

Humboldt Bay EBM Advisory Team
Meeting Notes – April 11, 2008
HSU Aquatic Center

Announcements:

- Humboldt Bay Symposium, April 24-25, registration, call for posters and agenda on Harbor District website
- Funding available for Areas of Special Biological Significance through the NCRWQCB; workshop in Santa Rosa on April 23 for applicants
- Resource Legacy Fund is funding development of a database of local research papers, articles and GIS maps from Pt Arena to the Oregon border as information for the MPA process in northern California. Pete Nelson and Steve Steinberg are coordinating this effort. Database will be available to the public so copyright issues need to be addressed.

Implementation Proposal:

This is the governance portion of our EBM Unified Proposal. It proposes to integrate EBM into local entities, defuse idea into community. The proposal also process includes to analyze the framework structure and objectives of a long-term EBM program and possibility of a Humboldt Bay Institute

Suggestions:

- Include section on process of EBM information translation to managers; add section to one proposal as model for transferring data into policy
- Question regarding short term objective of implementing HBMP Conservation Policies rather than all policies in an EBM format; add detail about implementation of plan policies
- Incorporating human information systems as well as science into framework; improve effective communication between managers, scientists and community
- Include examples of incorporating science into recommended policies
- Explanation for choices of proposals; section from unified proposal describes this, will be included in packet for foundation representatives
- Describe economic reasons for implementation of science into policy
- Acknowledge attempt to change state and federal mandates; part of coast-wide EBM community, transfer of local decisions can be implemented in the larger system
- Identify partners of MOMU; draft memo will be distributed for review, possible signing at next meeting
- Rewrite section on “Humboldt Bay Initiative proposes to...”; replace “broad, adaptive and inclusive outline” with means; include efficient and effective; “Reorganize and integrate existing bay management structures to overcome constraints, jurisdictional rivalries, resource agency inefficiencies to improve the effectiveness of resource and human management.”; improve efficiencies rather than negative verbs
- Portray EBM vision not problems
- Post examples of translating science into policy on discussion group
- Susan will post information about foundation representatives visiting the area

HBS PowerPoint: Reviewed Susan's EBM presentation for the HBS

- Vision statement
- Ecosystem and EBM definitions
- Differences between traditional management and ecosystem approach
- Policy context
- Project background incorporating two plans
- Program objectives
- EBM Boundaries – watershed to bay to ocean
- Process describing each group and subcommittees
- Art and EBM – change first bullet to “Will science alone make the Ecosystem better?”; second bullet “Encourage community partnership”
- Related projects
- Create timeline diagram instead of bullets
- “What we’ve learned”: visual of where is it, where are we now, this takes time; change title to “What we are learning” since this is an ongoing process; unique opportunity to collaborate; a great deal of money and commitment;
- “What we want to do”: establish research programs to better understand the ecosystem; research to form policy; continue improvement, highlight components of program and desire to continue; short term actions items, how to get there

Reduce text; add bay scenes, people, possibly using picture as background with bullets (no sub-bullets) in color that is easy to read; outreach tool to the public, include public participation information; we're not inventing EBM, it exists in other areas, we're developing local plan; newspaper article on EBM, this is a new project and is on-going. The current group want to expand, add a Communications/Outreach arm to current program.

Foundation Tour:

Group discussion to address the following questions: learning about the EBM project, how you engaged and are continuing to engage the community, where you are with the EBM efforts now and where are you headed and then before heading to see the sites, have a discussion about how the EBM effort is changing or may change the issues these sites are facing and how they address these issues.

Lunch at HSU with Dean Howard and faculty involved with EBM program

Site tour Arcata area from 1-4 Mc Daniels slough and one other

Coral Sea reception from 4-6, appetizers and bay tour

Site suggestions:

- Friends of the Dunes Stamp property; good example of community education and outreach effort; unique habitat
- After reception, drive back Old Arcata Road to point out other restoration projects
- North Bay lands related to EBM; different habitat types trying to protect and promote, emphasize benefits of different species and economic return, don't have answers now but with EBM can apply knowledge to these situations
- Site that has forward movement and future vision

- Clear cut to address issue of difference EBM could make; time constraint; stop at area with view of watershed, marsh and bay – Stamp property; Google Earth picture showing overview; WQCB has information on silviculture practices in the watershed for packet
- Show balance of negative impacts to positive areas: Salt River; Butchers Slough – restoration using detention ponds, dealing with urban runoff through wetlands to filter runoff; Mad River Slough bridge with mill visible by bay and up to watershed; West End Road north fork of Janes Creek is terrible
- “Everything looks green but...”, grass covering landscape doesn’t mean you have habitat, *Ceanothus* covering hillside doesn’t mean you have a forest; portray the context of the vision, identify problems and discuss EBM vision and movement to address these (clear cuts, urban development, agriculture, fisheries emergency)
- Emphasize that we can affect change and improve situations if acted on quickly, time is critical
- At McDaniels Slough point out hardened levees, historical lose of habitat, EBM would help guide recovery of wetlands; put individual projects in bigger context of bay-wide goals; work at ecosystem level stating total number of acres to recover rather than project level recovery of only one area – past project
- Trail along railroad route; show area currently used by bike riders vs using EBM to guide the proposed trail
- Cutten area could blow up with urban development; describe how EBM could guide the area through development – future project
- Develop different ways to deal with inherent conflict; ways to minimize conflict, simplify process, identify basics
- Show that opportunity exists here – facing decline in natural resources so development pressures are taking over; use EBM system to guide potential, move forward in a way that protects the resources if we had the opportunity before we move to far along to recover
- “More bang for the buck” up here than overly developed area like Santa Rosa
- Large coho in Martin’s Slough through the golf course showing how resilient they are; or destroyed habitat so fish hanging on by a thread in unexpected areas, the only niche they have left; we’re not over the edge, have opportunity to improve habitat
- Every place has issues, we have our own – timber harvest, water quality in the bay, port development, urbanization; we’re trying to find a new way to grapple with them, reinvent the way we deal with our issues, provide a model for other places to use; example of what can be done elsewhere, transferability of EBM from here to other places; pay for solutions here as well as other places; our ability to try new methods, to learn
- In terms of coho situation just hanging on at the golf course – we have resources to protect and we’re needy
- Stressing salmon issues is important – one of the last urban areas that has salmon running through it’s watersheds; we still have a chance to restore, EBM can guide process
- Regarding transferability – ability of Humboldt Bay work to be catalyst along the north coast for regional EBM work; connecting with existing programs like IRWIMP
- Paradigm – wellness vs health care; promoting health vs treating an illness; other places trying to fix system, we can portray a more positive direction to our situation
- Prescriptions for maintaining health can be implemented in County General Plan, Fortuna General Plan, Eureka Green Waste Ordinance

- Coho story links watershed to estuary to bay
- Scale of economy – better “bang for buck” here as opposed to other areas of the state for estuarine and salmon restoration; cost of projects vs return; a little messed up here but not so much that we can’t recover them; investment in Humboldt Bay can have significant returns
- School grade list, report card, of important topics and habitats, showing current state (D, F, C) then with new management anticipated improvement to B or C; be transparent about all situations – simple handout of grading areas, some in great shape, others failing but with EBM we forecast a positive future
- Present what we have because foundations committed to supporting efforts in different places
- Small community understands cultural connection to the land and resources as opposed to urban areas in terms of success in implementing EBM; clear understanding of where our resources come from; even with diversity of community the small size gives us a chance to come together
- Local examples that tell a good story, that are transferable; we have the ability mobilize forces to make changes happen; Martin Slough story that interfaces urban and resource conflicts with the ability to fix the situation
- Include community commitment in grade list to make EBM happen
- Resource based economy that will be here a long time, changing programs but still economy base
- 1-2 page description of subcommittee proposals for foundation packet.

Next Meeting: May 9, 1 – 4 USFWS upstairs conference room, discuss options for continuing EBM program; potluck at Diane Ashton’s house following meeting.