

**CITY OF COOS BAY CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Staff Report**

MEETING DATE June 4, 2013	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
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TO: Mayor Shoji and City Councilors

FROM: Rodger Craddock, City Manager *RC*

ISSUE Coos Estuary Inventory Project

BACKGROUND

Members from the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds Steering Committee have asked to make a presentation to the Council on their *Coos Estuary Inventory Project*. The project is intended to provide local decision makers and residents with the tools and information needed to improve our understanding of the environmental and socioeconomic conditions here and perhaps ultimately help update the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan (CBEMP).

Attached you will find a letter from the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds to the Council which provides additional information about their project along with their desire for your endorsement and City participation in the project.

RECOMMENDATION

The presentation is informational only at this time although the Council may wish to support the Coastal Watersheds efforts in the project by allowing staff to participate on the committee.



To: *Coos Bay City Council*
From: *Partnership for Coastal Watersheds Steering Committee*
Subject: *Coos Estuary Inventory Project*

A local group of public-spirited community members—banded together with the help of grant funding as the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds Steering Committee—seeks the city of Coos Bay’s participation in the *Coos Estuary Inventory Project*. The project is intended to provide local decision makers and residents with the tools and information needed to improve our understanding of the environmental and socioeconomic conditions here and perhaps ultimately help update the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan (CBEMP).

What we’re asking for

- ***The Partnership Steering Committee requests that the Coos Bay City Council review the information provided below, formally endorse this project and give city of Coos Bay staff the authority to periodically review the project to ensure it is on track for addressing the needs of the city. The Partnership is not asking for any funding from the city of Coos Bay.***

What the project seeks to do

- The goal of the Coos Estuary Inventory Project is to develop an environmental and socio-economic inventory for the Coos Estuary and associated sub-basins to provide up-to-date “baseline” information for the community that could also be used to satisfy statewide planning goals 16 and 17 inventory requirements for a CBEMP update.

What the project will produce

- The Coos Estuary Inventory will consist of a series of mapped environmental and socio-economic information and supporting data summaries compiled from a wide variety of sources that describe the status, location and extent of physical, biological, social, and economic resources in the Coos Estuary and associated sub-basins.

What the inventory *could* lead to:

- A community investigation into the ways in which the county may be vulnerable to climate-related changes (including sea level rise and storm surges) and how likely it is that those changes will happen; when/where anticipated changes could take place and what the community can do to minimize and/or prepare for those changes.
- An assessment of current land uses in the Coos Estuary and shorelands and how/where they differ from those indicated in the current version of the CBEMP.
- A Sustainable Design Action Team (SDAT)-like conversation among community members about their priorities to answer the questions:
 - What is the community’s vision for where it wants to be in 10 and 20 years?
 - How can that vision be supported by a revised approach to the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan?

Coos Estuary Inventory Project operating principles:

- This project will not in itself result in an update of the CBEMP; rather the inventory would facilitate the development of a new CBEMP by helping the community take initial steps toward updating the plan.
- The inventory will be developed with the direct participation of the Coos County Planning Department, the Department of Land Conservation and Development, city planners and others so it could potentially be used for the required inventory portion of the CBEMP.
- In order for this inventory to be developed in a way that's as useful to the community as possible, key individuals and organizations need to be involved from the beginning.
- Using various outreach methods, the Partnership Steering Committee will strive to keep the community involved and informed about the inventory as it works toward project objectives.
- The project facilitators (South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve and the Coos Watershed Association), under the direction of the Partnership Steering Committee, will continue to develop tools, including the Coos Estuary water quality network, estuary circulation model, and environmental and socioeconomic indicators, incorporating them into easily updatable formats to make this a "living" inventory.
- The Partnership Steering Committee and project facilitators will work to secure additional funding as needed to complete tasks associated with completing elements of the Coos Estuary Inventory relevant to a CBEMP update.

Please contact the following Partnership Steering Committee members with questions:

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Chris Hood, Stuntzner Engineering: chood@stuntzner.com

Jon Barton, South Coast Development Corporation: jbarton1940@gmail.com