

Humboldt Bay Ecosystem-Based Management Program

Advisory Team Meeting Notes: September 26, 2008

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office, Arcata

Announcements:

- Coastal and Estuarine Restoration Federation Conference, Nov 2009, Portland OR
 - Brian Smith, NOAA Coastal Services Center, would like a participant on conference steering committee for EBM session during the conference and someone to make a presentation on the Humboldt Bay EBM program
- Susan, Becky Price-Hall, Diane Ashton and Mark Wheatly are attending the West Coast EBM Implementers Network meeting at Friday Harbor, WA on Oct. 6-7; focus on social/economic indicators and governance issues
- University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center Website publication section has EBM governance and socioeconomic papers posted
- Invasive Species Workshop, Oct. 30

Joint Powers Agreement - Catherine Kuhlman, North Coast Water Quality Control Board:

- Discuss activities in San Francisco to establish an entity related to water quality for collaboration with scientists to administer grants
 - Started with idea of creating institute locally, but funding is limiting factor; two large water quality organizations in California, Southern California Water Research Institute (primary focus on ocean issues and stormwater) and San Francisco Estuary Institute (focus on San Francisco Bay with grants extending into north coast region); both looking into expanding state-wide
 - SFEI adopted Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to create Aquatic Science Center for agencies to work together for a common goal; the Board of Directors is made up of the Bay area water quality agencies with the ability to move funds to SFEI without going through a sole-source contract; Board can direct and/or seek funding for projects
 - Water Board looking to extend JPA concept to north coast to administer funding; Aquatic Science Center Board declined because they are not ready to expand. We need to form our own JPA if this is our desired setup.
- Two areas to work on locally:
 - Panel or workshop with Mike Connor, SFEI, Steve Wiseberg, Southern California Water Project, and local EBM Advisory Team to share information on program structure; interface with universities, regulatory agencies and science organizations; possibilities for entity to fit local area.
 - Work with people discharging into Humboldt Bay; modify their monitoring programs to generate funds to measure water quality trends in the bay; answer scientific questions regarding the bay
- Discussion:
 - Concern for funding possibilities to develop local entity; state and federal government not approving new sources; foundation money the most promising; concern for sustained funding
 - Include Steve and Mike in coordination of EBM strategic planning, Jan 12-16 in order to organize their discussion during the workshop; funded by Packard Foundation and Sea Grant, working with a consulting group, Foundations for Success using an established method, "Open Standards for Conservation Planning"; Panel to discuss possibilities for some form of local institute
 - How would local groups have control over project funding as opposed to SFEI Board directing projects; governance needed to establish local structure

- Aquatic Sciences Center has a list of projects they are tracking; agencies involved with JPA contribute funding to staff Board of Directors and infrastructure, grants to complete project
- Local dischargers have lack of funds, cannot support an institute; use a portion of violation settlements to fund institute; has to be voluntary – City of Eureka using fine money to bring Mike and Steve up here; create list of projects as suggestion for use of fines
- Local JPA's already exist, can they expand their mission to include an institute; needs to be public agency but duties are flexible; Harbor District is not part of a JPA, there is a Hazmat JPA for response to spills, others include transportation issues, Redwood Coast Energy Authority
- Institute should be affiliated with the university depending on agreements; need to start focus on Humboldt Bay priorities then expand to surrounding area
- Include Catherine, Steve and Mike in planning for strategic workshop to include their session as input for next steps to EBM program

Cultural, Socioeconomic Workshop:

- NOAA CSC funded historical/cultural inventory that PlanWest completed; included an overview of historical uses around Humboldt Bay and interviews with current user groups
- Betsy Watson, HSU Sociology professor, participated and stated that she had graduate students looking for projects, Katie Glover is one of the students
- Goals of EBM program as background for socioeconomic workshop; using Watershed Plan and Harbor District Management Plan; came up with goals from definition, mission statement
 - Project, Ecological, Economic, Social/Cultural Goals
- Discussion of goals as information for the Workshop; innovative communication tools to convey socio/cultural ideas; sharing information, public outreach
- Katie discussed the Environmental and Community Graduate Program and the group of 45 students that meet weekly to discuss possible projects; she will share the EBM interim progress report with them to consider thesis projects
 - Joel Gerwein described a parallel project regarding a plan for dealing with invasive *Spartina* in salt marshes and governance crossing jurisdiction for policy component
 - Other thesis possibilities include: human use patterns around Humboldt Bay; information transfer within organizations and expanding out to the community; dispersal of public funds for restoration projects, the inequity of the system, methods for local group to become more competitive
- Discussion regarding the need for coordinated management through an Institute or the Harbor District as the institutional capacity to carry out EBM concept. The Strategic Planning process will be the next step to establish this.

Next meetings: Oct. 24, Nov. 21, Dec. 19