

SLOSEA

San Luis Obispo Science and Ecosystem Alliance

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Notes

12:00 - 5:00 p.m., Thursday, December 6, 2007
Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay, CA

Members Present: Deborah Barker, Dan Berman, Nick Franco, Henriette Groot, Leslie Krinsk, Susan Lichtenbaum, Don Maruska, Carole Maurer, Steve McGrath, Carolyn Moffatt, Juventino Ortiz, Christine Pattison, Leslie Rebik, John Steinbeck, Kirk Sturm, Lars Tomanek, Dean Wendt, Karen Worcester

Guests Present: Lenora Brewer, Allison Chan, Vince Cicero, Monica Hunter, Ann Kitajima, Mark Moline, Jason Morgan, Lisa Needles, John Penvenne, Debra Stakes, Brian Zelenke

Members Absent: Rick Algert, Ross Clark, Elizabeth Clarke, Mel de la Motte, Tim Duff, John Field, Cheryl McGovern, Marla Morrissey, Henry Pontarelli, Michelle Roest, Gary Ruggerone

[Advisory Committee comments, questions and suggestions in italics]

Ecosystem Updates by Resource Managers: During working lunch, resource managers reported current activity areas for their agencies. *Michele Roest indicated that her position has recently been redefined from a past focus on Hearst State Beach to the current development of MPAs in the Sanctuary. Dan Berman will be attempting to link with Lars Tomanek to coordinate sample testing. MIG received funding for another year. Debra Stakes introduced herself as a faculty member from Cuesta College Oceanography program. They will provide another user forum for SLOSEA data. Karen Worcester reported on a new harbor study on sediment chemistry toxicity. Sue Lichtenbaum reported that funding for the Harbor Department is down, although they are currently preparing for a boat demolition on Tuesday. Allison Chan reported that they received over 600 surveys (they had hoped for 400), and are now processing the data. Information is available on the SLOSEA website with results, queries, and opinions. Monica Hunter introduced herself as a representative of the Central Coast Watershed Program, whose strategy is to bring coastal groups together to implement MLPAs with funding from RLFF. The group plans to develop strategies and recommendations for new policies. Henriette Groot reported on her recent trip to Norway, where she observed an absence of normal migrating herring in the fjords. Nick Franco reported that the former SeaWest area has been renamed to the "Harmony Highlands State Park". There will be a commission meeting to decide on several access issues – this may affect SLOSEA's Human Access Initiative. Steve McGrath introduced himself as the newly appointed Port San Luis Harbor Manager. The harbor plans to have a dredge program in the spring, and will be looking at the increased use of the Pecho Coast Trail. Carole Maurer reported that Proposition 218 passed, which means that the county will proceed with the environmental review for Los Osos. The Los Osos Citizens Advisory Council will hold a meeting on December 13, at which two new ordinances will be discussed. Vince Cicero voiced his department's support for SLOSEA efforts. Ann Kitajima reported for Annie Gillespie on the*

sediment monitoring effort, including installation of a rain gauge at Chorro Creek and two additional creek samplers to be installed by January. Deb Barker reported on coordination efforts with partners in restoration. The grade stabilization project has been completed. Other efforts include a creek management tailgate meeting, a video on water issues in Los Osos, and ecology action/manure management for horse owners. John Steinbeck gave an update on the human access initiative, and a poster that was created and presented at the WSN conference by graduate student Grant Waltz. UC Santa Cruz has a model for intertidal monitoring of MLPA, which can be used on our site. A recent poaching incident at the site caused a gunnysack of material to be removed, since the docent on duty did not know how to respond. Lars Tomanek provided an update of continuing research on primordial gonadal tissue tumors in recently collected gobies. Don Maruska reported on the results of the Management Action Memo created by SLOSEA. Fish & Game has indicated that the Owl Limpet is #8 on the list for funding; however only the first 4 will be funded this year. A lesson has been learned that sometimes agencies cannot or will not respond to ecosystem-based management recommendations. The possibility of creation of a regional ecosystem stewardship council was discussed, with efforts to be taken between agencies and/or through legislature. Dean Wendt reported on the recent PEW fellows meeting held in Morro Bay, a book chapter that is currently being reviewed, SLOSEA mention in several newsletters, and posters recently developed for the Western Society of Naturalists meetings. John Steinbeck also mentioned a recent article in "Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment".

SLOSEA Science in Action – Water Quality Observatory for Morro Bay Estuary

Mark Moline gave an overview of the water quality initiative, the approach that was taken by SLOSEA (who closely followed the Elkhorn Slough sample), and the four water quality monitoring stations now in Morro Bay and the estuary. BM1 (Bay Mouth 1) is located at the T-pier, BS1 (Bay Station 1) is located just off of Pasadena Point, CM1 (Creek Mouth 1) is located at the confluence of Chorro Creek and Los Osos Creek, and CM2 (Creek Mouth 2) is located in the marsh of Chorro Creek. See the website for more detail. Maintenance detail of the water quality monitoring stations is being developed, with the idea to work with MBNEP's volunteer program. Data is collected during a 2-minute interval, and updated on the server every 15 minutes. The possibility of obtaining vertical profiles, cross-sections, and a met station was discussed. Suggestions were made to contact and coordinate with the NEP for water sample collections during a major turbidity change. Fouling issues and calibration of instruments were discussed. John Penvenne suggested that everyone should review the SLOSEA website, and make comments or suggestions for improvement. The Water Quality Initiative "work list" for the next few months includes: purchase of spare instruments, development of QA/QC protocol, data reduction protocol, interactive database access, dashboard development, relay of information to the RWQCB, ADCP automation, development of custom products, and set-up of a met station. Mark Moline showed a demonstration of a DELFT-3D animation of a North Korean bay, and discussed possibilities of its application to Morro Bay. Outreach targets include: additional data monitors, alert systems, website linkages to media, a watch network, information kiosk, and data sources for K-14.

Discussion of Management-Useful Analyses & Products from Water Quality Initiative

The group was asked to consider the four questions below. Responses were given in a “brainstorming” format.

- (1) What is the most important water quality issue for your agency or organization?
 - *Bioproductivity of marine environment – how factors affect it & how to influence it?*
 - *Trends in parameters – how affected by management? (wastewater treatment, irrigated agriculture)*
 - *City of Morro Bay – nitrate sources, well water sources, Morro Creek, Chorro Creek*
 - *Have management actions on pressured sources impacted nitrate levels – e.g. does fencing creeks significantly reduce nitrate flows?*
 - *Do algae blooms result more from upwellings, land sources, sunlight, etc.?*
 - *Relationship of oxygen to algae blooms? Need data collection on algae blooms.*
 - *Need for community ecologist to understand how species communities are doing.*
 - *How does this contribute to ecosystem-based management? – e.g. eel grass distribution and productivity*
 - *Present nitrate issue for Los Osos – sources and impacts on the Bay*
 - *TMDL nutrient in creeks*
 - *Everyone wants clean water*

- (2) What management decisions have the potential to be affected by our data?
 - *Where do we put our money to address these problems?*
 - *Impact of runoff effects – e.g. no car washing? Does it make a difference?*
 - *Determine relative impacts – e.g. site-specific gully runoff vs. large land sheet erosion*
 - *Crisis vs. long-term (timeframe of project)*
 - *What are pressure points on water quality and how can we influence?*
 - *How trends are affected by management?*
 - *Willingness to act/write letters/advocacy (MIG)*
 - *Sampling adult fish species may be easier to evaluate*

- (3) How should we develop and link data systems to facilitate management decisions in your agency or organization?
 - *Science literacy*
 - *Data links that are important to community – not just students*
 - *Data that allows the public to be informed, and give useful information for public response to area concerns*
 - *Staff meetings should be held to share information & discuss packaging potential projects*
 - *Develop management questions – models – hypotheses – data analyses*
 - *Use students to follow Tenera protocol to correlate with water quality parameters*
 - *Correlate eel grass with water quality parameters*

- (4) What specific type of outreach tool would be useful to your agency or organization?
 - *Data systems should be easy to graph – e.g. Excel*
 - *Ease of use to test hypotheses*
 - *Links to other time series data*

- *Public accessibility*
- *Storm water management plan – give people data to provide more informed input – help to identify decision points – package “products”*
- *Meet with RWQCB staff*
- *Protocol for Senior Projects*

SLOSEA Program Updates - Overview of Collaborative Fisheries Initiative

This item was postponed until the February 2008 Advisory Committee meeting

Future Meeting Dates for 2008:

First Quarter:	February	19	(this date is set)
Second Quarter:	June	3 or 5	
Third Quarter:	September	2 or 4	
Fourth Quarter:	December	2 or 3 or 4	