

Strategic Planning
March 15, 2007

Notes

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 PM. Present were:

Committee Members

Roy Curless
Ted Kuiper

Gregg Foster
Dennis Mayo

Dennis Hunter
Mark Wheatley

Commission Staff

David Hull

Patti Tyson

The group reviewed the draft calendar and made some changes. Following is the revised calendar.

			Time	Tentative Purpose
April	17 th	Tuesday	2:00 PM	Outreach – Government
May	7 th	Monday	6:00 PM	Outreach – Conservation
	14 th	Monday	6:00 PM	Outreach – Recreation
June	5 th	Tuesday	6:00 PM	Outreach – Harbor
	21 st	Thursday	6:00 PM	Plan development
July	10 th	Tuesday	6:00 PM	Plan development
	24 th	Tuesday	6:00 PM	Plan Development
August	2 nd	Thursday	6:00 PM	Plan Development
	16 th	Thursday	6:00 PM	Outreach – Public Comment
September	6 th	Thursday	6:00 PM	Finalize Plan
	20 th	Thursday	6:00 PM	Backup date

Ted Loring went over the highlights of the prior strategic plan and lead a short discussion of accomplishments.

Commission staff presented a PowerPoint presentation which provided an overview of the Bay Management Plan, the Harbor Revitalization Plan and recent District accomplishments. The gist of the presentation can be found below.

- A.
- B. PROFILE OF THE OF THE HUMBOLDT BAY HARBOR, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Formation

- Established in 1970 by an act of the State legislature
- Ratified by the Humboldt County electorate in 1973
- Enabling legislation contained in the California Harbors and Navigation Code, Appendix II

District Purpose

- Manage Humboldt Bay for the promotion of commerce, navigation, fisheries, recreation and for the development and protection of natural resources.
- Acquire, construct, maintain, operate, develop and regulate harbor works.

Territory

- II. All of Humboldt County

III.

IV. Regulatory Jurisdiction

- V. Humboldt Bay shoreward to Mean Higher High Water elevation (MHHW)

Organizational Structure

- Five elected Commissioners
- Fourteen staff
 - Five management
 - Five maintenance

- Four clerical

Primary Funding Sources

- Property Tax
- Woodley Island Marina
- Tideland Leases
- Harbor Improvement Surcharge
- 2006/07 Gross Income **\$1.6 million**

Divisions

- Port of Humboldt Bay
- Woodley Island Marina
- Resource Conservation

Examples of Harbor District Projects

- Oversee channel maintenance, improvement and dredging projects
- Qualify and license Bar Pilots
- Own and operate Woodley Island Marina
- Operate Fields Landing Boat Yard
- Assist research in navigation safety improvements (NOS, NDBC, COE)
- Coordinate oil spill co-op, Harbor Safety Committee, Cruise ship planning, industrial/commercial siting study, etc

VI.

A. Port of Humboldt Bay at a Glance

- VII. Cargo Tonnage: 700,000 MT

- VIII. Export: wood chips; paper pulp
- IX. Import: gas/diesel; logs; wood chips
- X. Pounds of Fish Landed: 7,460,000
- XI. Gallons of Oysters Harvested: 74,241
- XII. Marine Terminals: 6 Private/2 Public
- XIII. Number of Commercial Vessels Registered: 220
- XIV. Channel Depths
 - XV. Entrance –48' MLLW
 - XVI. North Channels: -38' MLLW
 - XVII. South Channel: -26' MLLW

XVIII.

A. Humboldt Bay Recreation at a Glance

- XIX. Public Marinas: 2
- XX. Woodley Island Marina: 234 slips
- XXI. City of Eureka: 134 slips
- XXII. Boat Launch Facilities: 6
- XXIII. Number of Recreational Vessels Registered: 6,390
- XXIV. Examples of Harbor District Projects *Recreation*
- XXV. Own and operate Woodley Island Marina
- XXVI. Assist other agencies with boat launching facility improvements (County, USFWS)
- XXVII. Promote water trails

- XXVIII. Construct and improve Shelter Cove Boat Launching Facility
- XXIX. Assist in funding and promotion of bay-wide interpretive signage

A.

B. Humboldt Bay Environment at a Glance

- XXX. Species Using Humboldt Bay
- XXXI. Invertebrate Species: 530
- XXXII. Fish Species: 121
- XXXIII. Bird Species: 266
- XXXIV. Examples of Conservation oriented Harbor District Projects
 - XXXV. Implemented the first ballast water exchange program on west coast
 - XXXVI. Manage three wildlife areas
 - XXXVII. Assist in planning and funding biological research (WRAC, CI-CORE, etc)
 - XXXVIII. Develop or participate in bay education programs (HB Symposium, school programs, Adopt-the-Bay)
 - XXXIX. Humboldt Bay Management Plan
 - XL. Frequently CEQA lead agency
 - XLI. Development regulation

XLII.

A. 2002-2006 STRATEGIC PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

XLIII. Mission Statement

- XLIV. *The mission of the Harbor District is to serve all of the people of Humboldt County by promoting harbor use, enhancing recreational opportunities and protecting bay and tidal environments*

XLV. Vision Statement

- XLVI. *Bay leadership for the benefit of all*

XLVII. 2002-2006 Strategic Objectives

- XLVIII. Complete Humboldt Bay Management Plan
- Complete Harbor Revitalization Plan
- Respond to emerging issues with significant economic or safety impact

A.

B. HUMBOLDT BAY MANAGEMENT PLAN

XLIX. Humboldt Bay Management Plan Mission Statement

- L. *The Humboldt Bay Management Plan provides the framework for balancing and integrating conservation goals and economic opportunities in a cooperative manner for the management of Humboldt Bay's resources.*

LI. Plan Boundary

- LII. District exercises regulatory authority; intertidal areas, up to elevation of MHHW.

LIII. Sphere of Interest

- LIV. Former tidelands that are excluded from current tidal action (boundary approximate); concern about impacts to Bay.

LV. Watershed

- LVI. Concern includes processes in watershed that could affect Humboldt Bay.

LVII.

LVIII. HBMP Focus: The "Three Bays"

•Arcata Bay

- Preferred uses: (1) protection of environmental resources; (2) continued use for mariculture; (3) continuance and enhancement of recreation.

- Entrance Bay
Preferred uses: (1) harbor-related uses; (2) maintenance or enhancement of environmental resources; (3) maintenance and enhancement of recreation.
- South Bay
Preferred uses: (1) the protection and enhancement of environmental resources; (2) maintenance and enhancement of recreation.

Humboldt Bay Water Use Designations

- Principal: Primary “designation areas” within which either harbor-related or conservation uses are generally compatible with the Plan:
 - Bay Conservation
 - Harbor
- Combining: Smaller “designation areas” within which additional, more specialized uses are generally accepted as compatible with the Plan:
 - Marine Recreation
 - Mariculture

Overall HBMP Implementation

- In some parts of Humboldt Bay certain types of uses are “preferred;” other uses are still appropriate, with approval by the HBHRCD
- Many traditional uses of the Bay (particularly personal recreation and most navigation uses) generally will not involve HBHRCD consideration
- Uses “regulated” by the HBHRCD will require District Use Permit approval
- Other agency (e.g., Coastal Commission or U.S. Army Corps) requirements are not affected

LIX.

LX. HBMP Policy Elements

Harbor

Harbor planning policies are focused on maintaining and/or increasing Coastal-dependent or water-dependent uses, navigation, and port-related functions in Humboldt Bay

Recreation

Recreation policies are focused on maintaining and/or increasing recreational opportunities and coastal access in Humboldt Bay

Conservation

Conservation policies are focused on maintaining, restoring, or enhancing ecological functions that maintain significant natural and environmental resources in Humboldt Bay

HBMP Policy Implementation

- All policies in the Management Plan apply throughout Humboldt Bay
- The Harbor District will “balance” policy applications; for example:
 - Environmental resource protection policies and standards will apply in and mediate effects of port-management, aquaculture, and recreation-development policies
- Coastal-dependent industrial uses in Entrance Bay have higher priority than recreational uses, but the District will include the latter when feasible
- Participants:*
 - District Decision-makers (the Commission)

- District Staff
- HBMP Advisory Committee
- Other Agencies
- Public
- Applicants
 - District decision-makers, staff, and applicants make decisions about applications based on HBMP and agency/public reviews
 - District “Standard Practices” are developed by staff based on HBMP, Advisory Committee priority, agency participation, public comments, and decision-maker approval
 - Long-term Humboldt Bay plans are developed by staff, agencies, and other interested parties based on HBMP, Advisory Committee priority, public comments, and decision-maker approval

Harbor Policy Elements

- Harbor-Related Land Use and Development
- Shoreline Management
- Dredging and Waterway Maintenance
- Commercial Fish and Aquaculture
- Toxic Materials Management
- Regulatory Streamlining

Recreation Policy Elements

- Recreation Administration
- Planning for Recreational Opportunities
- Developing Recreation Facilities and Access Improvements
- Additional Policies for Specific Recreation-Related Activities
- Interpretation and Public Outreach
- Visual Resources and Scenic Views

Conservation Policy Elements

- Maintaining and Enhancing Aquatic Ecosystem Functions
- Aquatic Species Management
- Humboldt Bay Ecosystem Management Program Elements
- Public Involvement and Outreach

A. PORT OF HUMBOLDT BAY HARBOR REVITALIZATION PLAN

Goal

“To assess development potential and prepare a strategy and implementation plan that not only meets the needs of existing marine businesses, but also looks at the future by laying the groundwork for future commercial and industrial uses of Humboldt Bay.

“The ideal plan will balance commercial shipping, commercial fishing and other bay-related industrial/commercial uses with the protection of natural resources.”

Geographic Scope

- Samoa bridge to the southern end of the Fields Landing Channel

- Covers three local jurisdictions:
 - Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District
 - City of Eureka
 - County of Humboldt

Partnership created a memorandum of understanding

- City and County support Harbor District's Harbor Revitalization planning effort.
- Harbor District, City and County contribute funding to develop the plan.
- Advisory committee formed of two elected officials from each agency and senior staff.

Original Study Goals

- Identify a long-term harbor focus within study area
- Recommend appropriate development sites
- Identify marketing opportunities
- Project scope
- Cargo and non-cargo market assessment
- Site assessment
- Alternative strategies and plans
- Recommend plan elements

Original Plan Research

- Examined 20 years of west coast cargo trends
- Determined Humboldt Bay's advantages and disadvantages
- Conducted more than 100 interviews to identify cargo and non-cargo opportunities
- Conducted a site inventory looking at over 235 waterfront parcels

Recommended Strategic Focus Areas

- Marine-dependent industrial opportunities
- Niche dry & liquid bulk cargoes
- Coastal feeder barge service (with current rail condition)
- Marine science & tourism
- Aquaculture & commercial fishing
- Boat building
- Forest products cargo handling

Port of Humboldt Bay Vision

- Large-parcel marine-dependent industrial on Samoa
- Niche bulk cargoes at Samoa & Fields Landing
- Potential public development of marine-dependent industrial & bulk docks
- Long-term focus on downtown marine science & tourism cluster at Dock B & balloon track
- Permanent homes for aquaculture & commercial fishermen
- Active development of coastal feeders at private terminals

Implementation Plan

- Dedicated, proactive marine marketing function within Harbor District, City and/or County with specific marketing action plans
 - Marine-dependent industrial marketing
 - Coastal barge feeder monitoring & development
 - Cruise marketing coordination
 - Dry & liquid bulk marketing
- Support for transportation improvements
 - NCRA rail line
 - Buckhorn pass improvements
- 31 Additional Recommended Actions

LXI.
LXII.

A. CURRENT HARBOR, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Harbor projects, 2002 to present

- Oversee Federal channel maintenance each year
- Maintenance Dredge Woodley Island Marina
- Acquired Redwood Marine Terminal (RMT Berth 1)
- Acquired Pulp mill dock (RMT Berth 2)
- Initiated and assisted NOAA/NOS update tide and current tables for Humboldt Bay
- Hired Bar Pilots
- Acquired upland dredge disposal site
- Initiated Port Alliance discussions with Port of Oakland on short sea shipping project
- Took lead in port cruise ship marketing
- Participated in statewide transportation bond project for transportation infrastructure and port security
- Marketed port to various shippers/terminal operators including participating in the Governor's China Trade Delegation.
- Worked with all west coast ports to have Congress relieve restrictions on Corps dredges
- Initiated Long Term Sediment study with US Army Corps of Engineers

Recreation Projects, 2002-Present

- Added canoe/kayak launch at Woodley Island
- Restored table Bluff Lighthouse at Woodley Island
- Assisted Humboldt County with Fields Landing Boat Launch upgrades
- Rebuilt fish cleaning station at Shelter Cove
- Initiated Shelter Cove breakwater rehab project (\$100K CC grant; \$1.7 mil DBAW grant)
- Organized 5 Humboldt Bay Maritime EXPO events
- Participated in 5 Coast Guard City events
- Participated in 2 water trail projects (Safety/HSU – RCAA)
- Participated and sponsored 2 Paddlefest events
- Participated in bay trail uniform signage project with RCAA
- Ongoing operation of Woodley Island Marina
- Leased historic roundhouse to Timber Heritage Museum

Conservation Projects, 2002-Present Projects

- Manage three wildlife areas
- Develop or participate in bay education programs (HB Symposium, school programs, Adopt-the-Bay)
- Develop species guides and eco-atlas on website
- Participated in 2 Humboldt Bay Symposiums and recently took lead on future Symposiums
- Participated in WRAC benthic community/oyster study
- Participated in Eelgrass fish community study

- Participated in eelgrass research – mapping/density/ADCP
- Initiated and participated in the Indian Island Rookery project
- Performed ongoing exotic plant control (Phragmites, Z. japonica, lupine, pampas, etc)
- Participated in several ocean observing system projects (CICORE-HSU, CeNCOOS, DFG, CalPORTS)
- Conducted dredge material research
- Initiated local CRAM wetland evaluation technique
- Participated in tidagate mapping/identification project
- Participated in preparation of a synopsis of organic pollutants in relation to shellfish safety report
- Participated in MLPA work groups and were poised to develop own plan process
- Work with DFG on Integrated Wetlands Grant project (\$131 K EPA grant)