

Date: 7 December 2023  
From: Christine Moffitt, Coos Bay.  
Re: Work Session CBEMP  
To: County and City Planning Staff and Coos Bay and North Bend Council.

I want to express my thanks to everyone for their dedication to evaluate and begin the critical process to revise our Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan. When this effort began a year ago, it was rolled out as an effort to provide digital transcription of the existing CBEMP and consolidate the information from the three entities that had made revisions of this plan since it was approved in 1984.

That was easy to say, but the process during the past year was not simple. In fact, the effort was also expanded to suggest deletion of the original inventory and factual basis and provide more updated information from an effort in 2015-19 that was more current. Another effort was made to re-combine delineations of uses in specific areas that resulted from the changes made in each of the three entities through their own administrative process. The report provided on May 31, 2023, by the consultants provides a lengthy series of recommendations for zoning and prescribed uses that need to be harmonized if these areas are going to be consistent for all locations, due to the fact that North Bend, Coos Bay and the County has somewhat different details. None of these issues except for the composition of public participation has been addressed.

As someone who believes that it is important to know where we have been so we can better understand where we want to go, I suggest that the original materials of factual basis should not be stricken from our record at this time. If we are to begin a full revision of our management plan that has been the objective of much of this effort, we should know where we have been and then look toward where we want to go in the future with use and zoning changes.

The need for the history of the process to be retained is relevant to the initial zoning and use decisions, and parameters. This history is actually provided and is relevant in the comprehensive package prepared in this staff report for the focus of this work session today. The memo provided to everyone for this meeting was a comprehensive compilation of the history of public engagement and changes that occurred in the 1990s to suggest ways to include input into decision making. It traces the dates and memos and amendments made regarding the public participation and accuracy of decisions. This report helps us understand what worked and where we failed.

Essential for all of our efforts is the need to assure that comprehensive public participation and accurate reviews are included in the present and the future. It is appropriate that we meet tonight when many areas of our community are facing flooding from an atmospheric river. We are discussing the need for Tribal consultation throughout our planning that was not part of the previous plan. I would suggest that we look at all our efforts in the past year as a preamble for learning that this "digital revision" is still not complete, and rather than continue to work through structures as we have, to commit to moving forward with a full revision that can address the challenges and build on the experience of the past year. I do not support adopting a partial revision that has not been fully vetted.