Members in attendance: Executive Director Louise Solliday, Laura Anderson, Emily Goodwin Martin, Jim Sumich, Krystyna Wolniakowski, Representative David Gomberg.


Department of State Lands Administrative Support: Chris Castelli & Sabrina Forward

Governor’s Natural Resource Office: Gabriela Goldfarb & Kessina Lee

Louise Solliday reported back on the Ocean Acidification Informational Meeting in the House Committee on Energy & Environment during May Legislative Days. Senator Arnie Roblan helped organize the meeting which included presentations by Louise regarding the OST, and Jack Barth and Francis Chan regarding OA impacts in Oregon and the OSU Marine Studies Initiative and its role in OA research and monitoring. Gabriela Goldfarb will flag to Senator Edwards the possibility of a similar presentation for the Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee during September Legislative Days.

Jim Sumich reported on attending the Marine Reserves Summit in February. Research into marine reserves can be integrated into the larger picture of nearshore priorities.

Laura Anderson reported back from the OST panel presentation at the April OPAC meeting, given by Laura and Sen. Roblan with contributions from Gabriela Goldfarb (Notes provided as Appendix A). The panel asked for OPAC members’ ideas about Oregon’s nearshore ocean science needs, in advance of the May 11-12 Science Summit. OPAC is supportive of the Trust and will serve as a public forum.

Introduction of new DSL Director Jim Paul, very supportive of OST; DSL has a POP for $1m general fund to help fund a grant program and part time staff for OST.

Gabriela Goldfarb reported that the Pacific Coast Collaborative took the opportunity at the recent Climate Energy Ministerial in San Francisco to refresh their priorities, and ocean acidification was identified as one of the top three priorities. In Oregon, ODFW has a POP for ecosystem management which would include OA staffing.

The minutes from the January 22nd meeting of the OST were approved.

The draft report from the May 11-12 Science Summit was reviewed and approved. The goal is to have a final report in December. Rather than convening a series of meetings to solicit public comment, Louise Solliday will reach out to coastal groups about getting on meeting agendas and asking for comment at those meetings (OPAC, OCZMA, etc.) The draft report was approved as an accurate reflection of the Summit results.
Key Research and Monitoring Decisions: A brainstorming session was held to establish the key 3-5 questions that capture the priorities generated by Summit participants that will inform the OST funding priorities. This session led to the development of 5 Priority Nearshore Research and Management Questions, which were captured in a memo to OPAC dated June 13, 2016 (Appendix B).

Laura Anderson: Need distribution and abundance of species, key indicator species and interactions, ability to build models with predictive capability. Visualizing a matrix with topics on the horizontal axis and levels of depth on the vertical axis.

Louise Solliday: What are the fundamental questions/topics?

Jim Sumich: (Referring to page 6 of the draft Summit report, the section titled ‘Data’) Need to start at the bottom, with habitats.

Emily Goodwin Martin: Need to think about what matters to Oregonians and funders.

Gabriela Goldfarb: Clarification: OST role is an intermediary. Maybe framing needs to be at a higher level.

Louise Solliday: Asked scientists what are key questions, how to go about answering them. The role of the OST is to translate those into language the public can understand, not to define what’s important, but expect researchers to make a case that a species is economically and ecologically important.

Laura Anderson: Does habitat include OA, HABs, etc.? Is there a distinction between research and monitoring?

Louise Solliday: There will be overlap between research and monitoring. Focus on creation of high-level questions with sub-bullets to clarify. Example of need for predictors: What’s the signal in February to indicate a HAB in June?

Gabriela Goldfarb flagged context regarding land-based inputs. Management actions will be adaptation and mitigation, not so much minimizing.

Emily Goodwin Martin: Envisioning efforts to maintain and enhance ecosystems, and maintain and enhance community resilience.

Future meeting discussion of criteria used for reviewing proposals. Krystyna Wolniakowski: Do we need a mock-up RFP to work from?

At some point, need to consult DOJ regarding setting up a grant program via rulemaking.

Gabriela Goldfarb: Anything that’s low hanging fruit, could apply for funding in near term? With the Shellfish Task Force, OA legislation, there is general interest in OST work and may be situations where things could funded. It’s up to OST to determine their comfort level.

Emily Goodwin Martin: Want OST to be a “landscaper” rather than a “gardener.” Want targeted funding priorities.
Laura Anderson: Would rather stay the course and go through the longer process, not be funder-driven, but be driven by the priorities.

Gabriela Goldfarb: Possibly say that to funders—invite them to approach OST regarding possible process before rulemaking is done a year from now.

Krystyna Wolniakowski echoed the preference to be issue-driven rather than funder-driven.

Louise Solliday: If the group is comfortable with the five questions, will put some definitions around them and add next steps. Members will discuss criteria for proposals at future meetings. Also don’t want to lose sight of the monitoring plan. Could monitor ‘events’ or use plan from Summit?

Laura Anderson: Need a principle that states a project that adds to monitoring or addresses a data gap will get priority. Emphasis on industry collaboration, etc. Include as criteria/principles.

For OPAC, Louise Solliday will just present the questions, and will discuss with OPAC the possibility of convening STAC (several members were at the Summit).

Louise Solliday will draft a fuller document by the end of the week and circulate to the group for review and feedback. Try to set a meeting for mid-July/early August in Salem (Chris Castelli will send a Doodle poll). Will send document to OPAC members since next meeting is in December. Also will be at Oregon Coast Economic Summit on August 8-9. Meanwhile OST members should continue to think about grant criteria/principles.

Summit follow-up: Louise Solliday will send final report to participants, thank everyone, and provide a status update.

Possibly have a speaker from CalOST at a future meeting—Gabriela Goldfarb will invite Skyli McAfee.

Louise Solliday: The OST is not set up in a way conducive to a 501(c)3—may need statutory changes. Public entities are eligible for some funds, need to have a further conversation. CalOST could be helpful in determining the best path forward.

Appendices:

A. OOST PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION AT OPAC, APRIL 5, 2016
B. Memo to OPAC dated June 13, 2016