

Humboldt Bay Ecosystem-Based Management Program

Meeting Notes: May 9, 2008, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arcata office

1. Desired Meeting Outcomes

- A. Determine how the EBM Program will continue forward from this point
- B. Discuss strategic plan development

2. March 2008 and April 2008 Meeting Notes--approved; will be posted to project website

3. Foundation Visit Report

A. Packard Foundation

- 1. Advice from representative Kristin Sherwood: “Think Big”
- 2. They like to see that their investment is “leveraged” in terms of using their \$ to acquire additional program funds
- 3. They requested that we develop a strategic plan
 - a. “Open Standards” process
 - 1. Prioritize key threats (similar to The Nature Conservancy’s Conservation Action Planning (CAP) process
 - 2. Clarify short-term and long-term goals
 - 3. Define strategies for implementation
 - b. We need better demonstration of strong commitments by all proposed project participants
- 4. They are also asking the managers of their currently funded projects to go through this strategic planning process
- 5. Action item: Susan ask if Packard Foundation will provide assistance, e.g., facilitators to help us through strategic planning

B. Resources Legacy Fund Foundation

- 1. Interested in estuarine restoration activities
- 2. Comment on our Progress Report: the projects are too conceptual, but worthy of development
- 3. They like to fund jointly with other funding organizations
- 4. They favor phased projects
- 5. They like to see adaptive management, i.e., learn and move on
- 6. They requested that we keep them updated on the progress of our program

C. The Nature Conservancy

- 1. Very involved with the Marine Initiative in Morro Bay area and in a large collaborative fishery project
- 2. TNC project is focused on development of experimental sustainable fisheries methods, involving lots of collaborators

D. In February 2008, Susan Schlosser attended a meeting in San Francisco, the first “West Coast EBM Implementers Network.” A subcommittee formed at this meeting later prepared a proposal to fund an EBM coordination/outreach position

4. Strategic Planning: the Second Phase of Humboldt EBM Program

Comments from the group:

- A. Open Standards is in alignment with our basic goals—we can make an effort to align with this formats, terminology, etc., but we will need some help with the process
- B. This as a continuation, refinement and improvement of our current program
- C. Open Standards strategic plan process offers a process to develop a working relationship with foundations

- D. A multi-faceted estuarine restoration monitoring project could be included in our strategic plan as one concept in strategic plan
- E. We could “think big” in terms of including ocean-related projects and integrating with other place-based EBM programs and with NOAA and California Current EBM programs
- F. It will be important to provide evidence of stakeholder support and participant commitment—we need to establish a stakeholder’s group; we could gather letters of support or one support document with lots of signatures
- G. We need to clarify why the proposals we’ve developed are important and strengthen or better explain their applications to the Humboldt Bay ecosystem, e.g., state how the ecosystem, managers, the community, etc. will benefit from each proposed project we have to far
- H. This is an opportunity to explore how to integrate with California Current EBM projects of COMPASS and NOAA
- I. Strategic planning would be really helpful to integrate our scientific proposals with the governance/implementation concepts
- J. We aren’t strategic now in our decisions and we really need a process like this. It will strengthen our EBM program
- K. Open Standards is a process that we could use to integrate the broad ecological perspective of EBM with our scientific and implementation concepts
- L. It would be helpful to have a technical writer work with us in developing the strategic plan
- M. Group consensus: A vote was held and all present in favor of developing a strategic plan using the Open Standards process. Susan will contact Kristin Sherwood and ask if they are willing to provide assistance
- N. Action Item: using the Stakeholder List developed at this meeting, begin assessing participation in a strategic planning process

5. Interim EBM Advisory Team and Subcommittee Meetings

- A. If scaled back, with meetings less often, Susan could continue to coordinate meetings and Debbie could continue to take notes
- B. Suggestion from the Core Team: all EBM Advisory Team members can serve as “EBM Emissaries” by giving presentations to their colleagues. Susan will post the powerpoint she presented at the Humboldt Bay Symposium for use by others
 - 1. Three people immediately said they could use the powerpoint over the next 4 weeks.
- C. Group consensus
 - 1. Advisory team will meet every other month, with 2-hour meetings – next meeting in July
 - 2. Keep meeting focused on what work needs to be accomplished, not get side-tracked, probably start with organizing strategic planning, stakeholder group, and keeping development of proposals going
 - 3. Some meetings could be field trips—perhaps a way to get more stakeholder involvement; also a good way to launch estuarine restoration proposal
 - 4. Susan will distribute Humboldt Bay Symposium powerpoint and notes to Advisory Team

6. Draft Stakeholder Team – groups to contact and invite to strategic planning meeting

- ∞ Aleutian Goose Working Group

- ∞ Buckeye Conservancy
- ∞ California Native Plant Society
- ∞ Caltrans
- ∞ Chambers of Commerce (Eureka and Arcata)
- ∞ Fishermen's Marketing Association
- ∞ Friends of Arcata Marsh
- ∞ Friends of the Dunes
- ∞ Humboldt Area Foundation
- ∞ Humboldt Baykeeper
- ∞ Humboldt Bay Stewards
- ∞ Humboldt Coastal Dunes Cooperative
- ∞ Humboldt County Farm Bureau
- ∞ Humboldt County Supervisors
- ∞ Humboldt County Resources Conservation District
- ∞ Humboldt Fish Action Council
- ∞ Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association
- ∞ Indian Tribes
- ∞ Jacoby Creek Land Trust
- ∞ Maritime shipping industry
- ∞ North Coast Regional Land Trust
- ∞ Northcoast Environmental Center
- ∞ Pacific Coast Joint Venture
- ∞ PG&E
- ∞ Recreational Fishermen
- ∞ Redwood Science Project (HSU)
- ∞ Shellfish growers
- ∞ UC Cooperative Extension
- ∞ USGS/COE Sediment Group

7. Evaluation of EBM Program

Comments from the group:

- A. It has been great to get to know everybody and to hear other's views
- B. Good to learn about EBM concepts
- C. Felt like we were moving forward in a positive direction from STANCE
- D. Collaboration is always rewarding
- E. Participation was beneficial as an educator in terms of sharing information with students
- F. Exciting to participate in a group that is struggling with how best to put EBM into action
- G. Exciting to be at the forefront of EBM
- H. Appreciated that there was always a sense of accomplishment and continuity—collaborative tools was important communication tool between meetings

8. Final Report on Humboldt Bay EBM Program—due Dec 2008

- A. Progress Report prepared for funders can serve as draft for final report. Susan has posted the report as a pdf—she will post the text in Word so members of the Advisory Team can use track changes to make comments
- B. Progress on the strategic plan will be noted in the final report

- C. Susan plans to have a draft final report ready for peer review in Sept 2008, then revise it for submission in Dec

9. Action Items

- A. Susan will email EBM Program Progress Report as a WORD document to Advisory Committee for their comments and editing
- B. Susan will email her Humboldt Bay Symposium Powerpoint presentation and notes to Advisory Team
- C. Susan will email the Morro Bay Proposal to Advisory Team

**10. NEXT ADVISORY TEAM MEETING – Friday July 24, 2008 – 8:30 to 10:30 am.
Location to be announced**