

**Minutes**  
Port of Siuslaw  
Board of Commissioners  
Florence Oregon Ocean Resources Coalition Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, 20 August 2009

Port Recording Secretary Lacer called the regular meeting of the Port of Siuslaw FOORC Committee to order at 5:01 p.m. in the Port office conference room located at 1499 Bay Street, Florence, Lane County, Oregon.

**Attendance:** Committee: Gunter Bahr (Bahr), Nola Xavier (Xavier), John Blanchard (Blanchard), Melonie Rollin, John Schaefer (Schaefer), Keith Tymchuck, Absent: Al Pazar (Pazar), Larry Nixon (Nixon). Commission: Bob Thorp. (Thorp); Staff: Port Manager Mark Freeman (Freeman), Recording Secretary Susy Lacer (Lacer).

Because a Chair had not yet been elected, Lacer opened the meeting. She stated Al Pazar was unable to attend but had sent his alternate, Blanchard. Lacer stated Pazar told her he would be willing and happy to serve as Chair. Lacer stated Nixon had also told her he would be willing to serve as Chair if needed. Discussion on members interested in serving as Chair or Vice Chair. Xavier stated she would be willing to serve as Vice Chair and that she believed Pazar would be a good Chair for the group since he lived in Florence. **On the Motion, made by Tymchuk, the Committee voted unanimously to appoint Pazar as Chair and Xavier as Vice Chair.** Xavier assumed control of the meeting in Pazar's absence.

**Minutes:** Xavier suggested waiting to approve the minutes of the July 16<sup>th</sup> 2009 meeting until next month because there was not a quorum of members in attendance who were at the 16 July meeting. Xavier asked Lacer to provide copies of last month's minutes to Schaefer.

**Old Business:** Members need to select alternates. Xavier noted alternates have been appointed for both the commercial fishing and tribal representatives. It was agreed the Port Commission will appoint an alternate for the public at large representative. Other representatives are to recommend an alternate which the Commission can then appoint.

Reimbursement for mileage and expenses for FOORC members. Lacer stated the Port had requested funds through Sea Grant that could be used to reimburse members for mileage expenses. Lacer stated any committee member could submit an expense report to the Port for reimbursement. Expense forms were available for use.

Introductions. Blanchard suggested introductions since this was his first FOORC meeting. Blanchard—has fisheries and wildlife degree, has worked as groundfish observer with commercial fishermen. Rollin—has been working with Our Ocean Coalition, has local experience with fishing and cares about the Siuslaw watershed. Bahr—is Coast Guard Auxiliary member, has fishing experience and is interested in power development in the ocean. Schaefer—works in water quality for the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, has worked as a shellfish biologist and is part of the Coos Bay marine reserve committee (SOORC). Xavier—is City Councilor with Florence, has been City's rep to OCZMA and is working

to help the City be knowledgeable about marine resource issues. Tymchuk—is a high school teacher in Reedsport, a Port of Umpqua Commissioner and Reedsport Mayor, has been actively involved in reviewing the Territorial Sea Plan and is part of the Coos Bay marine reserve group. Xavier noted it is useful for FOORC to have the overlap of members with other resource groups (SOORC).

Xavier opened discussion of the marine reserves issue, per Pazar's suggestion. She suggested it would be best to have any future marine reserve proposals come from local input of all interested parties. Tymchuk noted both successful reserve applications were from the ground up and that those two would be good models to follow. Xavier asked Lacer to send the marine reserve information from Pazar from last month to Tymchuk, Blanchard and Schaefer. Tymchuk stated the Coos Bay group (SOORC) is tasked with recommending a specific marine reserve proposal and that if FOORC does not have that same task, it might be helpful to at least have parameters in place for any future reserve proposals, to be proactive rather than reactive. Blanchard agreed it would be good to do the research and be prepared and to follow any proposals as they develop. Schaefer noted the Florence area does not seem to fit any of the current criteria for a marine reserve, based on local ocean floor makeup.

Blanchard stated he has heard concerns raised about the Heceta-Cape Perpetua (HCP) area proposed for further study. Rollin stated that proposal covered a large area, from the Yachats area to near Heceta Head, and includes sandy bottom areas. Rollin stated the boundaries of that original proposal (from Our Ocean) are in flux currently, based on feedback from other user groups and their needs. She stated they have rough boundaries now, but the lines are changing. Tymchuk stated the intent of this committee would be to have maximum local input into any potential reserves, rather than input from other outside areas, and that a statement to that effect would be appropriate. Rollin asked what else could be done to acquire input from local residents. Tymchuk stated as the HCP proposal moves forward, the committee could host public forums up and down the affected areas. Xavier added FOORC could set the tone at these forums to provide information, find answers and be proactive. Tymchuk noted the formation of this committee was a proactive step and that FOORC would need to determine at what point to begin holding public forums regarding the proposal. Rollin suggested the group needs to ask why FOORC is doing this work. Tymchuk agreed, asking what the guidelines are for FOORC: is the committee to review or recommend or deny proposals?

Rollin stated the Governor has said he wants reserves and she suggested the committee needs to know why the committee is saying it wants reserves. Tymchuk, Xavier and Blanchard all stated they are not at a point of saying they do want reserves, but that they all have an open mind to research the issue and learn more. Xavier stated she was more than willing to consider marine reserve proposals, but that there is lots of information that needs to be dispersed, both for and against. She stated the only way to have a marine reserve proposal that works would be to have the involvement of all concerned. Blanchard stated there are two ways to approach the idea of marine reserves: as an emotional concept or as a tool that can be used in ecosystem management. He stated it is important to ask what the benefits are of a reserve and what the effects are of creating one. He stated some of those questions can be answered by technical papers already published. Xavier agreed it is important to ask: is

it just a feel-good project or is there a need for a reserve. Rollin stated that if marine reserves are a way to monitor an area of ocean, that would be helpful. Blanchard noted that once an area is reserved, it is difficult to go back. Rollin stated an area could go to a protected area, rather than reserved.

Xavier stated another concern is how the studies proposed for marine reserves will be funded. Rollin stated the funds will come from NOAA and Sea Grant. She stated the monitoring of the reserves would be provided by Oregon State Police, but that OSP does not know at this point how they would complete that monitoring. Bahr stated he does not believe OSP would be able to complete the monitoring, nor could the Coast Guard. He also noted that pollution control is needed. Rollin stated much of the monitoring will be done by nonprofit organizations such as Surfrider and that it would need to be determined how much area OSP could monitor, in addition to their existing responsibilities and geographical limitations. Xavier asked if that meant a marine reserve should only be sited where it can be observed easily, rather than where it is needed. Tymchuk stated it would be useful to determine whether marine reserves are needed or not. He stated there are already heavily regulated projects, the two pilot projects approved thus far, and that it would be good to watch and see if those pilot projects work before adding additional reserves. He stated he would also like the committee to keep open the definition of a marine reserve, e.g. a reserve does not have to be defined as an area of no access. He stated the committee could choose to define a reserve in a different way if appropriate.

Tymchuk suggested FOORC might need or want a mission statement to provide overall guidance, for instance, the committee wants to maximize local input for any developments off the local area. Freeman stated the charter from the Port Commission was to discuss multiple marine resource issues, including marine reserves, wave energy, etc. Freeman stated the committee could discuss and review proposals, determine if a proposal makes sense, and recommend boundaries for proposals. Freeman noted the HCP area was designated for further study. He suggested FOORC could make recommendations on what they think best regarding that proposal. Tymchuk stated if FOORC is to review and recommend ideas regarding the Heceta-Cape Perpetua proposal, he would need to see a copy of the HCP proposal as it exists now. Freeman stated the HCP proposal is not defined at this time, but that FOORC can make a recommendation on what the committee thinks would be the best boundaries for the reserve area. Freeman stated FOORC could explore issues that would affect the near shore area, considering economic and recreational effects, among others. Freeman suggested FOORC could look at the HCP proposal idea and consider whether the committee believes the idea should move forward or not. Tymchuk stated the committee needed to evaluate what other uses there are in the affected areas. Freeman stated the purpose for FOORC is: to advise the Port Commission on marine resource issues. Freeman noted that in addition to marine reserves, there may be new wave energy proposals at any time. Tymchuk stated the only active marine reserve proposal for this area at this time is HCP. Freeman stated the HCP proposal was only recommended for further study, and that FOORC does not need to use the proposal as it was submitted last year, it could recommend other options for the area. He also noted the Governor's office may recommend changes to the proposal in the future. Thorp stated that when marine resource issues come up, the Commission is deluged with data

from a variety of sources. Thorp stated the Commission wanted the collective wisdom of the committee members, those who know the area and are involved here, to advise them on these issues. Thorp stated the Commission's concern is what is good for the local community. Rollin stated the committee could contact Port Orford to get an idea what the budget will be to monitor the reserve area down there. Xavier asked what geographic area FOORC is to focus on. Freeman stated approximately Yachats to Reedsport.

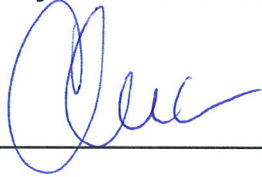
Rollin asked what the committee would like to do in the next month. She stated she has some literature on marine reserves she could share. She stated the committee could work on rewriting the HCP proposal. Rollin stated she would like to see the area of the ocean that is proposed for a reserve and wondered if Pazar would be able to take the committee out to view the site. Blanchard stated he is out on the ocean every day already, but he encouraged others to see the area if desired. He noted all members of the group have specialties and strengths and all can share their respective information. He stated ODFW has been collecting fish data and telemetry on how fish disburse, including underwater footage from ROVs. Rollin stated the Sea Lion Caves have also been gathering info. Rollin stated she has lots of questions on why the committee wants an area set aside for research. Tymchuk clarified: or if the committee wants to set aside an area. Blanchard noted most of the suggested areas are inaccessible already. Rollin stated the reserve area could be defined as being left open for recreational or commercial use.

Blanchard suggested the committee can decide what issues it would like to learn more about, then share that information. Tymchuk stated he believes the Port should provide that source information to FOORC for its review. Schaefer noted the Cape Arago reserve had very narrowly defined allowed research within the reserve, only that which researched how the reserve was working. Blanchard stated he would like to see side scan surveillance of the affected coast area. Tymchuk stated it would be best to identify the areas that are not heavily used to help in deciding where a potential reserve could be sited. He noted the area off Florence is used by many different fishermen and it might be difficult to get use info from fishermen; the penny mapping information would be helpful but it might be difficult to get. Rollin suggested FOORC could ask fishermen where they don't fish, rather than where they do fish. Tymchuk suggested asking OCZMA for data on where fishermen don't fish. Blanchard noted there is not a lot of near shore rock fishing from Reedsport to Yachats. Bahr agreed, noting rock fishing was more active near Heceta Banks. Bahr stated crabbing is the biggest issue here because of the sandy bottom. Xavier stated the committee may find there is not a local area suitable for a marine reserve. Bahr agreed and stated it could be more suitable for wave energy. Tymchuk pointed out the HCP proposal is still slated for further study. Rollin stated some of the proposed HCP area is diverse and would be suitable for a marine reserve. Discussion on variety of rockfish caught in Oregon. Rollin stated she has lots of questions about what is causing the changes in the ocean, why are there such large tuna runs now, why is the ph of the ocean changing, etc. Tymchuk asked what the Commission's intent was for FOORC. Thorp stated FOORC is to advise the Commission on marine resource issues, that the Commission is looking to the committee for information on if something should be done, and if so, how specifically it should be done.

Tymchuk shared information on current wave energy plans and concerns with those plans. Freeman stated the committee may want to consider whether to ask Lane County to intercede as Lincoln County has.

Xavier stated it sounds like there is material that the committee would like to review. She asked all members to send Lacer requests for any information they would like for review. Tymchuk stated he would like to see the HCP proposed area information in whatever form it is, including a map if possible. He stated he would also like to see sea bed information for the area. Bahr suggested NOAA might have ocean floor maps. Bahr agreed to check with NOAA and to send any information he finds to Lacer for distribution. Schaefer noted the committee doesn't need to see detailed resolution, but a rough idea of the area is necessary. Rollin asked if grant funds would be available to cover expenses of viewing the area. Lacer agreed to check with Sea Grant. Tymchuk stated he would like to work on a mission statement for the group. He agreed to write one and send it to Lacer. Blanchard requested a copy of the video created by the Port Orford resource group. Rollin offered to bring the Common Ground III video. Xavier agreed the committee should review all information available. Blanchard asked about getting a lease holders/ permit holder list of wave energy projects. Xavier asked Lacer to get Blanchard and Schaefer the information on the Swedish wave energy proposal. Tymchuk noted the Ocean Energy Conference would be held 15-16 September in Seaside and that it would be good to have FOORC and/or Commission members attend.

**Adjourn:** Xavier adjourned the meeting at 6:37pm.



---

Chair