

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
Minutes of May 16, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dave Roberts - Chair  
Pam Slater-Price Vice-Chair  
Dick Daniels  
Richard Earnest  
Dianne Jacob  
Scott Peters  
Phil Pryde  
Becky Bartling

**REPRESENTING**

City of Solana Beach  
County of San Diego  
City of Escondido  
City of Del Mar  
County of San Diego  
City of San Diego  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
22 District Agricultural Association

**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  
Bill Proffer San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy  
Freda Reid San Dieguito Lagoon Committee  
Terry Sinnott Del Mar Resident  
Martha Baker Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation  
Maeve Hanley County of San Diego Parks and Recreation  
John Degenfelder Ramona Trails Association

**Introduction and Announcements**

Chair Roberts convened the meeting at 9:39 a.m. in the County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302/303, San Diego, CA 92101

Boardmember Pryde introduced the CAC members in attendance, John Degenfelder, Martha Baker and Freda Reid.

**Approval of Minutes April 18, 2008**

Boardmember Peters made a motion to approve the minutes of April 18, 2008, Boardmember Pryde seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Bobertz reported that we had a very successful Volunteer Appreciation brunch at JPA Chair Dave Roberts home. Chair Roberts said that he was happy to have everyone there at his home and suggested that other events could be given there. Director Bobertz said that we have another event coming

up this summer called "Day At the Races" on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Becky Bartling from the 22<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural Association said that the event would be a fundraiser with a silent auction. Mr. Bobertz said that the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ag District has helped us complete a portion of our trail between the boardwalk and I-5 by doing the grading. Boardmember Peters said he was pleased to see that we have a better relationship with the Ag District since Becky Bartling has been on board. Ms. Bartling said she is appreciative of our partnership and looks forward to working with us on other projects. Mr. Bobertz stated that we also have a great relationship with the Conservancy and their staff member, Leslie Woollenweber, has brought in 2 more grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to restore ponds and remove lepidium from San Pasqual and one from the San Diego Foundation to restore critical habitat burn areas. The three new grants total \$353,250.00 Deputy Director Carter announced that at our Appreciation brunch Boardmember Pryde received a much overdue volunteer appreciation award recognizing his 20 years as Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee and for leading birding hikes for the River Park.

**Public Comment- None**

**ACTION**

1. Work Program for FY 08/09- Executive Director Bobertz said FY 08/09 Work Program does not add any new tasks due to the budget constraints. He noted that the Work Program for 07/08 had been amended in February to add Fire Recovery efforts and the Poseidon project.
2. Budget Committee Report and Recommendation: FY 08/09 Budget

**Recommendation: The Budget Committee recommends approval of the attached budget and salary/staffing schedule (Alternative 1)**

Executive Director Bobertz said that the JPA is a very unique organization. He said we have no taxing authority and we depend on the contributions of our member agencies for operation costs. With the funds we receive from our member agencies along with the funds that we receive from the Del Mar Racetrack OTB we prioritize the field work and operation expenses to fit into our budget each year. Mr. Bobertz explained that the OTB revenue is decreasing and our expenses are going up which is always a challenge. This year we received donations of office equipment that was figured into our insurance settlement and that extra funding is available to use for expenses listed in our budget this year.

The proposed budget would not increase the member agency assessments over last year. To accomplish that, there would be no salary increases for staff, except for one ranger promotion. Instead, staff would receive \$3,000 one-time, non-recurring stipends (for full-time employees) from one-time insurance proceeds.

Boardmember Slater-Price made a motion to approve the budget as submitted and Boardmember Jacob seconded. All in favor

3. Ramona Grasslands Open Space Program and Trail Planning

**Recommendation: Receive information**

Maeve Hanley from the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation gave a report on the Ramona Grasslands and the 3518 acres which were recently purchased. Ms. Hanley said that with the help of State Fish and Game and the Nature Conservancy this pristine area will be preserved as open space.

4. Undergrounding of Powerlines in San Dieguito Lagoon

***Recommendation: Authorize the Chair to send letters to Southern California Edison, CALTRANS, Poseidon Resources and the City of San Diego soliciting support to underground overhead power lines in the San Dieguito Lagoon and direct staff to support the San Dieguito Lagoon power line undergrounding efforts by working with agencies with interests in the Wetlands Restoration Project.***

Director Bobertz said that several residents gave a report on undergrounding the poles near the fairgrounds and in the wetland project area (west of I-5) a few months ago. The JPA Boardmembers asked the Del Mar residents to report back on the costs to do this type of project. Terry Sinnott reported that their research shows it will cost about \$1.9 million to remove the 9 power poles. He asked that the JPA Board send letters to interested organizations such as SCE, CALTRANS, Poseidon Resources and the City of San Diego to help with the costs.

Boardmember Slater-Price made a motion to send the letters to other agencies mentioned supporting the undergrounding of power lines and requesting financial help. Boardmember Jacob seconded  
Vote: 5 Yes 1 Abstained

**INFORMATION**

5. Coordination Reports (oral)

- a. San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy- No Report
- b. Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley- Freda Reid said that there is going to be a wheel of fortune at the San Diego Fair this year for fairgoers to spin and questions will be answered about the River Park. Ms. Reid reported that we have recruited 40 volunteers to man the booth and those volunteers will receive free admission tickets for their efforts
- c. Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation- Martha Baker from the Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation has officially launched a fundraising campaign to purchase a large parcel from a willing landowner on Volcan Mountain. They have printed a brochure with information on the project and she discussed how the agreement with the landowner will be completed.
- d. San Dieguito Lagoon Committee- Ms. Reid discussed the Lagoon Day festivities that allowed children from the Del Mar City Schools to travel to the new boardwalk section of the Coast to Crest Trail. This was accomplished with the help of SCE and The Del Mar Foundation who helped supply a water station to show students about water quality, binoculars to watch birds and plants to be planted. Marathon Construction also allowed the students to see and climb on the heavy equipment that is being used at the Wetland Restoration project. Ms. Reid said that the San Dieguito Lagoon Committee sent a comment letter regarding the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ag District Master Plan EIR Notice of Preparation.

6. Status Reports

a. River Park Projects

- i. Fire Recovery- Executive Director Bobertz said that we are slowly opening trails and dealing with insurance matters. We had a meeting with our architect on the River Park office and look forward to designing plans for the new office. Deputy Director Carter said that we have an architect for the Sikes Adobe and will be working on the reconstruction of that project in the near future.
  - ii. Poseidon Mitigation project at San Dieguito Lagoon- Deputy Director Carter said that the feasibility study should be done by June 1<sup>st</sup>. So far there has been no indication of any fatal flaws, or negative impacts on the Edison project with this mitigation proposal. Poseidon will be meeting with the Coastal Commission Science Advisory Panel on June 10 about the mitigation plan. Poseidon hopes to go back to the Coastal Commission in August for conceptual approval of the 37-acre mitigation plan at San Dieguito. The Science Advisory Panel may require additional mitigation over and above the 37 acres, which would have to be done at a different location.
  - iii. Lake Hodges Bike / Ped Bridge- Deputy Director Carter reported that we are shut down on this project until September 2008 due to bird nesting season. Ms. Carter reported that we are working on obtaining additional funding sources to finish the bridge.
  - iv. Coastal Trail/Treatment Ponds- Deputy Director Carter said that the project has slowed down due to bird nesting season.
- b. Rancho Santa Fe Polo Club – Director Bobertz said there was nothing new to report.

7. Jurisdictional Status Reports

None

Chair Roberts adjourned the meeting at 10: 40.

These minutes approved by Board Action

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director