

6th Annual Heceta Head Coastal Conference

In Partnership with

OREGON SEA GRANT

Theme: "Oregon's Ocean: Working Waterfronts"

Florence Events Center ~ October 28-29, 2010

SUMMARY of CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Master of Ceremonies: Craig McMicken, Chairman, Heceta Head Coastal Conference, Inc.

Panel: "Taking Advantages of Opportunities"

"Bringing the NOAA Fleet to Newport"

Ginny Goblirsh, Commissioner, Port of Newport

On June 3, 2010, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) made its final announcement - it would be moving its Marine Operations Center, Pacific (MOC-P) to Newport, Oregon. This ended an 18-month saga of crucial decision making, tight deadlines, nail biting funding challenges, and legal hurdles at the highest levels. Newport has been dubbed "The Little Port that Could". How did this little port accomplish what everyone, including the Port itself, believed to be nearly impossible? How did it take on the big boys and win?

It made the most of an opportunity with good leadership, teamwork and tenacity. Don Mann, the port's general manager, put together a team of professionals who had the skills for the task. With near unanimous community support, the port commission and Don took a calculated risk, weighing the odds and challenges each step of the way. Together, they embarked on a grueling journey, adding partners along the way, never taking "no" for an answer.

The team's initial goal was to prepare a proposal which would highlight all that Newport had to offer so Newport would be remembered and considered as a possible homeport for one NOAA research ship in the future. The result was a proposal to NOAA MOC-P that, according to Commerce Secretary Gary Locke (and former Washington Governor) "knocked their socks off".

Ginny shared the story of how the Port of Newport got that ship and a whole fleet to boot.

"Working with NGO's on Projects in a Coastal Community"

Jim Auburn, Mayor of Port Orford

We have a group of community organizations in Port Orford that are the driving force for several projects. We work closely in partnership with NGO's to advance our goals and vision for the benefit of our community.

For example, we provided supporting resolutions and traveled to Washington DC to testify with the Friends of Elk River to support the Copper Salmon Wilderness to protect the upland fish habitat, and salmon fishery in and at the mouth of the river. Through other partnerships, we found that NGOs can contribute vital resources to our projects.

A significant benefit we realize from collaboration is that NGOs have the experience and capacity to conduct outreach on public issues. For example Port Orford Ocean Resource Team (POORT) conducted 176 hours of outreach for our new Stormwater Ordinance, one of the first in Oregon. An Oregon Department of

Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) grant provided necessary funding for technical assistance. These efforts resulted in the ordinance being approved without a single negative public comment. POORT received the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) NGO of the Year award with our and DLCD's support.

We supported and collaborated with POORT and other NGO's on projects such as the Port Orford Stewardship Area, an annual Water Festival, and economic development. We participate in the Redfish Rocks Community Team with stakeholders that include NGO's along with commercial and recreational fishermen, businesspeople, and other local governmental organizations to advise the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) on the management of our local Marine Reserve/Marine Protected Area.

Completion of a Ford Family Foundation Leadership Development Class bioswale project at Battle Rock City Park involved several community organizations. Collaboration with NGO's on these and other projects that emphasize the importance of the land-sea connection, community and economic development.

"Tillamook Oregon Solutions Partnership"

Paul Levesque, Chief of Staff, Tillamook County, and Manager: Project Exodus

In 2006 and 2007 Tillamook County suffered large floods and extensive damages. After the 2006 flood, a letter was sent to Governor Kulongoski requesting that Tillamook flood mitigation efforts be designated an Oregon Solutions project. An Oregon Solutions designation provides a structure and process for public and private sectors to collaborate in addressing community needs. A project assessment was conducted in March, 2007, followed by Governor Ted Kulongoski's official designation in April, 2007.

The Governor assured participation of his staff and appropriate state agencies with other participating public and private partners. A Project Team was assembled, prioritized projects in September 2007.. The project list is a mix of capital projects and planning and analysis efforts funded by a legislative appropriation from the state and some local funds. Recognition of the complexity of flooding in the Wilson River and the prior ecosystem restoration design work by the Corps of Engineers led the Project Team to combine two of the initially identified projects and broaden the overall scope into Project Exodus.

More than 85% of the Tillamook Bay historic floodplain and lowland wetlands have been lost to human settlement and development. Project Exodus - Southern Flow Corridor (SFC), has goal to 1) Restore properly functioning habitats for fish and wildlife; and 2) ensure that flood hazards are reduced. This project will result in removal of 45,000 feet of existing levees and full restoration of a total of 570 acres of contiguous tidal wetlands. In doing so significant flood level reductions will be achieved. The SFC occupies a unique position at the confluence of the Trask, Tillamook and Wilson Rivers and spans a range of priority ecological zones from Spruce forest to salt marsh and intertidal mudflats. Implementation of this project will be the most significant habitat restoration project ever completed on Tillamook Bay.

"Working Waterfronts from a Business Perspective"

Laura Anderson, Owner, Local Ocean Seafoods, Newport

Working waterfronts present excellent business opportunities for coastal entrepreneurs. Quite simply Local Ocean Seafoods, a Newport-based seafood restaurant and fish market, would not exist if not for its direct connection to the fishing fleet. First and foremost our business strategy is predicated on a steady supply of fresh local fish. Secondly, visitors come to Newport specifically as a seafood destination. And while tourists are a large part of our target market, Local Ocean could not stay open 12 months of the year without the patronage of the fishermen and supporting businesses that work here year-round.

The biggest threat to a business like Local Ocean is loss of access to a steady local supply of fish. We need the fishing fleet and supporting infrastructure to run our business. Port consolidation is happening up and down the coast. Loss of harbors and port infrastructure is a serious threat to the viability of the coastal economy. Local governments should work progressively to ensure the maintenance and preservation of working waterfronts.