon OSU for ocean acidification. Pete confirmed from the presentations that there is a lack of basic research on some of our critical issues such as sand supply, impacts of sea level rise, and technical approaches to armoring the beach. Butch agreed to provide an update on the NCHC at the community meeting on May 30.

County Adaptation Plan: Our earlier conversations ran long and we did not have time to hear the presentation that Mitch Rohse had prepared. This will occur in June.

Other Issues: The issue came up about whether the NCHC will address the tsunami hazard in Neskowin. After discussion, it was agreed that the mission of the group is focused primarily on chronic beach erosion and other groups (CERT, DOGAMI) are better leaders for tsunami education. Pat agreed to send Gale his handout on beach hazards for consideration in materials developed for Neskowin. Pat suggested the group consider using an online tool to post publications and reports of the NCHC. This will be an agenda item for June. Another issue for the June agenda is membership (criteria?) and decision making (not just “experts”).

Next Meeting: June 8, 2010. Neskowin Valley School. 9am.