

Name: Steve Miller Address: 1556 N. 20th St., Coos Bay, OR. 97420

I want to thank the Commission and Planning Department for the opportunity to testify on the Phase I update of the Estuary Management Plan. I support your efforts to improve the 40-yr. old Plan's usability, update some maps and data, and update names, laws, and regulations and to make them available for public review.

While a Phase I update is needed, I strongly urge our County to plan and start update of a Phase 2 planning process. This needs to be a process that:

- Uses the best available scientific data that will support a needed re-evaluation of established management units, help address emerging problems, and recognize community values
- That provides a Dredge Material Disposal Plan
- That includes a Mitigation and Restoration Plan for the Coos Bay Estuary
- And includes a structured plan to revise and update the Estuary Management Plan in the future

I support the creation of a Citizens Advisory Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee to guide the Phase II update---which are noted in the County draft now being considered. But the composition of those committees is not detailed.

To ensure the needs of the community are broadly represented, the Citizens Advisory Committee would include members of the fishing industry (commercial and recreational), the seafood industry, local business, tourism and recreation (both public and businesses), the scientific community, conservation/environmental community, at least 2 tribal members (one from each local tribal nation), and citizens at large who live in Coos Bay, North Bend, and the unincorporated County.

As its name implies, the purpose of a Citizens Advisory Committee is to foster involvement of *citizens* in managing and administering the CBEMP. The Port of Coos Bay's strong development interest, reflected in partnerships or other beneficial working relationships with private business, frequently work in opposition to area residents' interests, make its membership inappropriate. Similar concerns could pertain to our Port's standing in Oregon law to exercise management authority beyond that described for Oregon ports.

A Technical Advisory Committee should guide scientific and policy changes to the Plan during the Phase 2 update. These might include scientists from OIMB, state agencies, the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds, land use and policy experts, and natural resource managers. To ensure Tribal sovereignty is respected and built into the Estuary Management Plan, a section should outline how tribal engagement and consultation will be conducted in future Estuary Plan updates and the ongoing management of the CBEMP.

Thank you for your consideration,
Steve Miller

