

Regular Steering Committee Meeting 2-25-03

Meeting Convened - 4:01 PM

Present: Maggie Peyton, Georgette Ferdun, Vivi Tallman, Jay Holland, Jim Salisbury, Todd Boswell

Next program-Maggie reports that Beth Lambert will do the self evaluation at the next meeting on March 13.

The Estuary Cleanup was discussed and a report on the planning status was given.

Project Priorities — (discussing 3 per SC and Council meeting)

1. ID 3 strategies to enhance environmental conditions and reduce flood damage in the Nehalem basin. Maggie noted that the Estuary Assessment is underway funded by OWEB— no current info on status. Developing protocols as they conduct the survey. Discussion on the assessment and wetlands inventory being done by the council. Maggie will ask for an outline on the assessment and status. Georgette noted council could brainstorm on identifying estuarine strategies.

2. Work with ODF Parks and Recreation to develop 5 miles in the Coal Creek area over the next five years. Georgette reported that ODF stated that it is not the job of a watershed council to build trails. Maggie notes that there is a recreation committee at ODF. Vivi noted that OP&R could be in the council or be a technical advisor. Georgette noted that ODF rec person could come and speak to the council. Jay noted that trails are not salmon restoration and outside the Council's primary mission. Georgette notes that the state WC charter could provide guidance. Vivi read the mission statement and there was additional discussion. Jay suggested inviting Clyde Zeller to a council meeting to discuss the ODF recreation plan. Georgette noted that WCs could partner to assist them with funding and resources.

3. ID large wood currently in streams at-risk of removal. Maggie noted that signs are available for placing on instream logs. There was a wide ranging discussion on large wood in the estuary. Jay noted that the Necanicum sent a bill to the legislature to prohibit instream wood cutting but was not aware of its status. Jim pointed out that boater safety and property protection are ongoing legitimate reasons to trim wood and that the dynamics in the estuary are such that controlling/containing wood would be a challenge. Georgette suggested that information on value of large wood be included with fishing licenses or in the synopsis of regulations in the state books.

Necanicum WC — (A) Jay mentioned that Doug Ray, now Chair of the Necanicum WC, is interested in running Necanicum grants thru the LNWC and Lower would keep the 10% admin. Doug (the Project Manager for the North Fork Riparian grant) is very impressed with Shirley's financial management. Georgette wants to get some feedback from Necanicum on their grant volume and we need to get feedback from Shirley on the topic.

(B) Dave asked the SC for inputs on an MOU with the Necanicum to track riparian plants. He pointed out that the ability to migrate surpluses or exchange wildings would be mutually beneficial and added that an ongoing working relationship with other councils could be beneficial. At issue is ensuring Council resources are tracked and kept in balance plus many surplus sources (state and federal) require tracking of disposition. Maggie noted that the document review policy doesn't cover it and Jay feels Council approval is necessary. Dave will post the draft on FishNet for Council comment and review.

Outreach - Vivi asked if there were any groups not represented on the council. She noted that getting young people more involved should be encouraged. Jay noted that NKN doesn't have a program like Seaside's Pacifica crew. Vivi also suggested that the Community Trust could co-sponsor events like the estuary cleanup and could generate volunteers. Maggie noted that there will be another council meeting and there was discussion about remaining time before estuary cleanup publicity goes out. SC approved Land Trust co-sponsorship.

North Fork Riparian - Jay noted that he, Doug Ray and others are discussing bringing the governor for a tour this coming summer. He added that the progress in the Lower is worth showing off. Paul McCracken will approach Jim Brown and Joe Sheehan will approach Sen. Dukes, Rep. Hopson, Betsy Johnson, etc and Maggie should bring OWEB (Shafer, etc) onboard for a multi-pronged approach.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22