



of Southwestern Oregon and the South Coast

The Partnership for Coastal Watersheds Collaboration Compact

INTRODUCTION

Small coastal watersheds are the focal point of many diverse uses, some of which conflict. Collaboration among interested parties greatly improves the long-term management of such places.

On Feb. 24, 2011, thirty-one people met at the Charleston Power Squadron building in Charleston, Oregon, to develop a foundation for a Partnership for Coastal Watersheds (PCW) Collaboration Compact. This document outlines the commitment of Partnership members and the practice of “collaboration” as a central feature of the PCW. On June 17, 2011, four members of the PCW steering committee and two staff members met to provide additional clarification and simplification to the Compact.

As the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds (PCW) develops, its members recognize the importance of procedural clarity and commitment. This “Compact” articulates that clarity and investment.

Partnership members value the opportunity to examine the status of the region’s environmental health and commit to equally contributing to the future socio-economic sustainability of the south coast.

The Compact consists of five sections: (1) Compact Tenets, (2) Context, (3) Assumptions, (4) Principles and (5) Policies and Practices. These sections highlight the PCW’s investment in an open, inclusive, and transparent process through which members work together to improve the coastal watersheds region—its landscape and communities.

COMPACT TENETS

PCW members recognize the following tenets.

1. The Compact is a “living document,” created, maintained and modified by PCW members.
2. The Compact is a procedural guide, describing the operation of PCW’s collaborative work and how partners commit to interact constructively in good faith.
3. The Compact requires current and future PCW members’ signatures to indicate their commitment to working as a collaborative group.
4. The Compact is an informal agreement among PCW members and does not have any legal standing.

5. The Compact is a public document, available for anyone to read, review and contribute comments towards improving the Compact content.

CONTEXT

PCW members recognize the following contextual factors.

1. The PCW is committed to the long-term quality of life in Southwest Oregon coastal communities. The PCW supports community sustainability – economically, environmentally and socio-culturally.
2. Use of natural resources needs to occur sustainably and in a manner consistent with environmental, economic and socio-cultural goals for the region and its communities.
3. Future generations must be considered in the work of the PCW.
4. The PCW's work should focus on both long-term and short-term objectives, while developing a sustainability roadmap.
5. Diversity of views regarding history, economy and the environment should be understood and respected.
6. Disagreements about claims of fact, definition, values and policy may occur and should be discussed and explored.
7. Constructive skepticism is important to testing and refining ideas; objections to proposals and warnings about the impacts of a proposed action should be addressed.

ASSUMPTIONS

PCW members share the following assumptions.

1. The PCW will convey its findings and recommendations primarily through a voluntary Action Plan designed to address existing deficiencies in standards relating to water quality and habitat; striving to achieve the PCW's Vision, and endeavoring to maintain resiliency in eco, economic and social systems. A list and description of all PCW outcomes and products is available.
2. The PCW focus is citizen, community and place-based. As is feasible, focus is on actual conditions, vision and predicted changes within the project area.
3. The PCW strives to be a dynamic learning organization, with members gaining knowledge, skills, techniques and tools.

4. The PCW's work outcomes should be transferable, available and beneficial to local and other communities.
5. The PCW focuses on the coastal watersheds landscape and communities as a whole system, considering all influences, processes and outcomes.
6. The PCW is aware of other local efforts, such as the work of the Sustainable Design Action Team (SDAT).

PRINCIPLES

PCW members support the following principles.

1. The PCW has transparent procedures, including how members join and leave the organization.

Members leave the PCW by notifying PCW staff and providing a short explanation.

Members join the PCW by invitation from staff. Invitations are based on member recommendations, and to fill perceived gaps in community representation.

2. The PCW encourages diverse membership, participation and points of view.
3. PCW members respect one another and one another's ideas and contributions.
4. PCW members solicit and value progressive thinking and active participation.
5. The PCW adheres to transparent decision-making procedures. See #4 under PCW Structure and Decision-making Practices below.
6. The PCW identifies, develops, and monitors measures of outcomes.
7. The PCW follows clear procedures for sharing and releasing information within the group and outside the group. Formal sharing of information will be led by a media point person to be identified later in the process.

PRACTICES

PCW members commit to the following practices.

Meetings Management Practices

1. PCW members will participate in at least two-thirds of the meetings. I.e. Active members will not miss more than three meetings out of nine, and will receive a

phone call from staff or another PCW member to check-in on the missing member's interest in participating.

2. Minutes of each meeting will be recorded in written, audio or video media and made available to all members.
3. The meetings will use clear rules of procedure that participants develop, understand and support. This Compact serves as the foundation of those rules of procedure. See #4 under PCW Structure and Decision-making Practices below.
4. PCW members make a best effort to attend and participate in meetings and/or send an alternate if feasible. Members will make an effort to notify PCW staff when they cannot attend a meeting.

PCW Structure and Decision-making Practices

1. The PCW follows its mission statement; the mission statement is reaffirmed or adapted at regular intervals.
2. The PCW is guided by an administrative committee that coordinates subcommittees, identifies funding and attends to long-term infrastructure.
3. The PCW subcommittees gather information, perform tasks, develop alternatives and report their work.
4. PCW decisions will be made by emergent consensus.
 - a. Members will strive to attain consensus.
 - b. Members will identify and endeavor to understand areas of disagreement.
 - c. Members will build consensus on what is needed to move the group forward.
 - d. To the extent the group has wide consensus, individuals can choose to stand aside on decisions as the group moves forward.

PCW Communication and Outreach Practices

1. The PCW seeks input from the local community, and its activities and decisions are communicated to the public.
2. PCW media communication is strategic, centralized and planned.
3. The PCW maintains a password-protected site for internal communication among members.
4. The PCW engages in a broad spectrum of public communication activities, such as a website, newsletter, fact sheet and/or blog. A media contact person will be

