

SOUTH SLOUGH RESERVE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

AGENDA

South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
South Slough Interpretive Center
61907 Seven Devils Road - Charleston, Oregon

March 28, 2013

136th REGULAR MEETING 1:00-4:00 P.M.

- I. Call-to-Order
- II. Introductions
- III. Approval of the 135th regular meeting minutes
- IV. Public Input*
- V. Old Business
 - 1. State and federal budget updates
 - 2. Update on the manager hiring process
 - 3. Other
- VI. New Business
 - 1. Delegation of authority resolution adoption
 - 2. Volunteer Recognition Other
- VII. Informational Presentations
 - 1. Partnership for Coastal Watersheds -Craig Cornu
- VIII. Informational Items
 - 1. Administration updates
 - 2. Education program updates
 - 3. Science program updates
 - 4. Other
- IX. Adjourn

*Limited to 5 minutes each unless arranged in advance of the meeting.

** This meeting is being held in a facility that is accessible for persons with disabilities. If you need some form of assistance to participate in this meeting due to a disability, please notify Robin Elledge at 541-888-8270 ext. 314 at least two working days prior to the meeting.

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**SOUTH SLOUGH NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH
RESERVE**

MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

South Slough Reserve Interpretive Center
Charleston, Oregon

Draft Minutes of the 135th Regular Meeting
November 15, 2012

Commission members present:

Nicole Jackson
Ron Stuntzner
Craig Young

Mary M. Abrams, Chair
George Boehlert

Commission members not present:

Kevin Stufflebean
Mark Ingersoll
James Fereday

South Slough NERR staff and others present:

Mike Graybill	Robin Elledge
Ali Helms	Pam Wilson
Craig Cornu	Tom Elledge
Tom Gaskill	Jenna Kulluson
Kileen Mitchell, VISTA	John Bragg
Kathy Andreasen	Don Smith
Lonne Mays, FOSS	Nate Damewood
Rob Schab, CBNBWB	Adam DeMarzo
Shannon Souza, SolCoast	Deborah Rudd

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by the Chair of the Commission, Mary M. Abrams. The Chair was provided written comments regarding the agenda items for the meeting from Commissioner Fereday who was unable to attend.

INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone present at the meeting introduced themselves. Mary M. Abrams introduced herself as the new Director of the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL).

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Chair Abrams asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Commissioner Young motioned for approval

of the minutes and Commissioner Stuntzner seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

OLD BUSINESS

State and Federal Budget Updates

Mike Graybill reported that the federal budget is still operating on a continuing resolution and he distributed a handout with a concise summary of the current status of NOAA appropriations.

Chair Abrams remarked that in lean times, many federal agencies such as NOAA will support essential services only. She said that DSL is waiting for the Governor's Recommended Budget which is due to come out on November 30. There has been no word yet on the status of the Program Option Package request by the South Slough NERR for the next biennium.

Chair Abrams requested a ten minute break so meeting participants could enjoy refreshments.

Revision of the 2006-2012 Management Plan

NOAA requires all designated sites in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System to prepare and periodically revise written plans guiding the operation of each reserve. Staff compiled a draft plan listing priority projects for the remainder of the current state fiscal biennium, ending June 30, 2013 through June 30, 2019.

Chair Abrams asked what the Commission thought of the list. Commissioner Jackson said the staff should add safety procedures for people at the Reserve facilities in the plan. She added that staff could review what is already in place and what safety procedures could be improved on.

Commissioner Boehlert said that he will send his comments to Mike Graybill directly and he liked the list and thought it would help with the new manager.

Chair Abrams commented that planning should be more strategic than detailed. She suggested staff keep the list and work through it, but try to keep the plan at a higher level. She suggested the list be prioritized and a full review be combined with a broader scale program level overview. She asked staff to have the narrative ready for the Commission at the next meeting. She noted that safety issues have become more important at the Reserve and it is important to address safety considerations and procedures in the plan.

Commissioner Young said it is important for staff not to get too involved with the planning aspect, and recommended streamlining the process so there is sufficient time to do the work detailed in the plan. He thought the last management plan took too long to develop.

Mike Graybill commented that the Reserve's Forestry Plan and the Climate and Energy Plan are both important documents recently adopted and included as addenda to the current Management Plan.

Chair Abrams asked if there were any additional comments or concerns. Commission Stuntzner suggested assigning staff the work that is currently listed.

NEW BUSINESS

Extension of Water Rights on Winchester Creek and Joe Ney Reservoir

Rob Schab, general manager of the Coos Bay North Bend Water Board and Shannon Souza, the water rights consultant, were present to outline the Water Board's plan to members of the Commission.

The Coos Bay North Bend Water Board has filed an application with the Oregon Water Resources Department to extend the authority of the Water Board to divert up to 8 Cubic Feet of water per second from Winchester Creek, a primary fresh water tributary to the South Slough Estuary and to expand the storage capacity of the reservoir on the Joe Ney Creek sub drainage of the South Slough Watershed.

The Water Board's permit on Winchester Creek was issued in 1949 and significantly precedes the designation of the South Slough NERR in June of 1974. The Water Board's permit to divert water from Winchester Creek (Application/Permit No. 18955) has a priority date of August 26, 1949. It entitles the Water Board to withdraw up to eight cubic feet of water per second (cfs), year-round. A flow of eight cubic feet per second

is equivalent to approximately 5,840 acre-feet (1,902,969,840 gallons) of water per year.

In 1992, at the request of the SSNERR Management Commission, a certificate of water right providing required stream flow for fish migration, spawning, egg incubation, fry emergence, and juvenile rearing in upper Winchester Creek was issued to the Oregon Water Resources Department, which administers the right on behalf of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Water Right Certificate No. 73089). Currently that right is junior to the water board's 1949 permit. Should the water board exercise its permit to draw water from Winchester Creek, the most likely scenario would be to build an impoundment to store the water, according to the water management and conservation plan. As part of its proposal to develop the Tenmile Creek water supply, the Water Board has stated its intent to cancel its permit to withdraw water from Winchester Creek, and the undeveloped portion of the water right in the Joe Ney sub drainage of the South Slough. Should the Tenmile Creek development come to pass, the Water Board's Winchester Creek water right would be forfeited (as stated in the Tenmile Creek permit issued by Water Resources) and the in-stream right on Winchester Creek granted in 1992 would become the priority water right on that water body. The 1992 in stream water right would assure flows ranging from 1 cfs in July to 15 cfs December through April in Winchester Creek.

The South Slough NERR Management Commission has previously held that diverting water from streams tributary to the South Slough NERR is inconsistent with the statutory management of the Reserve.

Chair Abrams read Commissioner Fereday's written comments:

I applaud the Coos Bay – North Bend Water Board for their efforts to provide adequate municipal water supplies without impacting the integrity of the SSNERR's creek system. The proposed plan of using Tenmile Creek and forfeiting a proprietary right to Winchester and the developable portion of Joe Ney is a welcome course. Hopefully this will come to pass.

Commissioner Young suggested writing an update of the 1999 letter which outlined the Commission's objection to the diversion of water from streams tributary to the Reserve. After some discussion, the Commission all agreed to follow the staff recommendation to take no action. Rob Schab and Shannon Souza were thanked for their presentation.

Commission Role in Land Stewardship

In early 2012, with the support of the South Slough NERR Management Commission and the Oregon State Land Board (SLB), the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) acquired approximately 520 acres of land in the upper Wasson Creek drainage of the South Slough watershed bordering the southwest portion of the Reserve. Concurrent with the Upper Wasson Creek watershed acquisition, the Department of State Lands also acquired approximately 602 acres of land in the Hayward Creek drainage of the South Slough watershed adjacent to the northwest portion of SSNERR's administrative boundary between Seven Devils Road and Younkers Point.

The statutory authority of the South Slough Management Commission and the Oregon Administrative Rules governing uses of the Reserve apply only to lands within the administrative boundary of the Reserve. SSNERR's rules and the authority of the SSNERR management Commission do not currently apply to the Wasson and Hayward Creek parcels. Separate rules governing public recreational use of state owned property managed by DSL presently apply to the Hayward Creek and Wasson Creek watershed parcels.

The Commission discussed their role and the staff recommendations regarding the management of state owned property recently acquired by DSL that is adjacent to the administrative boundary of the South Slough NERR. The Oregon State Land Board designated the recently acquired properties as special stewardship lands with the intent that the properties be “managed for the protection of the South Slough Watershed.” (11 Oct 2011 SLB meeting minutes pg. 6)

After discussion, the Commission agreed to adopt Chair Abrams recommendation to table the matter until it can be taken up in the March 2013 meeting when she has clarified who has management authority of the land parcels in question. Chair Abrams asked that a list be compiled for the March meeting prioritizing what actions the Commission would like to see regarding concerns mentioned in the staff recommendations of possible unauthorized use and damage to the newly acquired property. The staff recommended decommissioning and replanting unimproved roads and landings on the newly acquired properties except for those necessary to achieve an immediate conservation objective or to provide emergency access. CELP funds were discussed as a possible funding source for these actions. Commissioner Stuntzner expressed concern that when a road is decommissioned, it is no longer useable.

Commissioner Fereday Comments:

I agree with the staff recommendations to seek designation of the Management Commission as the entity responsible for these parcels (*recently acquired Hayward and Wasson Cr. parcels*) with authority to implement DSL administrative rules, seek authorization to decommission and restore targeted roads and landings in these parcels, and petition the State Land Board to apply SSNERR management rules to these two parcels.

Mike Graybill Retirement

After serving as the manager of the South Slough Reserve for nearly 28 years Mike Graybill announced his intent to retire at the end of February 2013. Action by the SSNERR Management Commission is required to appoint a manager to carry out the day to day operation and management of the Reserve.

Chair Abrams recommended that the Commission and staff review the position description before starting the search for a new manager for the South Slough Reserve. She asked that comments on the position description be forwarded to her by the end of November. Ali Helms agreed to compile the staff comments. Commissioner Stuntzner, Commissioner Young, and Commissioner Boehlert will serve on the selection committee for the manager position. Commissioner Boehlert cautioned about making the selection committee too large and said that forming a stakeholder group would be good for the recruitment process. Chair Abrams agreed, and she said a selection committee composed of five or six individuals would be good. She added that she would like to see FOSS, the Port of Coos Bay and staff incorporated as stakeholders in the process.

Commissioner Fereday:

I have volunteered for committee work on behalf of the Commission in the past, but the manager search committee is one I feel less comfortable adding my name to.

Meeting Schedule

The Commission agreed to adopt the meeting schedule as presented in the briefing packet:

The South Slough Management Commission meets three times yearly for its regular business meetings. The meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of March, July and November. Occasionally, an extra meeting or workshop may be held and scheduled separately.

The dates for the regular business meetings in 2013 are:

March 21

July 18

November 21

Commissioner Fereday:

I see no problem with the proposed schedule and will accept this or reasonable changes to it.

PRESENTATIONS

Kileen Mitchell, AmeriCorps VISTA gave an end of assignment project report on her efforts to develop an Internship program at the South Slough Reserve.

John Bragg, SSNERR Coastal Training Program coordinator gave a presentation update to the Commission titled: Assisting Coastal Decision Makers in the Lower Columbia Biogeographic Province—A strategy for coastal training in 2012-2017.

The Commission thanked the presenters and expressed appreciation for their efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Abrams adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

V. Old Business

- 1 State and federal budget update.

Subject:

Staff is providing an information update on the status of the federal FY 13 budget status and the 2013-15 state budget.

Background:

The federal FY 13 budget is still unresolved. Sequestration went into effect on March 1, resulting in an automatic 5% across the board reduction that included a reduction for operation grants for NERRS. However NERRs were asked to prepare budgets based on the President's budget request which is a larger cut than sequestration cuts. Staff have already submitted preliminary plans to meet the larger cut without reducing staffing levels at the Reserve, thanks in large part to other grants received that support staff FTEs.

DSL presents its budget proposal to the Ways and Means Subcommittee for Natural Resources March 19-21. Mary Abrams will provide a report to the Board on how the hearings went. Two policy option packages were requested for South Slough, one which reclassifies upward three positions to make more efficient use of the positions and one which requests state funding for the Stewardship Coordinator position which was lost to federal fund reductions last year.

Staff Recommendation

This is for information purposes only. No Commission action is needed.

FY 13 NERRS Budget Scenarios (2-21-13)

	FY12 Spend Plan	FY 2013 - Sequester	FY 13 President's Request Level
Reserves Program/Operations	16,436,320	15,739,808	13,894,642
Graduate Research Fellowships	637,446	280,000	0
Centralized Data Management Office	367,040	367,040	352,358
2014 Annual Meeting	10,553	14,995	0
Travel Support-Strategic Comm., Climate Communications Training	0	0	0
NERRA Partnership	0	0	0
NERRS Science Collaborative	4,203,931	4,203,931	4,713,021
HI/CT NERR	0	0	0
<i>FY 12 KEEP</i>	0	0	0
<i>Biomonitoring</i>	0	0	0
<i>Habitat Mapping</i>	0	0	0
Hollings Scholars deduction		20,626	18,979
TOTAL	21,655,290	20,626,400	18,979,000

B - FY 2012 Spend Plan level = 587,190 /reserve

C - Sequestration = \$561,136/reserve

D - FY 2013 Pres Budget = 496,237 /reserve

	Senate Mark	House Mark
Reserves Program/Operations	16,441,320	13,894,642
Graduate Research Fellowships	280,000	0
Centralized Data Management Office	367,040	352,358
2014 Annual Meeting	35,000	0
Travel Support-Strategic Comm., Climate Communications Training	35,000	
NERRA Partnership (TBD)	35,000	
NERRS Science Collaborative	4,732,000	2,816,919
HI/CT NERR	100,000	
<i>FY 12 KEEP</i>	<i>75,000</i>	
<i>Biomonitoring</i>	<i>150,000</i>	
<i>Habitat Mapping</i>	<i>27,340</i>	
Hollings Scholars deduction	22,300	17,081
TOTAL	22,300,000	17,081,000

B - FY 2013 Senate Mark = 587,190
/reserve

C - FY 2013 House Mark = 496,237
/reserve

62007	SSNER F/F	Report for January-2013												Biennium Remaining: 20.83%	
		Biennium To October	November	December	January	Biennium To Date	Budget	Adjustments	Remaining Balance	% of Budget Remaining					
3110	CLASS/UNCLASS SALARY & PER DI	417,523	27,893	29,146	28,266	502,828	750,324	0	247,496	32.99%					
3160	TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS	26,565	1,383	724	0	28,672	68,839	0	40,167	58.35%					
3170	OVERTIME PAYMENTS	0	0	0	0	0	2,964	0	2,964	100.00%					
3180	SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	8	100.00%					
3190	ALL OTHER DIFFERENTIAL	1,792	282	68	84	2,226	0	0	-2,226	NA					
3210	ERB ASSESSMENT	203	13	13	13	243	363	0	120	33.14%					
3220	PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT	66,368	4,317	4,412	4,179	79,277	119,675	0	40,398	33.76%					
3221	PENSION BOND CONTRIBUTION	28,287	1,871	1,908	1,808	33,884	46,695	0	12,811	27.43%					
3230	SOCIAL SECURITY TAX	33,158	2,217	2,262	2,141	39,778	68,798	0	29,020	42.18%					
3250	WORKERS' COMPENSATION ASSE	258	16	14	16	304	522	0	218	41.70%					
3270	FLEXIBLE BENEFITS	141,678	9,704	9,942	9,942	171,266	266,650	0	95,384	35.77%					
Total:	PERSONAL SERVICES	715,843	47,698	48,490	46,448	858,479	1,324,838	0	466,359	35.20%					
4100	INSTATE TRAVEL	5,873	627	468	452	7,421	65,551	0	58,130	88.68%					
4125	OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL	2,904	2,625	564	122	6,215	36,792	0	30,577	83.11%					
4150	EMPLOYEE TRAINING	12,822	1,882	0	138	14,842	20,224	0	5,382	26.61%					
4175	OFFICE EXPENSES	4,771	66	201	199	5,236	42,413	0	37,177	87.65%					
4200	TELECOMM/TECH SVC AND SUPPLI	3,811	637	347	387	5,182	37,039	0	31,857	86.01%					
4225	STATE GOVERNMENT SERVICE CH	0	0	0	0	0	15,936	0	15,936	100.00%					
4250	DATA PROCESSING	0	0	0	0	0	9,678	0	9,678	100.00%					
4275	PUBLICITY & PUBLICATIONS	31	0	0	0	31	1,415	0	1,384	97.84%					
4300	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	21,935	0	0	0	21,935	755,105	0	733,170	97.10%					
4375	EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT AND DE	0	0	0	0	0	5,603	0	5,603	100.00%					
4400	DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	0	0	0	0	0	791	0	791	100.00%					
4450	FUELS AND UTILITIES	5,696	360	0	1,101	7,157	24,227	0	17,070	70.46%					
4475	FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	6,221	0	0	0	6,221	12,951	0	6,730	51.97%					
4575	AGENCY PROGRAM RELATED SVC	0	0	0	0	0	5,179	0	5,179	100.00%					
4650	OTHER SERVICES AND SUPPLIES	56,609	1,025	123	3,251	61,008	10,597	0	-50,411	-475.71%					
4700	EXPENDABLE PROPERTY \$250-\$50	0	1,559	0	0	1,559	20,374	0	18,815	92.35%					
4715	IT EXPENDABLE PROPERTY	1,362	49	49	49	1,509	1,388	0	-121	-8.69%					
Total:	SERVICES AND SUPPLIES	122,035	8,831	1,752	5,699	138,317	1,065,263	0	926,946	87.02%					
5200	TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	376,762	0	376,762	100.00%					
5650	LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS	0	0	0	0	0	2,283,000	-2,283,000	0	NA					
5700	BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES	33,009	0	0	0	33,009	0	0	-33,009	NA					
5900	OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY	2,208,743	0	0	0	2,208,743	0	2,283,000	74,257	3.25%					
Total:	CAPITAL OUTLAY	2,241,752	0	0	0	2,241,752	2,659,762	0	418,010	15.72%					
Grand Total: Expense		3,079,629	56,529	50,242	52,147	3,238,547	5,049,863	0	1,811,316	35.87%					

62007	SSNER F/F	Report for January-2013										Biennium Remaining: 20.83%	
		Biennium To October	November	December	January	Biennium To Date	Budget	Adjustments	Remaining Balance	% of Budget Remaining			
0605	INTEREST AND INVESTMENTS	25,386	0	0	0	25,386	0	0	0	NA	NA		
0995	FEDERAL FUNDS REVENUE	3,138,877	54,907	-56,931	103,122	3,239,974	0	0	0	NA	NA		
Total:	REVENUES	3,164,263	54,907	-56,931	103,122	3,265,360	0	0	0	NA	NA		
Grand Total:	Revenue	3,164,263	54,907	-56,931	103,122	3,265,360	0	0	0	NA	NA		

32007 SSNER OIF	Report for January-2013												Biennium Remaining: 20.83%	
	Biennium To October	November	December	January	Biennium To Date	Budget	Adjustments	Remaining Balance	% of Budget Remaining					
3110 CLASS/JUNCLASS SALARY & PER DI	478,837	26,946	28,208	27,343	561,333	738,906	0	177,573	24.03%					
3160 TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS	0	0	0	0	31	47,673	0	47,673	100.00%					
3170 OVERTIME PAYMENTS	31	0	0	0	31	0	0	-31	NA					
3190 ALL OTHER DIFFERENTIAL	6,150	474	387	388	7,400	0	0	-7,400	NA					
3210 ERB ASSESSMENT	157	9	9	9	184	293	0	109	37.20%					
3220 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT	74,894	4,246	4,461	4,327	87,929	116,939	0	28,010	24.81%					
3221 PENSION BOND CONTRIBUTION	30,176	1,736	1,823	1,769	35,504	45,631	0	10,127	22.19%					
3230 SOCIAL SECURITY TAX	36,645	2,059	2,165	2,099	42,968	65,729	0	22,761	34.63%					
3240 UNEMPLOYMENT ASSESSMENT	6,440	0	0	0	6,440	5,552	0	-888	-15.99%					
3250 WORKERS' COMPENSATION ASSE	211	12	11	11	245	422	0	177	42.01%					
3260 MASS TRANSIT	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.00%					
3270 FLEXIBLE BENEFITS	147,714	8,380	8,868	8,868	173,831	214,886	0	41,055	19.11%					
Total: PERSONAL SERVICES	781,256	43,862	45,933	44,814	915,866	1,236,032	0	320,166	25.90%					
4100 INSTATE TRAVEL	15,806	1,661	544	933	18,945	17,557	0	-1,388	-7.90%					
4125 OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL	875	0	0	122	997	7,024	0	6,027	85.80%					
4150 EMPLOYEE TRAINING	6,442	-869	60	74	5,707	8,249	0	2,542	30.82%					
4175 OFFICE EXPENSES	4,851	-247	180	1,383	6,167	21,289	0	15,122	71.03%					
4200 TELECOMMTECH SVC AND SUPPLI	6,302	387	187	208	7,084	14,413	0	7,329	50.85%					
4225 STATE GOVERNMENT SERVICE CH	0	0	0	0	0	28,274	0	28,274	100.00%					
4250 DATA PROCESSING	0	0	0	0	0	514	0	514	100.00%					
4275 PUBLICITY & PUBLICATIONS	107	0	0	31	138	477	0	339	71.13%					
4300 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	85,283	0	0	0	85,283	154,692	0	69,409	44.87%					
4325 ATTORNEY GENERAL LEGAL FEES	9,510	0	172	186	9,868	4,179	0	-5,689	-136.13%					
4375 EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT AND DE	0	0	0	0	0	2,378	0	2,378	100.00%					
4400 DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	15	0	0	314	329	12	0	-317	-264.25%					
4425 FACILITIES RENT & TAXES	180	0	0	150	330	42	0	-288	-88.57%					
4450 FUELS AND UTILITIES	5,289	194	-138	593	5,908	7,559	0	1,651	21.84%					
4475 FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	3,712	157	246	187	4,303	26,319	0	22,016	83.65%					
4650 OTHER SERVICES AND SUPPLIES	41,212	308	783	650	42,953	26,521	0	-16,432	-61.96%					
4700 EXPENDABLE PROPERTY \$250-\$50	1,200	0	0	0	1,200	3,305	0	2,105	63.69%					
4715 IT EXPENDABLE PROPERTY	2,514	0	152	0	2,665	45,188	0	42,523	94.10%					
Total: SERVICES AND SUPPLIES	183,268	1,592	2,186	4,831	191,877	367,992	0	176,115	47.86%					
5200 TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT	46,989	0	0	0	46,989	37,957	0	-9,032	-23.80%					
5600 DATA PROCESSING HARDWARE	0	0	0	0	0	15,872	0	15,872	100.00%					
5650 LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS	0	0	0	0	0	2,256,000	-2,256,000	0	NA					
5700 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES	0	0	0	7,406	7,406	0	0	-7,406	NA					
5900 OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY	1,165,701	1,055,500	0	0	2,221,201	0	2,256,000	34,799	1.54%					
Total: CAPITAL OUTLAY	1,212,690	1,055,500	0	7,406	2,275,596	2,309,829	0	34,233	1.48%					

32007 SSNER O/F		Report for January-2013							Biennium Remaining: 20.83%		
	Biennium To October	November	December	January	Biennium To Date	Budget	Adjustments	Remaining Balance	% of Budget Remaining		
1010	TRANSFER IN FROM OTHER FUND	1,965,558	2,111,000	0	-1,055,500	3,021,058	0	0	NA	NA	
Total:	TRANSFER IN	1,965,558	2,111,000	0	-1,055,500	3,021,058	0	0	NA	NA	
Grand Total: Transfer In		1,965,558	2,111,000	0	-1,055,500	3,021,058	0	0	NA	NA	
0355	FEDERAL FUNDS	14,335	0	0	0	14,335	0	0	NA	NA	
0510	RENTS AND ROYALTIES	2,685	150	150	300	3,285	0	0	NA	NA	
0705	OTHER SALES INCOME	84,310	-300	103	17	84,130	0	0	NA	NA	
0875	OTHER REVENUE	86,890	0	0	0	86,890	0	0	NA	NA	
Total:	REVENUES	188,021	-150	253	317	188,440	0	0	NA	NA	
Grand Total: Revenue		188,021	-150	253	317	188,440	0	0	NA	NA	

32007	SSNER O/F	Report for January-2013				Biennium Remaining: 20.83%				
		Biennium To October	November	December	January	Biennium To Date	Budget	Adjustments	Remaining Balance	% of Budget Remaining
		2,177,214	1,100,954	48,120	57,051	3,383,339	3,913,853	0	530,514	13.55%
Grand Total: Expense										

V. Old Business

2 Update on manager hiring process.

Subject:

Manager Recruitment Process Update, Appointment of Interview Committee

Issue:

Action is needed by the SSNERR Commission to appoint an interview committee for the manager recruitment process.

Background:

Mike Graybill retired effective February 28, 2013. Louise Solliday is serving as Acting Manager while the recruitment for a new manager occurs. A recruitment packet was broadly distributed in early February and applications are due March 17. At the Board meeting an update will be provided on the number of applications received and how many of the applicants meet the minimum qualifications. As of March 12, 23 applications had been received from throughout the US and internationally.

The goal is to conduct initial interviews in April and final interviews and staff/stakeholder meetings in May in order to have a new manager in place no later than July 1. Louise Solliday will staff the process with assistance from Mylisa Holland, DSL's HR Manager.

Staff Recommendation

The staff recommends the appointment of the following to the interview committee for the initial round of interviews: Commissioners Craig Young and George Boehlert, and Robin Elledge and Craig Cornu from staff.

VI New Business

1 Delegation of authority resolution adoption.

Subject:

Delegation of authority from SSNERR Management Commission to DSL Director and SSNERR Manager

Issue:

Action is needed by the SSNERR Commission to delegate authority granted to the Commission in ORS 273.554 to the DSL Director and the SS Manager.

Background:

O.R.S. 273.554 –outlines the duties of the SSNERR Management Commission. These duties are (in part):

“(1) For the purpose of providing for the administration of the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve in a manner consistent with the provisions of ORS 273.553, there is created the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Commission. The Commission shall have the authority, in accordance with the policies formulated by the State Land Board, to:

- (a) Conduct the day-to-day operation and management of the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve with the administrative support of the Department of State Lands;
- (b) Appoint a manager and other staff necessary to carry out this section; and
- (c) Apply for, receive and expend moneys from the federal government.”

Past practice has not been consistent with statute related to (a) and (b) above and in these matters it would be difficult for the Commission to carry out these responsibilities. The day to day operations and management have been carried out by the SS manager and the operations manager under policy and program direction set by the Commission. The reserve manager and operations manager have been hiring other staff at the Reserve for as long as they have been managers. Attached to this request as **Appendix A** is a delegation of authority memo that would formalize these past practices.

With regard to appointment of the manager, which has not occurred in over 25 years, it is unclear, once the appointment has been made, who directs the work of the manager, supervise and evaluates the position, etc. While Louise Solliday was director of DSL she did ask the manager for a biennial work plan, did periodic performances appraisals and acted in other ways that would be considered supervisory in nature. Attached to this request as **Appendix B** is a delegation of authority memo that would delegate authority for hiring and supervision of the manager to the DSL director, in consultation with the Commission.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the SS Commission approve the attached memos delegating authority to the DSL Director to hire and supervise the SS Manager in consultation with the Commission and to the SS Manager to conduct the day to day operations and hire and supervise additional staff.



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of State Lands

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M E M O R A N D U M

State Land Board

John A. Kitzhaber, MD

Governor

March 28, 2013

Kate Brown

Secretary of State

To: Interested Persons

From: South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Commission

Ted Wheeler

State Treasurer

Subject: DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO RESERVE MANAGER

As the Management Commission for the SSNERR and under authority of ORS 273.554 and subject to compliance with all applicable statutes, rules, policies and procedures, we hereby delegate responsibility to the SSNERR Manager for oversight of the day to day operations of the Reserve. Further the Management Commission delegates responsibility for hiring, evaluating and supervising other staff at SSNERR to the Reserve Manager. This work shall be done in consultation with the Director of DSL.

- c: John A. Kitzhaber, Governor
- Kate Brown, Secretary of State
- Ted Wheeler, State Treasurer
- Michael Jordan, Chief Operating Offices
- DSL Management Team



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M E M O R A N D U M

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John A. Kitzhaber, MD

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March 28, 2013

Kate Brown

Secretary of State

To: Interested Persons

From: South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Commission

Ted Wheeler

State Treasurer

Subject: DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO SUPERVISE RESERVE MANAGER

As the Management Commission for the SSNERR and under authority of ORS 273.554 and subject to compliance with all applicable statutes, rules, policies and procedures, we hereby designate the Director of the Department of State Lands (DSL) to hire, evaluate and supervise the Reserve Manager in consultation with the Commission. Supervision shall include day to day oversight, setting expectations and carrying out discipline if needed, up to and including removal from service.

- c: John A. Kitzhaber, Governor
- Kate Brown, Secretary of State
- Ted Wheeler, State Treasurer
- Michael Jordan, Chief Operating Officer
- DSL Management Team

SUBJECT:

Contributions of Volunteers

ISSUE:

Annual SSNERR Management Commission recognition of South Slough Volunteers

BACKGROUND:

At their 114th regularly scheduled meeting held in November 2005, the SSNERR Management Commission initiated a process to formally recognize the service of volunteers. The Commission agreed to recognize the contributions of volunteers by taking the following actions:

- Each person who has contributed more than 10 hours during the previous year shall receive a thank you letter signed by the Chair of the Commission.
- People who have volunteered at the Reserve for one year or more will be given certificates marking their ongoing contribution of time measured in three-year increments. In addition, the names of volunteers with three or more years of service should be added to a volunteer recognition plaque displayed in the Reserve's Interpretive Center.
- Volunteers who have made unique and significant contributions as recommended by the Reserve staff should also receive special recognition at the meeting.

Listed below are the names of individuals meeting one or more of the above criteria for volunteer recognition. Though every effort was made to be as inclusive as possible in compiling the following list we recognize that the voluntary contributions of some may have been omitted. South Slough Reserve is grateful for all who have donated their time and care for this special place over the years whose name(s) may not be noted in this report.

Volunteer Service Award Nominees for 2012

* = SSNERR Commission member

= FOSS Board member

Each person who has contributed more than 10 hours during the previous year will receive a thank you letter signed by the Chair of the SSNERR Commission.

Daniel Abel, Trenton Berrian, Roxanne Goetz, Dana Groendyke, Marley Jarvis, Andrew Martin, Emily Midyette, Lacey Wade, Ashley Watkins

The following people have volunteered at the Reserve for one year or more and will be given certificates marking their ongoing contribution of time measured in three year increments.

Harriet Egy (deceased 11/2012), Steve Larsen, Anne Matthews, Phil Matthews, Lonne Mays#, Kileen Mitchell, John See, Ross Tofflemire, Emily Wright, Tom Younker#

The following individuals have volunteered for three or more years. Their names will be added to the volunteer recognition plaque displayed in the Reserve's Interpretive Center:

Anterra, George Boehlert*, Judi Brown, Sue Cameron#, Kevin Cellura, Lois Christensen#, Curt Clay, Valerie Cooley#, Robert Emmett*, James Fereday*, Nina Gee, Ralph Helske, Mark Ingersoll*, Nicole Jackson*#, Dan Krossman* David Lunde#, Laura Mays, Pat Mckillip#, Joe Neil, Heather Pedersen#, Mary Ann Sherlock, Bob Sleeth, Sarita Southgate, Karen Sparks, Janet Stoffel, Ron Stuntzner*, Dick Vigue, Louise Whitehead, Craig Young*

Volunteers who have made unique and significant contributions in 2012 as recommended by the Reserve staff

Kevin Cellura- A long-time volunteer who continues to return and be interested in helping with native oysters and is always looking for ways to engage his students in field work.

Roxanne Goetz-Education Intern who spent time volunteering with school programs after her internship was complete and for making our estuary photo booth for festivals.

Dayna Groendyke-Research Intern who was very enthusiastic at very early hours in the morning and was very eager to learn anything about science, research, and monitoring. The focus of her work was helping with the native oyster project.

Andrew Martin-First Aquaria interns who took special time caring for the aquaria animals.

Anne & Phil Matthews-Spent early hours on the tideflats helping with the oyster recruitment project and for representing the Reserve Volunteer program in the OSU publication *Terra* magazine.

Kileen Mitchell, Year one VISTA for setting up the South Slough Work Experience Internship Program and for helping FOSS market the Estuaries Day T-shirts.

Heather Pedersen-Set up an Artist-in-Residence Program through FOSS and helped with the Oyster recruitment project.

John See-100 hours of heavy trail work on North and Hidden creek trails.

Informational Items

Administration Updates

Staff Departures: After serving for more than 28 years as the Manager of the South Slough NERR, Mike Graybill retired, effective March 1, 2013.

Staff Arrivals: Louise Solliday, former director of the Department of State Lands, began a temporary assignment as acting Manager of the Reserve while a recruitment is conducted for a permanent Manager. March 1 was Louise's starting date, and her projected ending date in this role is June 30.

The Friends of South Slough and the staff of SSNERR are hosting a second-year VISTA volunteer, Maggie Allen. She started her assignment in December, 2012. Maggie will be further refining and developing the work experience program at the Reserve during her year-long tenure.

On February 4, Dr. Larry Basch began his employment at South Slough as the Lead Scientist. The former working title for this position was Research Coordinator. Larry relocated from the Netherlands to join the staff of the Reserve.

Also on February 4, Jenni Schmitt started a limited duration NRS2 position – Data Manager and Assistant Project Coordinator – supported by funds from a National Science Collaborative grant awarded to the South Slough Reserve in 2012. Congratulations are also in order for Jenni, as she gave birth to a daughter later in February. Jenni will return to her position after a period of family leave time.

SSNERR Education Program update

October 26, 2012 through March 6, 2013

Education activity during the winter months is typically focused on planning, training, and program development with a more limited delivery of programs. Staff including the education program coordinator, public involvement coordinator, and coastal training program coordinator participated in training opportunities and program planning activities at the NERRS annual meeting held in Shepardstown, West Virginia in November, 2012. Additionally, the education specialist and the coastal education program specialist participated in the first of three trainings to advance their knowledge and understanding of climate change education through the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation.

In February, the education program coordinator traveled to Washington, D.C. as secretary to the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association. This work included briefings for staff representing Oregon's congressional delegation and participation in meetings with a variety of NOAA partners and members of the Coastal States Organization. These annual educational efforts are a part of a long-term strategy to advance understanding of the NERRS and budget requirements within NOAA and congress.

Education programs offered during this period included workshops, classes, and several projects using distance learning technology. Pre-service teacher education activities, support for interns and volunteer training have all added capacity to the delivery of current and future activities and services.

Grant proposal development included partnership on a NERRS Science Collaborative pre-proposal to advance Teachers on the Estuary (TOTE) training at a system-wide level. While this pre-proposal was not selected for funding, two site-based proposals have been identified by the Science Collaborative for further development. One of these, if successful at the full proposal level, will enhance the ability of the education program to interpret water quality data in the estuary. The second proposal will support development of a pilot teacher training workshop through TOTE. This proposal has been selected for funding. Further details are provided under the formal education heading in this report.

Education Program Totals

For the period from October 26, 2012 to March 6, 2013, a total of 40 educational activities were conducted for 645 participants. 77.5 contact hours and 60.5 hours of preparation were recorded. These totals include all types of education, interpretation, training and outreach. This level of activity represents a slight increase over the number of programs delivered during the same period last year.

Including visitors to the South Slough Interpretive Center, a combined total of 1132 people learned about estuaries and coastal watersheds through South Slough educational programs and interpretive facilities during this period. This number also reflects an overall increase in program activity for the same period in 2011-2012.

Visitation and Visitor Services

Independent of education programs, 487 people visited the interpretive center from late October to the beginning of March accounting for an average of 6 visitors per day. The period covered by this report spanned 82 days when the South Slough Interpretive Center was open to the public. Typical public hours for the building remain 10am – 4:30pm, Tuesday through Saturday throughout the year.

During this period, 2 state-wide furlough day closures and 5 state holidays occurred. The interpretive center was closed to the public on these days and on the Saturday immediately following furlough days. One week of additional elective closure occurred between Christmas and New Year's Day based on low visitor counts recorded during this time in previous years.

Formal Education & Training

During September and October, 13 formal education programs were offered for 213 participants. A total of 22 contact hours and 15.5 hours of preparation time were recorded. Programs were mostly offered on-site at the reserve for students.

Professional conferences

The NERRS educators will be conducting three consecutive 2 hour segments of on-line meeting and training in early March, 2013 to further advance sector objectives for system-wide project development. The training is being hosted using WebEx conferencing technology and will be facilitated by South Slough in partnership with NOAA Estuarine Reserve Division staff. Trainings of NERRS education coordinators were conducted throughout January, 2013 by South Slough education coordinator Tom Gaskill to assist with successful participation in the on-line meeting.

NERRS Science Collaborative projects

Bringing Wetlands to Market – TOTE training module development

South Slough has participated in the development of a project to develop educational activities related to the Bringing Wetlands to Market research project being conducted at Waquoit Bay NERR in Massachusetts and supported by the NERRS Science Collaborative. This project is designed to study the role that salt marshes and coastal wetlands play in sequestration of carbon and the economic value of these processes in addressing climate change. The teacher training module is being designed by a team of educators and teachers with the assistance of contractor Pat Harcourt.

Initial funding provided by the Science Collaborative to the Waquoit Bay NERR has been extended and additional support has been offered to include South Slough NERR. Funds in the amount of \$7,500 will be provided to the reserve to conduct a high school and middle school teacher training workshop in August, 2013. The workshop will introduce the module and be integrated with the TOTE guidelines.

Eco Geek – Bringing Back the Oly Oyster

The GTM NERR near Jacksonville, Florida has been working with the South Slough NERR on the joint delivery of a monthly series of four web-based workshops to educate docents and the public about the value of native oyster restoration. The workshops have used an innovative distance education approach incorporating Smart TV technology at the GTM NERR visitor center and live webcasts from the South Slough NERR to share expertise. Presentations in January and February have used two different distance learning technologies: Skype and WebEx, to explore sharing of live narrated presentations and dialogue between researchers and audiences located in both Florida and Oregon. The February webcast was recorded and a link to the recording has been made available through a website to interested parties.

The next session is scheduled for March 20th and will use Google Air, a program that incorporates YouTube streaming channel technology. The content for the program will focus on the role of water quality data and the NERRS System-wide monitoring program (SWMP) in the restoration of native oysters. South Slough SWMP coordinator Ali Helms will be the presenter.

Teachers on the Estuary EPA grant proposal

A joint grant proposal submitted by the Kachemak Bay NERR to the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Education grants program is currently under review. If awarded, this multi-year proposal would support two additional TOTE workshops at South Slough in 2013 and 2014. A funding decision is anticipated in March, 2013.

Oregon Coast Education Program (OCEP)

Planning is currently underway for spring 2013 field experiences for OCEP trained teachers and classes. The majority of teachers that participated in the summer 2012 professional development workshop in Newport and Charleston have submitted coastal education plans. These plans detail activities undertaken by the teachers with their students both in the classroom and as a part of the field experience and are a requirement of participation in the project. Additionally, work continues with professional evaluator Bryan Rebar to implement the evaluation plan for the project including use of previously developed tools that assess student achievement through work samples and teacher use of the modules provided by the project.

Development of a new climate change education module is currently underway and is being informed by various resources and approaches made available through the partnership. The initial coastal education modules developed by the project are now available through the project website developed in partnership with the Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators.

Three workshops are planned for the summer of 2013. Two workshops for 3rd – 8th grade educators will be held in June with one in Newport and one in Charleston. A third professional development workshop will be held in Charleston in August focused

on climate change education for middle school and high school teachers. These workshops are supported by NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) funding and the NERRS Science Collaborative.

Market Analysis and Needs Assessment

The Oregon Coastal Education Market Analysis and Needs Assessment study has been completed and delivered in draft form to reviewers for comment. A final version of the report will be completed by March 31, 2013 and distributed to participants and funders.

The results of the project will be shared with the South Slough Education Advisory Group in a workshop to be held in the spring and will be incorporated into the revised South Slough Management Plan currently in development. This report will be currently being used to inform plan development and structuring of new work and activities within the South Slough Education Program.

Community Education, Interpretive & Outreach Activities

Interpretive programs continue to be offered for a diverse public audience of children, adults, and families. A total of 17 interpretive programs were offered and 196 people attended activities ranging from guided walks to workshops. 36.5 hours of contact and 24 hours of preparation were recorded. Community education activities accounted for 8 activities and an additional 166 participants and 12 contact hours. 14 hours of preparation time were recorded. 1 outreach event reached 64 people and required 2 hours of preparation. A total of 2 hours of contact time was recorded for this event which was the Friends of South Slough Annual meeting.

Public Involvement

Volunteers

From July through December 2012 SSNERR volunteers logged in 1492 hours valued at \$32,511. The breakdown included 227.55 education, 55.25 research/stewardship, 1,128.25 administration, 36 other and 45 trail crew hours. A large number of the administration hours are based on work from the Friends of South Slough Board and our AmeriCorps, VISTA volunteer. The other category hours are a result of carpentry work for the aquarium shed and from a 13 person service learning work crew from the community college recruited by the VISTA volunteer as well as regular trail volunteers.

South Slough's second-year VISTA volunteer, Maggie Allen continues to develop the South Slough Work Experience program. While continuing to facilitate the partnership

with Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC), Maggie is also working with students from other areas who contact the Reserve seeking internship experience. Maggie has recently been working with local high schools to begin establishing internship opportunities within that age group. Recently Maggie attended a career fair at SWOCC which resulted in two student volunteers and one potential intern. As part of a working relationship with Coos Watershed, Maggie is collaborating with Emily Wright to develop a social media network for recruiting and communicating with interns.

There is currently one (SWOCC) Graphic Arts and Publicity intern working at South Slough this spring, Brenda O'Dell. Next month an intern from Montana will be arriving to work with Craig Cornu on Stewardship activities for six weeks.

The FOSS board held their Annual Meeting and board elections on February 26, 2013. The board tried something new to attract members by having the meeting during the week in an easy to find location with a catered meal. The event was a success.

There have been some recent changes in the board membership. Lois Christensen and Heather Pedersen have resigned as both are re-locating to other areas of the state.

Officer positions will be voted on at the March 26 meeting. Presently, the board needs individuals to serve on the board in various capacities such as, President, Treasurer, Donation Development, Fundraising and Marketing.

FOSS continues to research the Floats project. They recruited a recent University of Oregon student architect, Daniel Abrahamson to provide some three dimensional designs to help with the planning and visioning process.

This year FOSS sent board member Tom Younker to the NERRS/NERRA conference in Shepherdstown, West Virginia the week of November 26-30. Tom was able to network with other board members, and to sit on presentations about fundraising, marketing and other challenges Friends groups face. The National Estuarine Research Reserve Association (NERRA) also presented the FY 13 request and asked Friends groups to help share a nationwide effort with members and their surrounding communities to let Congress know how much they appreciate their estuaries via the "I heart estuaries" campaign. Emails, faxed letters and social media alerts went out Feb. 12-14 to representatives from Friends of estuaries all over the United States expressing their support of Reserves and to request that funding cuts be re-considered.

Outreach

Outreach plans for this season began with a volunteer orientation training in January. Six persons attended version 2 of "South Slough 101" and made commitments to volunteer in the areas of education/interpretation and exhibit development. A follow

up paddle training series and public information/volunteer training on forests are planned for February-March.

New efforts to recruit volunteers specifically for Visitor Services are being explored. Public involvement is researching a “Docent in Residence” program and will have a full report of the findings by the end of this quarter. In the interim, FOSS has agreed to fund a year-round Saturday assistant that will provide coverage at the front desk as well as assist board members with ongoing tasks involving memberships, bookstore maintenance and scheduled reports.

Cooperation with community organizations continues. Public Involvement assisted the Charleston Merchant’s Association with the community crab feed fundraiser and provided photo images for the new website. We are also working the Charleston Community Enhancement Corporation on various community projects such as the upcoming oyster feed and SOLV clean-ups. The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Tourism committee will be partnering with the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend and the Visitor Convention Bureau on a SOLV clean up in preparation for National Tourism Week May 4-12. As part of the National Estuaries Day effort we have partnered with the Surfrider Foundation’s “Stand up for the Bay” which will now be held on Saturday, September 28th as “Stand up for the Bay on Estuaries Day” and will feature a beach clean-up, a paddle event, and educational activities. Finally, our partnership with the Octoberfish festival has led to the Saturday, October 5th festival bookending with National Estuaries Day during Coast Weeks-Estuary awareness, September 28-October 5.

Coastal Training Program

Rogue estuary climate vulnerability assessment – The Rogue River estuary is unique among those of Oregon’s coast because it is dominated by the flow of the Rogue River, which flows from the Cascades Range and cuts through the Siskiyou Mountains to empty into the sea at Gold Beach through a narrow notch in the coastal mountains featuring relatively little in the way of salt marshes or tide flats. In contrast most Oregon estuaries are dominated by the tidal flow of the ocean (though the Columbia River estuary shared between Oregon and Washington is also river-dominated). During 2012 the Coastal Training Program assisted the Lower Rogue River Watershed Council and Southwestern Oregon Community College (SOCC) to develop a course in estuary ecosystems that is intended to provide decision makers with the background they need to begin assessing the vulnerability of the Rogue River estuary to environmental changes driven by land use and climate. The course will be presented during the 2013 spring term at the SOCC Gold Beach center.

To introduce the course, the CTP will lead a class to compare and contrast the Rogue estuary with others of Oregon and discuss the latest scientific information about sea level rise off Oregon. In subsequent lectures and field trips, students will learn how estuaries function to provide the rich array of natural benefits that people enjoy from them; about strategies for restoring lost estuary habitat and monitoring water quality, learn to sample water quality and measure habitat, and help to develop a new strategy for managing the Rogue estuary. Classes begin April 2 at the SOCC Gold Beach Center Tuesdays from 6-8 pm. There will be three Saturday field trips. There is no cost for the course.

In 2011 the Lower Rogue Watershed Council contacted the CTP and requested assistance to develop training for Curry County area decision makers as they prepare to conduct a community-supported reassessment of the Rogue's estuary management plan. The plan was developed during the 1970s, under guidance from the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), to meet the requirements of State Planning Goal 16, which protects estuary resources. Estuary management plans were developed for all major estuaries, including the Rogue. Currently Oregon is preparing to assist counties in the coastal zone to revise their estuary plans in light of the vulnerabilities posed to coastal communities by climate change. Decision makers of the Rogue River estuary are ahead of other Oregon coastal communities in having determined to begin a reassessment of the Rogue estuary now.

Last summer CTP coordinator John Bragg and manager Mike Graybill met again with members of the watershed council to begin to develop a series of community education classes under SOCC sponsorship. The watershed council applied for and received a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency to develop the course as a mechanism to begin the revision process. Additionally the grant pays for a scientifically-based assessments of the Rogue estuary that includes historic and current conditions, an analysis of limiting factors, areas for habitat restoration, enhancement, and conservation, and recommendations for habitat restoration projects. It funds related environmental monitoring and the creation of an estuary restoration team to review the assessments and develop a community-driven restoration plan.

Coquille estuary climate vulnerability assessment – The CTP is also assisting the DLCD inform decision makers in the region of the Coquille estuary as they begin to assess the estuary's vulnerability to climate change effects. South Slough will host an experts panel discussion and focus group to solicit ideas and concerns about the habitats and species of the Coquille estuary that could be affected by climate induced changes. Regional and local experts will convene in three meetings (two virtual and one in-person) using an expert elicitation approach to establish the likely vulnerability of habitats and species to the environmental changes that are predicted to occur.

The objective is to help local managers and specialists understand how climate change affects species and habitats in the estuary. The expert panel will 1) review and become familiar with the historic and predicted future climate change data that has been recently synthesized specifically for the region and this project, 2) consider the sensitivities of key estuary habitats and species to these changes, and 3) establish the likely vulnerability of key habitat and species to these predicted changes using the best available information and collective expertise of participants. The panel will use finalized climate change reports and a guiding draft vulnerability assessment that have been prepared specifically for the Coquille Estuary. The experts panel will meet at South Slough March 20.

Local conservation stakeholders convened in April 2012 in Bandon to discuss how climate change is affecting the estuary, and the community could best prepare for these changes. It became evident at that time that better information was needed about local climate trends and projections in context with species and habitat assessments by ecologists and other experts. For more information please visit the project web site at <http://ecoadapt.org/programs/awareness-to-action/Lower-Coquille-Vulnerability-Project>.

Restoration needs assessment – CTP previously reported on efforts to publish the findings of a training need assessment conduct by SSNERR CTP with assistance from the Estuarine Reserves Division and CTP coordinators from several of the reserves. The assessment concluded that professionals engaged in the practice of ecological habitat restoration could benefit from several different types of training, including in aspects of environmental science and technology, but most especially in the field of human dimensions. The term ‘human dimensions’ refers to how and why people value natural resources, how they want resources managed, and how people affect or are affected by natural resources management decisions (Decker et al. 2001). A paper reporting the results of the assessment was submitted for peer review to *Restoration and Ecology* in October and returned for revision in November. The revisions necessitated a near-complete rewriting of the paper, which was resubmitted Feb. 13, 2013. We are still awaiting word on final acceptance.

Living Shorelines Training Webinars – The CTP, in cooperation with the Estuarine Reserves Division (ERD) and interested research reserves, in March applied to the NERRS Science Collaborative for a small technology-transfer grant to develop a series of webinars meant to inform the national estuarine research reserves and their partners across NOAA about the uses and limitations of living shorelines in habitat restoration projects.

NOAA defines a living shoreline as “a more natural bank stabilization technique that uses plants, sand, and limited use of rock to provide shoreline protection and maintain valuable habitat”

<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/restoration/techniques/livingshorelines.html>). Living shoreline projects use natural structural and organic materials, such as wetland plants, submerged aquatic vegetation, oyster reefs, coir fiber logs, sand fill, or stone to stabilize and protect riverbanks and intertidal areas from erosion or filter runoff to the bay, thus improving water quality, and create habitat. They have proven to be particularly popular in urban areas.

As their use grows, so do concerns about their unintended applications or potential adverse effects. In some state planners lack the knowledge and experience they need to permit living shoreline projects. Regulatory barriers in some states prevent their use; in others, insufficient regulation may allow poorly-designed projects to be built. Recently staff from several of the NERRS and ERD began discussing the need for more and better information about living shorelines. Many of the reserves are engaged in habitat restoration or invasive species control; some use or are considering using living shoreline techniques. Scientists and educators at national estuarine research reserves want to know more about when to consider using living shoreline projects.

To address the need, the group will produce a series of webinars for the entire NERRS and state coastal zone management communities focusing on the use and application of living shorelines. At least three of the series will focus on case studies of living shoreline projects supported by the research reserves, within the context of the scientific and engineering definitions of living shorelines, states' regulatory frameworks, best management practices, and outreach methods.

South Slough NERR will archive the webinars for one year after presentation before the archive is moved to a NOAA website. Topics will include:

- What is a living shoreline? Definition of living shorelines across geographies and stakeholder groups; pros and cons of living shoreline projects; scientific basis for choosing living shorelines,
- The challenges of planning and facilitating living shoreline projects across a diverse range of state and federal regulatory frameworks,
- Engineering ecology: Examines the range of ecological functions and values that living shorelines provide to coastal communities and natural habitats, and
- Case studies of projects in New York and North Carolina.

SYSTEM-WIDE MONITORING AND RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE

October 2012-March 2013

NERRS System-wide Monitoring Program (SWMP)

Ali Helms and Adam DeMarzo continued to operate the water quality, weather and nutrient components of SWMP.

We completed monthly field and lab work associated with the water quality, weather, and nutrient long-term monitoring stations. We completed quarterly data submissions on time (July – Sept on Nov 1, 2012; Oct – Dec on Feb 1, 2013) and are working on compiling the annual submissions for 2012 due on March 15, 2013 for water quality, April 15, 2013 for weather, and May 15, 2013 for nutrients. Data submissions for all components include datasets that have undergone several levels of quality assurance and control procedures, metadata development, and lab calibration and field logs to the Centralized Data Management Office (CDMO).

We acquired 2 new water quality instruments to measure the partial pressure of carbon dioxide (pCO₂), which will add to our understanding of the long-term rise in estuary pH detected at all four SWMP stations. These instruments will be deployed Spring 2013. One instrument is a Sami pCO₂ sensor from Sunburst Sensors and will be deployed at the Valino Island station adjacent to the SWMP datalogger; the second is a prototype pCO₂ sensor developed by YSI and will be deployed by mounting on top of the Charleston SWMP datalogger. We will determine the correlations between pH and pCO₂ and other water quality parameters including temperature, salinity, and dissolved oxygen and investigate seasonal (winter/summer) and temporal (day/night) influences on pH and pCO₂.

As a participant in the US Integrated Coastal Ocean Observing System, we operate telemetry systems at four of the water quality stations and the weather station to provide real-time data available at www.nerrsdata.org.

CDMO updates

There are several Centralized Data Management Office updates this year; the CDMO is an 8 member staff team dedicated to data management activities associated with the System-Wide Monitoring Program. They released a new sensor inventory, which is mandatory for WQ and MET submissions this year and consists of an Excel template for the initial uploads. The weather data programs and water quality .SLS sutron files are required for archival to the CDMO. The final data reviews must be completed within 3 months. Secondary SWMP station data hosting has been approved by the SWMP Guidance Committee and the Data Management Committee and is now a priority for the CDMO.

Additional Research and Monitoring Projects

Bacteria Monitoring

We continued monthly monitoring of fecal indicator bacteria at the SWMP nutrient monitoring stations. The bacteria data are of interest to the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds project, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for Total Maximum Daily Load standards and to Oregon Department of Agriculture as they conduct commercial and recreational shellfish contaminant assessments. Volunteers from the Surfrider Foundation continued to use the lab for their routine monitoring of fecal indicator bacteria at local beaches.

Eelgrass Monitoring

Ali Helms and Adam DeMarzo completed quarterly eelgrass sampling at Valino Island using the SeagrassNet sampling protocol on Nov 13, 2012 and Feb 7, 2013. SeagrassNet is an international monitoring program established to document the status and health of seagrasses. Preliminary data analysis from 2004-2010 showed eelgrass spatial cover and density were increasing slightly.

Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS)

South Slough is a participant in a partnership project that provides real-time water quality data for shellfish growers in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. <http://www.nanoos-shellfish.org>. We completed installation of a fourth telemetered water quality station, Elliot Creek, in the Sengstacken Arm that leverages NANOOS funding. Quarterly progress reports were submitted on time. We began installation of a fifth water quality NANOOS station near the mouth of Coos Bay (Boathouse). We installed the plastic ABS tube to protect the datalogger at this station in mid-October and found it sheared off at a subsequent site visit. We are developing a new, more robust deployment system with stainless steel channel mounts so that the tube will withstand the wave action at this site; this station is located very close to the mouth of Coos Bay and experiences much more wave activity than we are used to at our other SWMP stations.

Restoration and Recovery of Native Olympia Oysters

A collaborative approach to address larval supplies and settlement as critical early life-history issues during restoration of native Olympia oysters is a research project funded by the NERRS Science Collaborative that focuses on determination of the timing of reproduction and fecundity and larval supplies, dispersal, and settlement of Olympia oysters in Coos Bay and the South Slough. Project partners are South Slough, University of Oregon, and Oregon Sea Grant Extension Program.

Current updates for this project include research progress by three graduate students. Mark Oates continued monthly collections and gonad analysis, concluding sampling in December. Histological processing of samples is ongoing. He presented preliminary findings on native oyster reproduction at a NERR GTM (ECO-GEEK) online collaborative seminar.

Rose Rimler presented a poster of her ongoing research of native oyster larval supply vs settlement at the Heceta Head conference in Florence, OR on October 27 2012, and at the Western Society of Naturalists meeting in Seaside, CA in November 2012. She finished sampling settlement and larval supply in late November and finished examining her settlement tiles in early December. At the same time, she prepared for an oyster grow-out experiment, which was implemented in January. This experiment is ongoing, and involves monitoring the survival and growth of medium and small field-collected oysters at two to four sites throughout Coos Bay. She plans to continue monitoring these oysters until the summer. Additionally, she is working on analyzing larval supply and settlement data from last year, including working up the physical data collected by the Hobo loggers at her field sites. Cate and she are also working on writing up this project, and have collaborated to produce a first draft of their introduction and methods. Rose also wrote a data summary sheet about Olympia oysters, as well as several other topics, to contribute to the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds document project. In February, she participated in a Science Collaborative Informational session about oyster restoration with Tom Gaskill and the GTM NERR.

Cate Pritchard completed fieldwork examining the relationships between larval supply and settlement of *Ostrea lurida*. She continued to monitor temperature and salinity throughout 4 points in the bay (the monitoring of her most marine site, Empire, has been discontinued). Her current priority is finishing counting of trap samples and beginning to analyze the data. She is about 50% of the way through the samples with preliminary results suggesting that larval supply is highest at Downtown Coos Bay, and lowest (almost non-existent) at Empire, with Haynes Inlet, Coalbank, and Catching Slough having similar abundances of both early and late-stage larvae. Throughout the next 6 months, she will continue to count trap samples, attempt to examine the influence of sediment load on habitat preference and settlement, and further examine the location and consequences of the null zone within the Coos Bay Estuary. She participated in 2 poster presentations and 1 webinar. The first poster session

took place at the Heceta Head Coastal Conference, Oct. 26-27 in Florence, OR, with a poster title of "Where should Olympia Oyster restoration take place in the Coos Bay Estuary?". The second poster session took place at the Western Society of Naturalists Conference in Seaside, CA, Nov. 8-11th with the same poster title. The Webinar took place at the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve on Feb. 20th, with the presentation title, "Larval supply of *Ostrea lurida* along a marine-estuarine gradient in the Coos Bay Estuary".

USGS Climate Change Project

Adam DeMarzo continued planning summer 2013 field work for a collaborative project administered through the US Geological Survey's Western Fisheries Research Center - Predicting Climate Change Threats to Key Estuarine Habitats. The project will develop baseline data, models, and tools to improve predictions regarding the impacts of regional climate change on Pacific Northwest estuaries. Adam participated in a PI meeting Oct 30 (10-1) in Newport, OR with Debbie Reusser (USGS), Henry Lee, Melanie Fraizer, and Pat Clinto (EPA), Brett Dumbauld and Lee McCoy (US Dept of Agriculture). They determined the next steps to ground truth intertidal eelgrass and oyster habitat in South Slough and Coos Bay. USGS will provide a no-cost extension for 2013. South Slough staff and potentially an intern/volunteer will help complete field surveys to verify remotely sensed eelgrass and commercial oyster distributions in the summer of 2013.

Upland Research and Restoration, CELCP lands, and POC Planting

The science team met at ECOS lab with specialists from USFS and OSU on POC (Port Orford cedar) ecology and forestry, POC disease resistance genetics, restoration forestry, and silviculture. Mike Graybill, Larry Basch, and Nate Damewood then did site visits and field reconnaissance with these specialists at the CELCP (Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program) parcels for

initial scoping for implementation of the Reserve Upland Research and Restoration Action Plan, and specifically, for related management of POC and unauthorized use and impacts to upland resources within the reserve. We also did a quick visual survey of existing experimental POC seedling plantings, which will be quantitatively surveyed in the near future with USFS Dorena Genetics Lab scientists. Larry is developing a brief draft for initial Plan implementation in cooperation with specialists. Implementation of the Plan will occur within the context of, and following the reserve management plan, its component climate and energy plan, the Reserve Site Profile, and other guidelines.

To begin to determine upland restoration targets for desired future conditions of upland reserve lands requires the best available historical information. To begin to obtain this information we sent legal locations for reserve lands to Dr. Don Zobel, Professor of Forestry Emeritus, OSU. He used this information to identify historical timber cruise data in the vicinity of the slough. Dr. Zobel sent a draft manuscript summarizing Coos County cruise data sets. Former CELCP land owners will be contacted in an effort to obtain any other available historical data useful for science-based restoration design. Dr. Zobel gave information specific to environmental factors that favor POC, and provided several contacts for additional information about POC planting areas in the slough uplands, and for help in planning related research-restoration designs for upland resources management in general. These include the following: OSU extension forester, Tristan Huff; Coos County foresters, scientists from BLM, the tribes, and Mr. Jim Neilson.

Additional contacts and partnerships to be sought include:

- Bandon Dunes golf course, which has vegetation management questions relevant to reserve lands, and a conservation initiative which could include student support for work on both their and reserve lands that can inform restoration and subsequent management.
- Tom Spies, USFS PNW Experiment Station, Corvallis has done manipulative experimentation.

- Janet Ohmann, another USFS researcher at Corvallis,,has done modeling of coastal forests, and may have ideas of important questions that could be addressed on reserve land.

Disease resistant POC seedlings recently became available; 1000 were purchased. Larry is coordinating logistics and developing the scientific design and a technical plan for this near-term “opportunistic” planting based on communications with Professor Zobel. This planting is scheduled to occur during the week of 1 April 2013, in concert with timing of the species biology and arrival of a visiting Americorps crew of 10 students. Input from or field participation of specialists in the design and technical plan for this “opportunistic” planting has been requested and confirmed for some specialists. The short- and long-term goal of this planting is to fit the design of this upcoming opportunistic planting within the framework of the Plan. The planting will occur on the recently acquired parcel of CELCP land at the SW boundary of the reserve.

Partner Projects

South Slough is serving as a cooperator/partner in the Northwest Climate Science Center (NWCSC) Sea-level rise Project - Marshes to mudflats: climate change effects along a latitudinal gradient in the Pacific Northwest - led by John Takekawa, USGS Western Ecological Research Center in Vallejo, CA. The project objectives are to measure morphological and ecological characteristics (e.g., elevation, tidal range, vegetation) along transects crossing the habitat continuum of tidal marsh, intertidal mudflat, and subtidal shoals; 2) model vulnerability of these nearshore habitats and dependent avian indicator species to projected climate change effects; and 3) examine spatial variability of these projected changes along the latitudinal gradient of the Oregon and Washington coasts. Coos Bay (Bull Island) will serve as one of 8 study sites for the project

and SSNERR staff are assisting with download of Onset hobo water level and conductivity loggers at two locations near Bull Island in upper Coos Bay. Craig downloaded and re-launched the loggers during low tide on 3/8/2013 and sent the data, photos and field notes to USGS staff. Loggers need to be downloaded about every four months.

Proposals

The science staff received notification that two of the NERRS Science Collaborative one year project preliminary proposals were selected for full proposal submission due on April 17, 2013: 1) Enhancing Availability, Accessibility, and Interpretation of Water Quality Data in Coos Bay: Real-time Telemetry Tools and Educational Display Kiosks, and; 2) Sources and effects of pharmaceutical and personal care products (PPCPs) on native and commercial oysters in the lower Coos watershed. The first project will be led by South Slough staff in partnership with the Coos Watershed and the second project will be led by Portland State University, Elise Granek and Brianna Tarnower with active participation by SSNERR Science team.

The science team also sent proposals to AmeriCorps for Science Outreach Specialist volunteer (Summer 2013) in collaboration with Education and Volunteer Program staff, and; NOAA Construction and Acquisition grant for phase 2 – completion of ECOS building remodel - based on the current grant received for design of the remodel.

Graduate Research Fellowship

NOAA / Estuarine Reserves Division provides up to three years of financial support for NERR Graduate Research Fellowship grants awarded to graduate students who conduct their thesis work within the South Slough NERR. The current GRF is Matthew Gray (Ph.D. candidate, Oregon State University) who will be funded through July.

Matthew Gray has been developing techniques for *in situ* monitoring of Olympia and Pacific oyster feeding behavior. This entails tracking how diurnal changes in environmental conditions (e.g., daily changes in salinity or turbidity) alter the clearance rates, filtration rates, absorption efficiencies, etc. of these

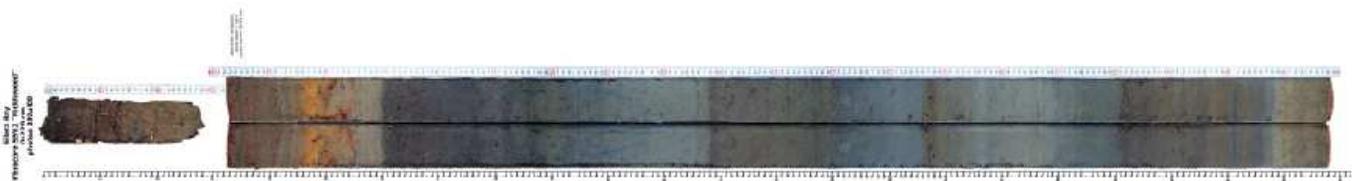
species. Understanding of how fluctuations in the environment impact oyster physiology will allow for greater resolution of the ecosystem services that these animals provide within Pacific Northwest estuaries.

Matt's preliminary work on the effects of temperature on clearance rates of Olympia oysters was recently incorporated into a model which estimated the filtration services of these animals prior to their extirpation. This work also represented the first modern, detailed study of Olympia oyster feeding physiology. This article can currently be found using the following link: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10452-013-9431-6>.

There is a likelihood that this program will be phased out after the current group of fellows complete their work due to federal budget cuts.

Visiting Researchers

Science staff supported Alan Nelson (USGS), Yvonne Milker, Benjamin Horton, Simon Engelhart and other researchers October 8-12, 2012 to sample modern transects for foraminifera at Tom's Creek and in addition, they collected vibracores with aluminum irrigation pipe along Talbot Creek and a few other sites. Foraminifera are a group of small amoeboid protists (1 mm-20 cm) with elaborate shells/tests made of calcium carbonate; this group contains living and fossil species. The vibracores contain thousands of years of the geologic record to examine for uplift/subsidence events as the sediment layers reveal changes during earthquake/tsunami activity. They also completed a detailed elevation transect of foraminifera and collected water level, salinity and temperature data. Below is an example of a 228 cm deep core from Siletz Bay showing the different sediment layers.



Shandy Buckley, M.S. Physical Oceanography, visited, participated in field scoping for deployment of 4 new SWMP stations in Coos Bay, and met with Science Team. Ms. Buckley will be volunteering with OIMB graduate students and expressed interest in supporting reserve science needs, including proposal writing in her area of knowledge. She and Larry Basch began review of open-source software (Delft-3D) for integrated modeling of hydrodynamics, water quality, coastal-marine geomorphology, and ecology.

Dr. Jim Carlton, students and colleagues from Williams College Mystic Seaport Maritime Studies Program visited the IC and field sites in the slough with Craig and Larry. Dr. Carlton and Larry are planning a resurvey in spring or summer 2013 of the invasive Asian snail *Asimonia parasitologica* and other known or potential Alien or Nuisance Species (ANS).

Larry and Mary Fencl of the Deltares Research Institute began discussion of collaborations to gain information on several subjects of mutual interest to the reserve.

NERRS Committees and Projects

SWMP Guidance Committee

The SWMP Guidance Committee (Marie Bundy, Nina Garfield, Willy Reay, Ed Buskey, Matt Ferner, John Fear, Ali Helms, John Bragg, and Tom Elledge) met during the NERRS annual conference on Nov 28, 2012. The primary discussion points included secondary SWMP stations as well as review of NERRS Research and Monitoring Plan, the Sentinel Sites Program Plan, and Habitat Mapping and Change protocols. The NERRS released the Research and Monitoring Plan 2012-2017, which describes the research priorities identified in the NERRS strategic plan and reserve grant applications.

NERR Climate Sensitivity Analysis Project

The goal of this project is to understand how climate change impacts coastal areas and categorize each reserve based on the results of both anthropogenic and climate-related stressors. The project members gave a brief overview of results at the NERRS Annual meeting in West Virginia (Nov 2012) and the final report will be available sometime in the spring 2013. The project includes: 1) analysis and synthesis of key data describing physical, ecological, and socio-demographic characteristics in the reserves; 2) isolation of the main anthropogenic and climate stressors impacting the reserves, including nutrient enrichment, sedimentation, hypoxia, and physical disturbance including water diversions (anthropogenic examples) and sea level rise, precipitation frequency and intensity, and drought (climate stressor examples). From this data, they will categorize each reserve based on their responses to those stressors.

Staff Training / Meetings

Ali Helms participated in the 2012 NERRS / NERRA Annual meeting from Nov 26-30th, 2012 as part of the Research Coordinator sector meetings. The Research Coordinators accomplished several objectives including: advanced shared learning among NERRS Research programs regarding ongoing activities and lessons learned to strengthen connections and work toward a more cohesive system; advanced more consistent and comparable system-wide monitoring that is informed by national guidance and regionally-driven implementation approaches to address priority issues; increased understanding of NOAA Sentinel Sites planning and implementation efforts to inform research priorities; increased understanding of Climate Sensitivity Analysis, and; identified strategies to mitigate the impact of future budget constraints.

Ali Helms, Adam DeMarzo, & Larry Basch participated in the NERRS Annual Technician Training Workshop in Myrtle Beach, SC Feb 12-14, 2013. The training was hosted by the Centralized Data Management Office, and included focused sessions on weather and telemetry, water quality, nutrient collections, data management, and expert tables for engaging discussions on all aspects of the System-Wide Monitoring Program.

Larry is continuing to meet and communicate with all reserve staff and sector coordinators, Commissioners, FOSS members, DSL, NOAA, NERRS, and ODFW personnel, and other partners (e.g., faculty, current and prospective researchers, graduate students, Coos Watershed Board members and Research and Education Committee, OIMB) to learn about one another's interests and scopes of ongoing and future work, and to discuss, and plan for cooperative work, collaborations, and information sharing.

ECOS staff met to kick-start discussion of reserve data management strategy looking forward and to then address legacy data management. Future data management strategy will mesh with those for DSL and NERRS where appropriate. File naming conventions will be developed and adopted by consensus.

Larry participated in the Pacific Coast Joint Venture meeting at OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport with several other estuary, government, and community or NGO representatives to update on organization activities and learn about funding and partnership opportunities.

Craig Cornu and Larry Basch are planning to participate/participated in meetings to coordinate estuarine management throughout Oregon with TNC and other partners, on Coquille Estuary climate change vulnerability, and the Pacific Estuarine Research Society 36th annual meeting in British Columbia. Larry and Craig will cooperate with the Coastal Management Program of the Oregon Dept. of Land Conservation and Development on a project to map habitats in Oregon's estuaries and will represent SSNERR on the advisory committee.

Stewardship Program Update

Quarterly Stewardship Program Activities – November 2012 through March 2013

Watershed Activities

Coastal Forest Restoration and Research: Guided by SSNERR's Upper Watershed Restoration Action Plan (2009) and catalyzed in part by evidence of cedar-bough cutting and other land management issues associated with SSNERR's newly acquired CELCP properties, Larry is taking the lead on collecting relevant data, engaging partners and overseeing a tree planting crew to begin coastal forest restoration actions at SSNERR. See System-Wide Monitoring and Research Program Update for details.

Nutria in the South Slough Watershed and Coos Bay: As reported previously, in response to recent nutria sightings in the South Slough watershed, SSNERR staff is considering its options for nutria population control or eradication. Craig, Nate and Don will meet with Brady Smith with the US Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Service (Roseburg) on April 18 and possibly sooner. We will work with Mr. Smith to determine what SSNERR's options are for nutria control and the likely costs associated with each option.

Also reported previously, SSNERR staff and South Slough Commissioner Jamie Fereday (and other members of the Millicoma Marsh Stewardship Group) have been involved with others to plan the control of nutria in Coos Bay's Millicoma Marsh. At last report (3/6/2013), about 30 nutria have been taken at Millicoma Marsh by USDA Wildlife Services staff using a rifle with a silencer. Additional outings have been planned for that site.

Watershed Monitoring

Partnership for Coastal Watersheds Project (Phase 1): Implementation of the 216K Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technologies (CICEET)-supported the first phase of the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds project came to a close with the submission of the [final project report](#) on November 15, 2012. All grant invoicing and billing was completed to the satisfaction of the grantor. SSNERR and Coos Watershed Association staff completed all project elements, including the two main documents which may interest SSNERR Commissioners in particular:

1. State of the Watersheds assessment (download [here](#))
2. Partnership for Coastal Watersheds Acton Plan (download [here](#))

Complete information from both documents is fully accessible on the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds web site ([link](#))

Partnership for Coastal Watersheds Project (Phase 2): As previously reported, SSNERR was awarded a two-year \$550,000 NERRS Science Collaborative grant to support the next phase of the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds project (PCW), extending its geographic scope to include the Coos estuary and associated sub basins. The grant supports an assistant project coordinator, Jenni Schmitt, who began working with Craig on the project on February 1, 2013. On February 26, Jenni gave birth to a healthy baby girl! Jenni will be on leave for six week and in the meantime Jenni's workload is being handled by Judy Hamilton remotely from Kodiak Island, AK through a small contract.

The Partnership Steering Committee Transition Team, formed to launch the PCW Phase 2 using lessons learned from the project's first phase, recommended specific changes in how an expanded Partnership Steering Committee will do its work and that the PCW Phase 2 project be organized around an update of the 1975-era Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan (universally acknowledged to be very much out of date). The Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan (CBEMP) is the land use guidance document the county

developed and adopted 38 years ago using a public process. The county planning office uses that guidance to review proposed land uses in and around the Coos estuary.

The idea of updating the plan was discussed at length among Transition Team members and with Coos county commissioner Melissa Cribbins (liaison with planning department) who expressed great interest in the project. The Transition Team was attracted to the project because an update of the CBEMP:

- Would give our community a more up to date and solid foundation for evaluating opportunities. An updated plan would accurately account for the land use and resource management changes, including many land use zone changes, ownerships, jurisdictions and special designations that have occurred in and around the estuary over the past 38 years.
- Is consistent with the PCW mission, goals and community vision (it's one of the high priority actions identified in the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds Action Plan developed in the PCW Phase 1).
- Would require the development of a common understanding of the environmental and socioeconomic conditions in the Coos estuary and associated sub-basins (Goal 16 and 17 inventory information) which the PCW Phase 1 has already begun with the completion of the Nov. 2012 edition of the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds State of the Watersheds assessment.
- Could be greatly facilitated by the use of the estuarine water circulation model being developed by University of Oregon scientists with support from the PCW Phase 2 grant funds. The model can be used to simulate change in the estuary (e.g., shipping channel dredging, sea level rise scenarios...etc.) to explore the various likely effects of those changes.
- Would incorporate the use of the environmental and socioeconomic indicators being developed with PCW Phase 2 grant funds to keep the planning document responsive to both near- and long-term changes.
- Would require the use of a volunteer collaborative community process similar to the PCW planning process. There is funding in the Phase 2 grant to support additional training on community collaborative learning processes.
- Would take advantage of an estuary plan update support project being undertaken by the Department of Land Conservation and Development in 2013-2014 (See System-Wide Monitoring and Research Program Update for details).

The Transition Team reinforced during meeting discussions that the Phase 2 Partnership Steering Committee will need to represent the full suite of

community stakeholders to effectively take on this complex project. We also discussed the fact that the project would need to be tackled in manageable pieces by PCW subcommittees.

Although we've not yet heard from everyone, the CBEMP update concept is so far supported by the Partnership Steering Committee.

Specific details about how the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds group would help update the CBEMP will be discussed with Coos County Planning Director Jill Rolfe, followed by another Transition Team meeting designed to establish a plan of action and begin recruitment of new Partnership Steering Committee members.

It should be noted that since the potential of the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds is bigger than a single project, there was some concern raised that the PCW not turn entirely into a single project organization that goes away once the CBEMP update project is completed. The point was made that several subcommittees could be coordinating multiple projects in parallel. Examples included hosting a Coastal Zone Management 101 workshop for the community, developing (with additional grant funds) an SDAT-style community vision for the Bay Area, and forming a projects team whose job it is to develop and implement projects articulated in the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds Action Plan.

SWMP Expansion: As part of the PCW Phase 2 project, we have funding to create a Coos estuary-wide water quality monitoring network by integrating four new water quality monitoring stations in the Coos estuary with the three existing Coos estuary water quality monitoring stations operated by the Coquille Tribe and the Confederated Tribes, and the five existing South Slough SWMP stations operated by SSNERR (see

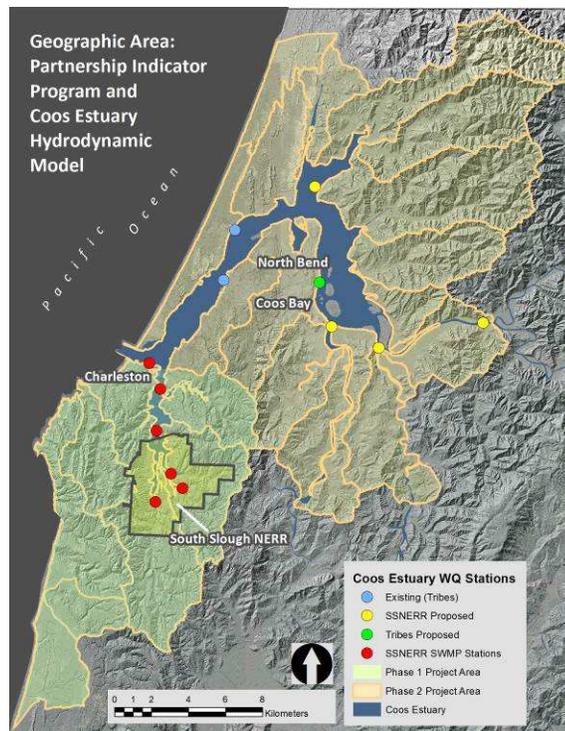


figure at right- includes SSNERR's discontinued SWMP station at Talbot Creek in the upper portion of South Slough's Sengstaken arm). SSNERR staff members have begun field reconnaissance to identify likely SWMP sites in the Coos estuary.

Hydrodynamic Model Validation: Another part of the PCW Phase 2 project includes funding to validate a hydrodynamic model of the Coos estuary being developed by scientists at the University of Oregon (UO). The SSNERR science team has been meeting with UO's Dr. Dave Sutherland to site and work out the logistics for placing water level, conductivity and temperature loggers and two acoustic doppler current profilers as close to Coos Bay's shipping channel as possible in the lower and mid portions of the estuary. It's worth noting that a companion proposal requesting additional funding for the hydrodynamic model and associated climate change workshops to be integrated with the PCW process has been submitted to NOAA's Climate Program Office, Coastal and Ocean Climate Applications program by a team led by Oregon State University's Dr. David Hill. UO's Dr. Sutherland is an associate principal investigator on that proposal.

Geographic Information Systems: We are pleased to report that Chris Kangas has joined Craig for six weeks as SSNERR's first Geographic Information Systems (GIS) intern, thanks to the internship recruiting work of Maggie Allen. Chris is mainly working on Partnership for Coastal Watersheds projects but will be initially providing the SSNERR Lab with a badly needed set of mounted maps depicting the South Slough watershed and attributes (SSNERR boundary, location of IC, stream names...etc.), a close-up map of the Reserve and attributes, and a broader map of the Coos estuary and attributes. Chris just recently graduated with a degree in geography and a certificate in GIS from the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana where he's spent most of his life. He's a keen mountain biker and is learning to stand-up paddleboard at Sunset Beach near the campground where he's staying in his camper.

Proposals

NERRS Science Collaborative: Craig and a team of eight Pacific Northwest biophysical, economic, and social scientists submitted what turned out to be

an ultimately unsuccessful \$400,000 preliminary proposal to the one year funding opportunity that the NERRS Science Collaborative announced in the fall of 2012. We were proposing to secure funding to complete the much-needed groundwork to quantify carbon sequestration rates and greenhouse gas emissions for Pacific Northwest tidal wetlands and investigate the mechanisms by which carbon offsets from tidal wetland restoration and conservation activities could work in our region. We will receive reviewers' comments on the proposal by the end of the month which will help the team adjust its approach when we use the proposal to pursue other funding sources to address this climate change-related information gap for the Pacific Northwest. Go [here](#) to download a copy of the proposal.

Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership/NOAA: Craig, in partnership with a local fish biologist, Ayesha Gray, submitted a \$260,000 project concept to the Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership (PMEP) for their block grant proposal to the NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration Grant Program. The project entitled, *Winchester Tidelands Restoration Project Effectiveness Monitoring for Salmonid Habitat Recovery*, will result in the collection of three years of new fish and fish habitat data to be combined with multiple years of existing data from the SSNERR's 10 to 17 year old tidal wetland restoration project sites to develop a comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of a variety tidal wetland restoration techniques for improving juvenile salmonid habitat for a wild coastal coho salmon run on the southern Oregon coast. We are not sure when a decision will be made on the PMEP's proposal. Go [here](#) to download a copy of the proposal.

Meetings / Presentations

South Slough NERR Coordinator of Monitoring Programs, Craig Cornu:

November 2012- Participated as a member of the Waite Ranch restoration project advisory group in a meeting to review restoration plans, new funding proposals/concepts and project effectiveness monitoring plans and funding proposals.

February 2013- Led the discussion with the Coos Watershed Association staff at two Partnership for Coastal Watersheds Transition Team meetings about the PCW Phase 2 project issues and activities.

March 2013- Delivered presentation with Bessie Joyce of the Coos Watershed Association about the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds Phase 1 project results and PCW Phase 2 plans at the Coos Bay Rotary Club meeting held at the Mill Casino. This is the first of a series of presentations we will be delivering to community organizations and local government meetings.

March 2013- Delivered presentation on SSNERR tidal wetland restoration projects and associated monitoring results and led a field trip to SSNERR's Winchester Tidelands Restoration Project sites for a group of 25 students and faculty from the Williams College Mystic Marine Studies Program (Connecticut), Jim Carlton, director.

March 2013- Will participate in two virtual and one actual Expert Panel workshops associated with the Coquille estuary climate change vulnerability assessment being developed by a variety of partners including EcoAdapt, The Nature Conservancy, the Oregon Coastal Management Program of the Oregon Dept. of Land Conservation and Development, and the Coastal Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

March 2013 Will participate in a Central Coast estuary collaboration project meeting hosted by the The Nature Conservancy to explore partnership opportunities for estuary restoration and conservation projects along Oregon's mid-coast.