

Humboldt Bay EBM Advisory Team
Meeting Notes – March 14, 2008
USFWS Conference Room

February Meeting Notes: no changes

Cultural Resources Roundtable: PlanWest, consulting firm compiling Humboldt Bay cultural resources inventory, is scheduling a roundtable for the end of June to present their information and discuss the use of the data. Breakout sessions will include: 1) organizations to use historical/cultural data; 2) how to use the data; 3) identify data needs in cultural resource areas. They would like the EBM Advisory Team to participate.

Ocean Protection Council Initiative Preliminary Proposal: Biological Resources subcommittee discussed submitting a pre-proposal to Sea Grant to identify biological indicators. The Core Team broadened the scope of the proposal to create a sediment circulation model that the Advisory Team voted on at the January meeting. This isn't a sediment budget, it doesn't identify sinks, core sampling is not included. Eileen Cashman and Margaret Lang of the HSU Environmental Resources Department will assist with the watershed portion of the model; Greg Crawford and Jeff Anderson have existing data for the bay model. Adona White, WQCB and Vicki Frey, DFG are the management collaborators. Jeff Borgeld, HSU Oceanography, will analyze the sediment grain size. John Largier, UC Davis coastal oceanographer, will also be involved. Additional turbidity data collection would include several watershed sites on Salmon Creek, mudflats around the bay, and navigation channel towards north and south bay; sampling the bay entrance is too difficult. The water column total suspended sediment will be analyzed. The proposal includes portions of subcommittee ideas: model and data collection from water quality subcommittee; light attenuation affecting eelgrass in the bay from biological resources subcommittee; involvement of management decision makers and public outreach from socio-economic subcommittee. This is the first step in the capacity building process that can lead to additional EBM projects. There is the strong connection of the multidisciplinary team involved in the project, using an ecosystem approach. Sea Grant proposals involve graduate students, four trainees included in this proposal: oceanography, watershed, modeling, turbidity mapping. Greg Crawford is administering the proposal. Craig Benson, RCAA, and Mark Wheatley, DFG, wrote letters of support. The circulation model will assist a variety of managers to connect the sediment input from the watersheds to the bay and help with the design of restoration projects. Susan will distribute the completed pre-proposal to the Advisory Team.

West Coast EBM Implementers Workshop: Susan, Diane Ashton, Becky Price-Hall and Mark Wheatley attended a West Coast EBM Workshop in San Francisco with people involved in the six EBM projects: San Juan Island, Port Orford (commercial fisheries oriented); Humboldt Bay; Elkhorn Slough; Morro Bay; Ventura. Other five projects funded by foundations; Humboldt was the only publicly funded project. The main topics of the workshop included:

- Value of social networking: Gabriel Casper, Monitoring Group consulting firm, demonstrated software that establishes the value of social networking, shows gaps in communication, quantifies analysis of information related to data collected during projects.

- Consensus statement: The group agreed that they need to develop a consensus statement stating a shared strategy for EBM.
- Vertical and horizontal coordination of projects – need collaboration between local projects and larger agency tasks: NOAA ecological assessment of California Current System; COMPASS (Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea) funded by Packard Foundation; Ocean Observing Systems (OOS), HSU local representative.
- Stakeholder involvement - necessary at all levels for EBM to be viable, six projects have varying degrees of involvement: San Juan – mix of businesses and scientists; Port Orford involves commercial fishermen and MPA process; Humboldt – combination of science and managers; Elkhorn Slough – academic, agriculture and recreational mix; Morro Bay – academic; Ventura – one person interested in dam removal expanded to ecosystem.
- Indicators: need to identify biological, physical and social indicators; hold workshop on development and use of indicators; identify one indicator that all projects have in common – Ocean Values indicator (www.coastalvalues.org). Packard Foundation website describes their view of EBM. Understand physical processes first which will lead to biological needs and addressing social values and trade-offs
- EBM project communication - needed within each projects and between all areas with outreach to the public; discussion regarding the term EBM and the constraints of the jargon; different project titles – San Juan Initiative, San Luis Obispo Science and Education Alliance (SLOSEA), Port Orford Ocean Resources Team (POORT). New book – “EBM for the Ocean” by Heather Leslie and Karen McCloud
- Workshops - indicators, trade-offs

Next workshop will be in a year in San Juan.

Foundation Tour Itinerary: Susan discussed the Humboldt Bay EBM with foundation representatives – they are interested in the implementation process, design of entity to administer local program; the program vision, not particular issues. Packard, OPC and Nature Conservancy representatives will be attending Humboldt Bay Symposium on April 24-25; Susan is organizing a local tour for them on the 23rd, driving a 12 passenger van:

- Start at the Sea Grant office
- Myrtle Ave – description of restoration projects along the way to Arcata: Craig Benson
- McDaniel Slough: Julie Neander, City of Arcata; Paula Golightly, USFWS funding project
- HSU – lunch with staff involved with project, Dean Howard, President Richmond
- Potawat Village – tribal connection: Mark Wheatley, Craig Benson
- Harbor District Office: David Hull
- Fernbridge: Denver Nelson Dairy, Mark Wheatley; Salt River Restoration Project – Donna Chambers, RCD
- Table Bluff – vista point of bay and Eel River Delta
- Wiyot Community Center – probably not enough time
- From Sea Grant office - Bay tour on HSU Vessel, Coral Sea, with hors d’oeuvres using local products

Susan will distribute information packet prior to their arrival: map of sites, aerial photos, description of projects, contact information for people involved with the projects, websites.

EBM Vision Statement vs

Ideal world
The way we wish it to be
Our heart's desire
Jingle

Mission Statement

Our role
Part we will play in realizing vision
Our work
Elevator Speech

Vision Statement:

Our vision is a vibrant and resilient Humboldt Bay ecosystem encompassing the watersheds, human communities, bay and coastal waters in which ecosystem integrity and human well being are maintained and improved.

The vision of the Humboldt Bay Ecosystem-based management Program is to effectively integrate scientific understanding into decision-making and to substantively involve stakeholders in all aspects of the process.

“Vision: A healthy, thriving and resilient marine and coastal ecosystem along the entire West Coast that supports a range of human activities.”

Each participant wrote their own statement; all were displayed and ranked. The Core Team will develop a vision statement combining elements from the Advisory Team comments.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to develop partnerships and work collaboratively to improve and maintain the integrity and function of the bay, watersheds, coastal waters, and communities in the Humboldt Bay region for the benefit of the ecosystem, community members, and other stakeholders.

“The mission of Humboldt Bay ecosystem-based management (EBM) is to create an interdisciplinary planning framework that links the needs of people, habitats, and species to ensure a healthy future for the watershed, bay, and near-shore ecosystem. Humboldt Bay EBM will increase our scientific understanding and shared knowledge of this rich ecosystem in a manner that promotes community-wide collaboration in natural resource management.”

Each participant wrote their own statement; all were displayed and ranked. The Core Team will develop a mission statement combining elements from the Advisory Team comments. Both statements will be posted on the Discussion Group so the entire Advisory Team can have input.

Goals: Reduce the following list of goals to 3-5 for the next meeting:

- To facilitate decision making based on sound science that addresses the complexity, interconnectedness and dynamic nature of the watersheds, bay and ocean in the Humboldt
- Bay Ecosystem
- To foster coordination, collaboration and communication between local, state and federal agencies, diverse stakeholder and other local & regional water resource related efforts
- To design a broad, adaptive and inclusive framework to guide implementation and adaptive management of EBM in the Humboldt Bay region

- To build mutual trust and support of local constituencies, resource managers, and local agencies and promote resolution of natural resource conflicts
- To develop and support opportunities for economic and community development that improve well-being for residents, the community and the coastal ecosystem.
- To promote stewardship of the land, natural and cultural
- resources in the Humboldt Bay coastal area through education and outreach

“Goals: Promote a strong foundation of knowledge for ecosystem-based management using indicators of health; Strengthen coastal communities’ ability to engage in ecosystem-based management initiatives.”

From: Draft Action Plan, West Coast Governors’ Agreement on Ocean Health 2007 p. 24

Next meetings: April 11 at the Aquatic Center; May 9 (last regular monthly meeting)

- April 11 meeting – discuss continuing strategy at next meeting, Humboldt Area Foundation has a Community Building grant that could assist with this; EBM Goals; subcommittee meeting – start discussion on second round of proposals
- Coastal Conservancy contract goes through December, Susan will write report for program
- Continue to meet every other month for continuity of Team and to develop second round of proposals.
- Becky Price-Hall is developing EBM implementation proposal which can be submitted for Foundation funding
- Craig Benson said Coastal Conservancy contacted RCAA to discuss integrating coordination of Trails, Spartina and EBM project funding
- Need to expand program to stakeholder groups; outreach and education to community
 - Emphasis on science/academics in the beginning to understand physical processes of the bay; continue with outreach to involve other stakeholders in EBM.