

Testimony for the record of the Nov. 8 Hearing on AM-22-005, the amendment to the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan

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

I want to thank the Commission for the opportunity to testify on the Phase I update of the Coos Bay 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. I appreciated seeing our County Planning Commission formally state its determination favoring completion of Phase I and Phase II updates---but feel it should be made clear in this Phase 1 update process, just how securing that funding and capacity is proposed and a reasonable timeline for doing that.

The Phase II update 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 important community values for the Coos Bay estuary
- 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 the name implies, the purpose of a Citizens Advisory Committee is to foster involvement of *citizens* in managing and administering the CBEMP. In recent decades the Port of Coos Bay's strong development interest for the estuary, reflected in partnerships or other financial working relationships with private business have frequently worked in opposition to many residents' interests, making its membership on the Committee inappropriate. Similar concerns could pertain to our Port's standing in Oregon law to exercise management authority in the CBEMP beyond the specifically described authority for Oregon ports.

A Technical Advisory Committee should guide scientific and policy changes to the Plan during the Phase 2 update and provide advice to help guide Plan management. These might include scientists from OIMB, state agencies, the Partnership for Coastal

Watersheds, land use and policy experts, and natural resource managers. To ensure Tribes' sovereignty and millennia of estuary stewardship 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
1556 N. 20th St.
Coos Bay, OR 97420