

Dear Coos County Planning Commission:

I realize this testimony is late. However, the messaging I received about your timeline was confusing, seeming to indicate a postponement of the hearing, which apparently was not correct. Please accept these comments in light of this confusion.

Thank you for your work so far on the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan. Your efforts are much appreciated. I am writing you to ask that the Commission make the following commitments:

- Please commit to the Phase 2 update, particularly those sections that will ensure the plan can meet future conditions that will surely arise. Ideally, this commitment should be embedded in section 2 of the Phase 1 document. Sections that need to be updated to ensure the plan can meet future challenges include:
  - Management Units, which need to be re-evaluated with new resource data
  - Plan for Dredge Materials Disposal
  - Mitigation and Restoration Plan
  
- Please Make sure the plan will be easily adaptive to streamline future revisions. We cannot afford to wait years to make changes when the need arises. An adaptive planning process should be embedded within the plan such that it can be maintained and regularly updated in the future. That means implementing a structured plan to re-evaluate and revise the plan in the future, including maps and resource inventories that should be updated as new data is collected.
  
- Thank you for including a citizen advisory committee and a technical advisory committee that we hope will increase stakeholder and citizen participation in guiding the comprehensive Phase 2 update of the CBEMP. However, it is unclear what the composition of these committees will be.
  - A diverse citizen advisory committee is necessary to ensure the needs of the community are broadly represented. This would also expand citizen involvement in the update process. Importantly, representatives of government entities *should not* be on the citizen advisory committee. This includes the port authority, any governmental body with development interests that often conflict with the interests of the citizens. Also, Port representation on the citizen advisory committee would be a conflict of interest. Government bodies should instead form a steering committee, separate from the advisory committee. The citizens' advisory committee should include the following stakeholders:
    - The fishing industry, both recreational and commercial
    - The seafood industry, including aquaculture and seafood processing
    - Local businesses broadly
    - Tourism industry or commercial recreation businesses
    - Recreational interests

- The scientific community
  - The conservation/environmental community
  - At least 2 tribal members, one from of each of the tribes whose territory includes the Coos Bay watershed—not as official representatives of the tribal government
  - Individual citizens from the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend, and the unincorporated county—these would not be government employees or representatives of the governing bodies, but citizens at large
- To guide technical scientific and policy changes to the plan during the Phase 2 update, a technical advisory committee composed of local experts is needed. This might include scientists from OIMB, state agencies, and members of the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds, for example.
  - To ensure Tribal Sovereignty is adequately respected and integrated into the CBEMP, a section should be added to outline how tribal engagement and consultation will be conducted in future CBEMP updates

The reason I have taken time to write this comment is that the integrity and biodiversity of the Bay is of great importance to all of us, especially those whose living depends on a sustainable bounty. The Bay's health is most important to the flora and fauna living in and out of the water that depend directly on a healthy Bay and estuaries for their sustenance. However, there are forces that in the name of "economic development" wish to make significant changes to the Bay. Economic development that does occur should enhance the natural aspects, ecology and sustainability of the Bay, its estuaries and wildlife, not diminish, damage or destroy those.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to participate.

Sincerely,  
Ken Bonetti, North Bend, OR