

SLOSEA

San Luis Obispo Science and Ecosystem Alliance

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Notes

12:00 - 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 26, 2009

Museum Conference Room, Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA

Members Present: Dan Berman, Mel de la Motte, Nick Franco, Henriette Groot, Susan Lichtenbaum, Don Maruska, Carole Maurer, Carolyn Moffatt, Christine Pattison, Henry Pontarelli, Leslie Rebik, Gary Ruggerone, Debra Stakes, John Steinbeck, Dean Wendt, Karen Worcester

Guests Present: Annie Gillespie, John Hansen, Scott Kimura, Mark Moline, Dwayne Oberhoff, Jennifer Oquendo, John Stephens, Grant Waltz, Johanna Weston, Brian Zelenke

Members Absent: Rick Algert, Deborah Barker, Elizabeth Clarke, Tim Duff, John Field, Steve McGrath, Juventino Ortiz, Mary Root, Lars Tomanek

[Advisory Committee oral comments, questions and suggestions in italics]

Ecosystem Updates by Resource Managers:

During working lunch, resource managers reported current activity areas for their agencies. *John Hansen introduced himself as the new West Coast EBM Network Coordinator. He began his new position in January 2009. Karen Worcester indicated that they are attempting to define a number to measure "aquatic damage". Christine Pattison circulated several new "species" brochures. Henry Pontarelli indicated that Lisa Wise Consulting is creating business strategies for waterfront businesses. They have also received a grant to monitor a commercial fish offloading facility. Carolyn Moffatt indicated that she had nothing new to report. Dan Berman mentioned the results of the fencing project on San Luisito Creek, and referred to the article in the current edition of Turning the Tide. Annie Gillespie confirmed that it had been a long, slow winter with little monitoring action. Sue Lichtenbaum spoke to the issue of derelict boats, and their inability to act until the boat sinks. Henriette Groot reported her attendance at a hearing in Sacramento, at which the subject of when to turn off old power plants was discussed. Debra Stakes reported the success of the Oceanography program at Cuesta College. Student numbers have tripled in the program, and some classes will now be offered online. Nick Franco reported that Harmony Headlands is now open and is very popular. Visitors are mostly obeying the rules. Land purchases are continuing. John Stephens indicated that he is still working on fish monitoring in Morro Bay, and that he is pursuing additional data from NOAA. John Steinbeck mentioned the conclusion of the original human access/impact study, which finished in Fall 2008. Tenera has received a grant from PGE for a goby survey/study, and will be working with Lars Tomanek. Scott Kimura introduced himself as part of the group working on the intertidal project. Jennifer Oquendo introduced herself as a new research assistant, who will be working with Lars Tomanek on the arrow goby project. Carole Maurer indicated that Los Osos is reviewing a new project, which seems to be just as controversial as the first sewer project. Gary Ruggerone introduced himself as representative of the Bay Foundation. Mel de la Motte introduced himself as head of the Central Coast Fisheries Conservation Coalition (CCFCC). He*

reported that the federal government seems to be willing to work with the private sector, but that the California state government is more reluctant due to the budget crisis. Mark Moline indicated that work in continuing on the Water Quality Monitoring project. He also introduced Johanna Weston as one of his graduate students, who is working with John Penvenne on the creek stations. He also introduced Brian Zelenke as a research associate who is working to get live data to NOAA. Grant Waltz was introduced as a graduate student who has been working with Tenera on the Human Access study, and is using some of this data for his Master's thesis.

Program Updates:

A. SLOSEA Impact & Visibility (Dean Wendt)

Dean provided his update via PowerPoint.

- PowerPoint presentation

Copies of selected sections of a recent report from the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative were distributed. SLOSEA was featured in the section on "Profiles of Progress" in order to demonstrate some ways in which the recommendations of the JOCI report are being implemented currently at local and state levels.

- Handout: JOCI report "One Coast, One Future: Securing the Health of West Coast Ecosystems and Economies"

Copies of articles that have appeared recently in The Tribune & New Times were distributed.

- Handout: Viewpoint article "Support SLOSEA for everyone's sake", from The Tribune on Thursday, January 15, 2009.
- Handout: News article "Tumors and sex changes: a goby story" from New Times, January 2009.

A flyer was distributed, advertising a new book on which he was a contributor.

- Handout: Ecosystem-Based Management for the Oceans. Karen L. McLeod and Heather M. Leslie, Editors.

B. Funding & Pending Proposals

SWAMP (Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program) is a new project linking SLOSEA with the Water Board. Mark Moline reminded us to include acknowledgement of Cal Poly's contributions as part of the matching funds. This would include items such as faculty release time from teaching and program office space.

C. New SLOSEA Staff

In addition to acknowledgement of the new graduate students and research assistant, a position announcement was distributed for the new marine policy position.

- Handout: Marine Policy and Communications Manager

West Coast Ecosystem Based Management: (John Hansen)

A. Network Overview

John gave a brief description of the efforts at the state, regional and federal levels.

- PowerPoint presentation

B. Coastal Community Planning & Development Training Opportunity

John distributed a copy of the training opportunity application process. *Karen Worcester indicated that this would fit the goals of the RWQCB, and that they would be interested in low-impact goals. Dan Berman and Henry Pontarelli will review this opportunity and contact County Planning to determine if it will benefit the county.*

- Handout: Coastal Community Planning and Development

Human Access in the Rocky Intertidal: Review of 2 years of Data & Discussion of Management Implications:

A. Overview of Study and Data

Scott Kimura gave a PowerPoint presentation of the study and data.

- PowerPoint presentation

B. Review & Discussion of DRAFT Management Action Memo

- Handout: SLOSEA Management Action Memo: Managing Visitor Access in Rocky Intertidal Areas

Comments and questions from Advisory Committee members included:

- *Does the rocky intertidal area have seasons of recovery? Scott indicated that recovery patterns are now being tracked by Tenera, and there is indication that most recruitment and growth occur during spring and summer.*
- *Why are we looking at this issue now? Visitor numbers have increased as new areas of access are opened.*
- *It is very important to communicate the findings to the Coastal Commission.*
- *It is necessary to define “low” levels, and if it is “ecologically significant”.*
- *Need to indicate impacts on single species.*
- *Discuss of how to implement a docent program. State Parks already puts docents out during extreme low tides. Docents are not used for enforcement – only for education.*
- *What about using “designated trails”, such as the one at Duxbury Reef?*
- *Define what “moderate” level is, and how this is measured.*
- *Suggestion of using distributive parking lots.*
- *Suggestion of using rotating closures.*
- *Need stronger language.*
- *Mention that more data is coming.*
- *Indicate that the public will have the same, or better, enjoyment of the resource.*
- *The current recommendations apply mostly to new acquisitions.*
- *Recommendations were made for increased outreach and education.*
- *Increase the font size of the document. Perhaps extend to two pages (double-sided).*
- *Reduce the size of the SLOSEA header.*
- *Uncomfortable with limited findings versus recommendations.*

- *The main statement should indicate “don’t increase”.*
- *It may be premature to issue a memo at this time.*

SLOSEA Strategy Updates:

(These items are in a different order from the original agenda, due to scheduling needs.)

A. Climate Change

Dan Berman indicated that MBNEP is applying for a grant from EPA for a Climate Change Adaptation Plan. This plan will cover the San Luis Obispo County coast – not just Morro Bay. There will be strong tie-in with SLOSEA and the bathymetry work with Mark Moline. A graduate student may be hired to work on this project.

D. Regional Fisheries Management

Don Maruska listed the partners in this strategy area, and mentioned the importance of protocols. *It was suggested to clarify the goals to the public. It was also suggested to list the questions that we are trying to answer. PFMC is influenced by politics, rather than good science. Southern California would rather be data poor, because policy dictates that SoCal can fish more than our area. A suggestion was made to add politically persuasive bullets.*

B. Key Pollutants

Dean Wendt acknowledged Karen’s support of this area. Efforts will be made to coordinate with LOCAC and RWQCB. Dean will work with Lars to coordinate appropriate responses regarding questions in this area.

C. Identify and Control of Invasive Species

Dean Wendt indicated that it is hard to develop a plan to deal with invasive species, if you don’t know what will be taking its place.

D. Inform Decision Making for a Diversified Marine Economy

Don Maruska briefly explained how this will fold the socio-economic strategy issues into all the SLOSEA strategies.

* Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.