



Meeting Report

PORT ORFORD MARINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TEAM

Monday, May 12, 2008

American Legion Hall

Mayor Jim Auburn called the meeting to order at 1 PM. He welcomed everyone and then asked each person to introduce himself or herself.

Present were: Vicki Nowlan and Kevin Lee of Nor Cal, Mark Lottis and his son of 5-Star Charters; State Representative Wayne Krieger; Leesa Cob of POORT; Jack Emmons and Tony Cotter of Hallmark Fisheries; Ron Kreskey, representing Congressman Peter DeFazio; Jeff Miles and Aaron Longton, Port Orford commercial fishermen; Port of Port Orford Commissioners Ed Dowdy and Scott Luhr; Gary Anderson, Port of Port Orford Manager; Jeff Griffin of the Governor's Economic Revitalization Team; John Craig of the Army Corp of Engineers; John Dinger, Coastal Oceanographer; Katy Eymann of Oregon Solutions; and Co-Convener John Hewitt, Port Orford City Councilman.

Jonathan Allen of DOGAMI, Jerry McGriff of Griff's Restaurant, and Mary Camarata of Oregon DEQ were not able to attend.

Katy Eymann presented an overview of the Oregon Solutions process and distributed notebooks with an agenda and information pertinent to the process. She emphasized the end product, which is a Declaration of Cooperation between all of the parties. She encouraged the Project Team Members to read the two Declarations of Cooperation provided in their notebooks to give them a clear sense of the type of agreement the process will produce. The two sample Declarations of Cooperation concern the North Bend Airport Terminal Building and the Reedsport Wave Energy Project.

Leesa Cobb and Gary Anderson presented the project vision.

Leesa focused on the building aspect of the project. She described a multi-use building serving 1) the commercial fishing industry, 2) the public with a restaurant and other retail uses, and 3) the education and fishing industry with the creation of a Marine Research Station. She pointed out that the building could be constructed in phases as financing becomes available.

Gary focused on the shoaling issue. In essence, the harbor fills with sand to the extent that fishing boats can only be lifted to and from the pier during high water. This restricts fishing time and puts the fishermen at risk if a storm arises suddenly while they are at sea. He also reported that the existing jetty fails to protect the dock from

overtopping waves that destroy the infrastructure for Hallmark Fisheries during severe storms, and it contributes to shoaling by preventing sand from leaving the harbor. The vision of the shoaling aspect of the project is to reach a year-round solution to the accumulation of sand in the harbor.

Two working groups were created: Shoaling and Building. Each working group will report to the full Project Team as their work progresses. The full Project Team will meet to discuss the recommendations submitted by the working groups.

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The building working group will consist of: Jack Emmons of Hallmark Fisheries, Vicki Nowlin of Nor Cal, Leesa Cobb of POORT, Jeff Miles, Jerry McGriff of Griff's Restaurant, Gary Anderson, Ed Dowdy and Scott Luhr from the Port of Port Orford, and Jeff Griffin from the Oregon Economic Revitalizations Team.

The membership of the Shoaling Working Group will consist primarily of an Expert Panel. John Dingler described the credentials of each of the expert panel members.

JONATHAN ALLEN - Coastal Geomorphologist: Coastal Section Leader, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Coastal Field Office
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, College of Oceanic & Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State University; PhD, Department of Geography, University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

Research interests:

- Beach and nearshore processes and shoreline management
- Effects of coastal structures
- Wave climate changes

JIM BAILARD

President, Scour Systems, Inc., Carpinteria, CA;
PhD, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA
Consultant to BEACON (Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment, a California Joint Powers Agency)

DAVE CACCHIONE

Oceanographer Emeritus, US Geological Survey, Menlo Park, CA
President, CME (Coastal & Marine Environments)
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Research interests:

- Sediment transport on the continental shelf and in large bays (e.g., San Francisco Bay)
- Coastal erosion
- Wave effects on the coast

JOHN CRAIG

Manager, South Coast Projects
USACE, Portland District, Operations Division

JOHN DINGLER

Coastal Oceanographer Emeritus, US Geological Survey Menlo Park, CA
PhD, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA

Research interests:

- Coastal and Wetlands Processes
- Nearshore wave-generated sand transport
- Coastal erosion

PAUL KOMAR

Professor Emeritus, Oregon State University, College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, Corvallis, OR

PhD, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA

Research Interests:

- Marine Geology & geophysics
- Coastal processes
- Coastal Oregon

CHUCK NORDSTROM

Ocean Research Division, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA
County Planner, Curry County Planning Department

Planning director, City of Port Orford

DAVID REVELL

Project Manager, Philip Williams and Associates Ltd., San Francisco, CA

PhD, University of California Santa Cruz

AARON LONGTON, Port Orford fisherman.

Chuck Nordstrom will facilitate the work of the expert panel. Gary Anderson, Ed Dowdy, and Scott Luhr from the Port will also be members of the Shoaling Working Group and attend meetings of the Expert Panel.

The time line for each working group was reviewed.

A roundtable discussion was conducted. All of the attendees were asked to state their commitment to the project, major concerns they would like to see addressed, and opportunities and potential obstacles to implementation of the project.

Vicki Nowlan stated that Kevin Lee of Nor Cal Mark has a major commitment to this project as evidenced by his \$5,000 contribution to the project cost. Nor Cal would like to have more space to expand their operation and they would like to ensure that vessels could safely operate.

Mark Lottis of 5-Star Charters stated that he appreciates the excellent fishing available at Port Orford and is eager to see the building and shoaling issue addressed. He indicated he would be willing to make a financial investment in a new building.

State Representative Wayne Krieger spoke of the time in 1964 when he first stepped onto the dock of Port Orford. He is committed to improving the infrastructure of the Port so that on-going generations of families can stay in the area and have thriving economic opportunities.

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Leesa Cob of POORT spoke about the opportunity for the fishing industry and the community to benefit from the establishment of an Ocean Research Station. She emphasized the need to address the shoaling issue.

Jack Emmons and Tony Cotter of Hallmark Fisheries spoke about the need to prevent destruction of their building and equipment by waves overtopping the jetty during severe storms. Tony described the hazard of fishermen unloading their catch in the surging waves at the base of the dock and the severe safety hazard of launching vessels timed to the next “three big waves” while hoping they do not hit bottom or get overwhelmed by a even bigger wave.

Ron Kreskey, representing Congressman Peter DeFazio, spoke of the Congressman’s long-standing commitment to Port Orford. He stated that Oregon Solutions process of bringing all the stakeholders to the table and reaching agreement on a united course of action made DeFazio’s role in providing support much easier because he did not have to balance disparate interests. He also mentioned the effort currently going on in Charleston to develop an Ocean Research facility and that collaboration with that project should be explored.

Jeff Miles and Aaron Longton, Port Orford commercial fishermen both spoke about the need for a new building and the urgent need to address the hazardous conditions caused by the shoaling in the harbor.

Port Orford Port Commissioner Ed Dowdy cautioned the group not to get the building issue and the shoaling issue done on the “cheap.” He passed out a graph that showed a 600% increase in dredging costs since 1972. The average costs have risen from \$26,800 for the period of 1972 to 1981 to \$470,000 for the period of 1999 to 2007. He stressed that while it may seem practical to minimize costs, it may not be in the best long-term economic interest of the Port to delay paying for needed improvements. The release of federal funds in the Harbor Maintenance Trust fund could support the needs of the Port for a long-term solution.

Port Orford Port Commissioner Scott Luhr spoke about the need to solve the shoaling issue to increase economic opportunity and improve safety.

Gary Anderson, General Manager of the Port of Port Orford spoke about the unique value of bringing all the stakeholders to the table to address the building and shoaling issues.

Jeff Griffin of the Governor’s Economic Revitalization Team spoke of the Governors intense interest in increasing economic opportunity in Port Orford and that his is looking forward to the Oregon Solutions process having the full participation of the team members to fulfill this opportunity for united action.

John Craig of the Army Corp of Engineers spoke about the financial pressures on the USCOE to address major jetty issues all along the Oregon Coast. He reported that President Bush’s 2009 budget had \$7,000 for Port Orford dredging. John stated that he is well aware of the hazardous safety issues facing the fishing industry at Port Orford.

The Team identified other stakeholders who should be invited to participate in this project:

OECD, Port Division
US Coast Guard, Seattle
ODOT
USDA – Clem Singer
Shore Bank – Adam Zimmerman

Oregon Community Foundation
OCZMA – Ono Hussing
Surf Riders and other conservation groups – Leesa wil contact
Curry County – Lucie LaBonte
Port Orford Chamber of Commerce - David Smith.

Current Name of the project was approved. The acronym is POMED

The whole team will meet again when the working groups have recommendations to present.

The proposed walking tour of the Port was cancelled since all have been there recently.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM