

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
Minutes of August 15, 2003**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**REPRESENTING**

Tom Golich, Chair	City of Solana Beach
Jerry Finnell	City of Del Mar
Ed Gallo	City of Escondido
Betty Rexford	City of Poway
Dianne Jacob	County of San Diego
Pam Slater	County of San Diego
Margaret Schlesinger, Alt.	Citizens Advisory Committee

**VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT**

Wayne Brechtel	JPA Counsel
Dick Bobertz	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Susan Carter	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Shawna Anderson	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Jan Lines	San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Introduction and Announcements**

Chair Golich convened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. in the County Administration 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302/303, San Diego, CA 92101.

Chair Golich started the meeting and introduced Margaret Schlesinger who is sitting in for Boardmember Pryde.

**Approval of Minutes of June 20, 2003**

Boardmember Rexford made a motion to approve the minutes of June 20, 2003, Boardmember Gallo seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Executive Director's Report**

Director Bobertz stated that we received a Wetlands Recovery Program grant for \$25,000 to clean up an old farm dump along our Mule Hill trail and the area will be restored with native plants. He said that we also received a \$5000 grant from Supervisor Slater for the Trail Run event. Mr. Bobertz stated that our big news will be presented by our attorney, Wayne Brechtel.

Mr. Brechtel stated that the Appeals Court has issued a 74 page decision on the San Dieguito Lagoon Wetland Restoration project that overturned the ruling from the trial court. He said that our experts were vindicated in this decision and this clears the way for the Wetland Restoration Project to move forward. Mr.

Brechtel stated that this decision could be appealed by Sandy Lane attorneys but the decision should be final in October 2003, if no appeal is filed.

Chair Golich and Director Bobertz thanked Mr. Brechtel very much for all his hard work and the positive court decision. A round of applause was given to Mr. Brechtel in gratitude for a job well done.

**Public Comment- None**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***Adopt draft resolutions applying for River Parkway Grant Funds.***

1. **Adopt River Parkway Grant Application** Boardmember Gallo made a motion to adopt the 3 grant applications and Boardmember Rexford seconded. All in favor

**ACTION AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***Direct staff to take all necessary actions to establish a fund with the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation for the purpose of repair or replacement of the Starwood Trail.***

2. **Establish Account at Rancho Santa Fe Foundation and Deposit Starwood Trail Funds-** Director Bobertz stated that the Starwood Trail on the Crosby Estate would be built soon and that the maintenance would be done by San Dieguito River Park. As part of the agreement with Crosby Estates, we have been given a \$30,000 endowment for trail repair. Mr. Bobertz recommended deposit of the funds at the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation for the Foundation to hold and invest. He stated that it is the type of fund where the monies are available at any time if it is needed. Mr. Bobertz stated that the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation has is near the project and provides an opportunity for the River Park to benefit a local community asset. Mr. Bobertz introduced Christy Wilson, Executive Director, of Rancho Santa Fe Foundation to answer any questions. Ms. Wilson stated that the money is ours to use but there is a committee of board members from Rancho Santa Fe that will oversee the use of the funds to make sure such use is consistent with the objective our Board adopted.

Boardmember Finnell made a motion to deposit the funds in the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation and Boardmember Slater seconded. All in favor

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***Adopt resolution approving conditional transfer of San Felipe Valley/Arkansas Canyon property to CDFG.***

3. **Adopt Resolution Approving Conditional Transfer of San Felipe Valley/Arkansas Canyon Property to CDFG.** Deputy Director, Susan Carter, stated that in 1995 when we purchased the 390 acres in Arkansas Canyon, the State of California Department of Fish and Game was also purchasing land in the area. At the time of the purchase the JPA board intended to transfer the property to the State of California Fish and Game at the request of CDFG upon initiation of a management plan. This transfer did not happen and recently the River Park received a letter from Caltrans stating that the Federal requirement for cultural resources protection were satisfactory and that the JPA should complete the transfer. Since the Fish and Game department has continued to purchase property in the area they have never compiled a management plan for any of the property. Ms. Carter stated that one of the proposed stipulations of the transfer were that a management plan be in place within 4 months of the transfer, and that the JPA would retain review and approval regarding proposed uses. Boardmember Schlesinger asked if the stipulations would be enforced and the cultural resources would be protected. Attorney Brechtel answered the question by stating that upon transfer of the property the stipulations would be recorded as deed restrictions.

Boardmember Dianne Jacob made a motion to adopt the draft transfer resolution prepared by staff. Boardmember Slater seconded. All in favor.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***Consider options to fund an emergency opening of the San Dieguito River mouth***

4. **River Mouth Opening-** Director Bobertz stated that Del Mar has asked for financial help in opening the river mouth. Mr. Bobertz stated that in the future the mitigation from the San Onofre Power Plant will provide the river park with an endowment of \$500,000 for the river mouth opening. He stated that at this time the Wetland Project has not yet started due to the legal situation that we have been in for three years. While the litigation has been going on, various agencies have had to contribute funds to keep the river mouth opened so that the lagoon does not become stagnant. The City of Del Mar usually has assumed the administrative duties of the opening but there are many other agencies that will be necessary to fund the opening. Mr. Bobertz said that Boardmember Slater is donating \$40,000 and the City of Del Mar will donate \$30,000. Even with these funds it is not enough to pay for the opening due to the high costs of the machinery to dig out the river mouth. He said that hopefully Southern California Edison and the 22 Ag. District will come through with the additional funds needed to help. Director Bobertz stated that he has asked SANDAG's Shoreline Preservation Committee to put this item on their agenda. Mr. Bobertz felt that the \$100,000 funds thus identified will be helpful but not enough to proceed and if any Boardmember has any ideas about funding, to please let us know.

Speaker John Fletcher Jaeger spoke on behalf of the United Citizens to Save the Beach. He stated that an EIR is necessary to assess alternatives to save the beach sand. He felt an alternative would be to have a pipe bring salt water into the lagoon from the ocean, or to use fresh water. His plea was for the JPA board to reconsider the river mouth opening and consider other alternatives. Boardmember Jacob asked him how the water pipe would work and where the fresh water would come from. Mr. Jaeger did not have an answer, but suggested that these alternatives deserve further study.

Boardmember Finnell stated that the City of Del Mar is fundraising for the lagoon opening and they hope that the citizens of Del Mar will rally in support of the opening and contribute to the fund. Mr. Finnell also stated that Mr. Jaeger has an ongoing law suit with the City of Del Mar and other defendants over the opening of the lagoon in the year 2000.

### **INFORMATION**

#### 5. Status Reports

- a. Coastal Wetland Restoration Project- Director Bobertz stated that previous discussion this morning has covered most of his report but that there is a letter from SANDAG in support of our project for the Board's review.
- b. Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge- Deputy Director Carter referred to the staff report for the bridge project that lists decisions that have been made to this point and current cost estimates. At this point we have been delayed for one year due to permits and we were asked to do a Federal Environmental Assessment. She stated that there are 3 components in this project: with the bridge itself, a cantilever/ bike path on the south side of the lake, and some minor trail improvements on the north. Ms. Carter said that we are hoping to start construction of the bridge in September 2004. Ms. Carter said that we initially received a \$3,061,000 grant for the bridge. Along with those funds we will receive a grant from SANDAG for \$500,000 through the Bicycle Facilities Committee. We are also waiting to hear the outcome on a grant application for \$1 million from the State Bicycle Transportation Account. If we do not receive the BTA Grant, we will still be able to complete the bridge, using the River Parkway funds applied for today, but we would have to seek additional funds for the other components to be built in a subsequent phase (i.e., cantilever on south shore). Caltrans is planning to widen the Lake Hodges Freeway bridge and Pomerado overcrossing bridge in the near future and we are working with them to incorporate our projects with theirs.
- c. Sikes Adobe Farmhouse Restoration- Deputy Director Carter stated that the Sikes Adobe is to be completed around the end of September or beginning of October. Ms. Carter showed a picture of the adobe portion of the kitchen that crumbled away during restoration. The contractor has put a large strap around the building to keep it from any further damage. The Colonial Dames are going to furnish and wallpaper the house when the restoration is completed. Recently we have had two requests for group docent tours so we have scheduled a docent training program. A donation of \$5000 has been made to the project that will help with the miscellaneous items that are not included in our budget.
- d. Property Acquisition- Director Bobertz stated that there are 2 properties in escrow. One of the properties is adjacent to the River Park office which is 47 acres (the Penn property) and the 123 acres on Volcan Mountain (the McDonald property). Mr. Bobertz stated that we are working with the County of San Diego on the Derbas property across from Lake Hodges and we are working with the Trust for Public Land on two properties east of Lake Sutherland. These two parcels are essential to complete our link in the area.

- e. "Temporary Interpretive Kiosk" at Via de la Valle- Director Bobertz stated that the access to the kiosk will be from our trail, not Via de la Valle. The signage from the trail and the site will give the hikers and groups information about the progress of the wetland project. Director Bobertz brought a model of the site and the panel from the siding that will be used for the Board to see. Mr. Bobertz said that there is a world wide engineering firm, MWH, that has adopted our project as their community outreach project and will be instrumental in building the structure this fall.
  - f. Fairbanks Ranch Country Club- Director Bobertz stated that our Board gave authorization, if needed, to file a code violation to get the City of San Diego to research the Fairbanks Ranch Country Club. Our own research led us to believe that the Fairbanks Country Club has a responsibility to build and maintain the trail section of the Coast to Crest Trail. Mr. Bobertz stated that the area set aside for the trail is now being used for a training track for exercising horses at the polo fields. The City of San Diego Real Estate Assets Dept. and the Development Services Department made a site visit to the polo fields and will now be investigating the track that is being used on the site of our future trail. It was noted that the horses are being groomed at the site and water was flowing into the river from the site of the grooming. Mr. Bobertz said that this section of the trail might cost \$100,000 or more.
6. **Jurisdictional Status Reports-** Boardmember Jacob responded to our question from the last JPA meeting about RS2477. Ms. Jacob initiated the item on RS2477 to assert the public use of trails on federal land. She stated that some Federal trails have been closed to the public in recent years and that this is not acceptable to her.

Boardmember Schlesinger asked about the invitation that she received to the Starwood trail building. She was not sure if people were being asked to help build the trail or just see where it will be built. Boardmember Slater stated that the trail will be built by Starwood but this is an opportunity for the public to see where the trail will be located.

Boardmember Rexford spoke about Blue Sky Trail in Poway and the art work that is being donated.

7. **Communications**

- a. Letter to City of San Diego re Pamo Valley, 6/26/03
- b. Letter to City of San Diego re Camp Hope, 6/25/03
- c. Letter to County Board of Supervisors re RS2477, 6/27/03
- d. Letter to Congressman Cunningham added after the agenda was sent.- Director Bobertz recommended that Boardmembers should consider writing to encourage representatives to vote on the reestablishment of TE Enhancements Fund that was cut in the current Federal 2004 Transportation Budget.

**CLOSED SESSION-** Attorney Brechtel stated that a Closed Session was not needed.

Chair Golich adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

These minutes approved by Board Action

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Date

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Executive Director