

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of July 18, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Roberts - Chair
Don Mosier – Vice Chair
Steve Vaus - Alternate
Olga Diaz
Dianne Jacob
Mark Kersey
Tom Golich

REPRESENTING

County of San Diego
City of Del Mar
City of Poway
City of Escondido
County of San Diego
City of San Diego
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
Brenda Miller	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Bill Michalsky	Sierra Club, Chair of San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
Ed Spaeth	Ramona Trails Association
Trish Boaz	Executive Director, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Mike Jilka	Coastal Environments
Cheryl Goddard	San Diego County Parks

Introduction and Announcements

Chair Roberts convened the meeting at 9:36 a.m. in the County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302/303, San Diego, CA 92101

Approval of Minutes of June 20, 2014

Boardmember Golich made a motion to approve the minutes of June 20, 2014. Boardmember Mosier seconded the motion.

The motion passed with 5 yes votes: Boardmembers Roberts, Mosier, Golich, Diaz and Kersey. There were 0 no votes and 1 abstain vote: Boardmember Jacob.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Bobertz announced that we held a successful event with Apple Corporation on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week. Apple brought 450 educators from around the world to learn about nature and the San Dieguito Lagoon wetland restoration. Our volunteers and rangers worked with the educators at various stations. We have started a good relationship with Apple.

August 11, 2014 is the date that has been set for the mediation meeting regarding the City of San Diego dispute over engineering fees on the Lake Hodges Bridge/West Bernardo Bike Path project.

Susan Carter reported that there have been two meetings of the multi-agency management staff working group in which the issues in Mayor Faulconer's May 2nd letter were discussed. A third meeting has been set up, at which Executive Director Bobertz and Deputy Director Carter have been asked to attend. Chair Roberts said he wanted to make sure that the Board knows all of the items in the Mayor's letter will be resolved.

Public Comment – No public comment

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. **Report and Recommendations from Executive Director Search Committee (page3)**

Recommendation: Discuss and Provide Direction to Committee

Vice-Chair Mosier (Chair of Executive Director Search Committee) reported that the committee (Boardmembers: Roberts, Kersey, Mosier and Golich) met yesterday, July 17 with Executive Director Bobertz and Deputy Director Carter. The recommendation of the Search Committee is to begin a search for an Interim Director that would be in this position for approximately 6 months. The Committee feels that the issues with the City of San Diego are an obstacle in hiring the best candidate for a permanent long-term Executive Director, because they create a great deal of uncertainty in the future of the JPA. The Interim Director will help facilitate solving the issues and be an independent voice looking at the operations of the JPA. The Committee is looking for individuals with managerial experience dealing with cities /or regional parks. Five candidates were identified at the Committee meeting. This list and any other names received will be contacted by Chair Roberts and Vice-Chair Mosier to determine if the parties are interested in the position. The proposed strategy is to bring in an Interim Director October 1. There will be a two-month overlap with Executive Director Bobertz and Deputy Director Carter. The individual may work part time and then go to full time on a month to month basis beginning December. Vice-Chair Mosier reported the Committee was concerned about advertising the position and funding the October and November salary in the amount of \$10,000 - \$20,000. Counsel Brechtel stated that there are no legal requirements to advertise and no law requiring the JPA to advertise a position of this nature in advance. Deputy Director Carter's last day will be November 30. Executive Director Bobertz will be available to help in the interim. Chair Roberts mentioned that there is a potential donor for the interpretive center and he would like to involve the Interim Director in any talks with this potential donor.

Discussion: Boardmember Diaz stated that the candidate needs to know the park, has been affiliated with the park in the past or perhaps an advisory committee member. She feels the position will be hard to fill and unsure that one person can do the work of two. Boardmember Jacob does not have a problem appointing an Interim Director and then hiring another person for the permanent position. She stated that combining the two positions makes sense. Boardmember Jacob questioned what the Interim Director will be doing? What are the tasks for this person? The issues with the City are critical to the budget now and in the future. This person will be expected to help with the candidate search for the permanent position. What is the plan for search process for the permanent position? Vice-Chair Mosier stated the permanent position was not discussed in detail, has been deferred and will be fine tuned at a later date. The discussion at the meeting

was more about the Interim Director position. Boardmember Jacob suggested that the salary for months October and November (\$10,000-\$20,000) could be split between the member agencies based on the formula, or taken out of the endowment. Boardmember Golich stated that there was a plan including the job description and a timetable which will be utilized at a later date. At the Search Committee meeting it was decided that the first thing will be to hire an Interim Executive Director. The Interim Director will help with the permanent Executive Director search according to the plan. Boardmember Jacob stated that the Interim Director needs outstanding management abilities to work well with all of the agencies, look at the organization from a management perspective, identify what needs to be done and get it done. Chair Roberts stated that at least three of the current candidates know the park fairly well.

Vice-Chair Mosier made the motion to adopt the recommendation of the Search Committee to hire an Interim Executive Director to serve on a month to month basis beginning October 1 going full time December 1. Boardmember Golich seconded the motion.

Yes – all in favor unanimously.

The motion passed with 6 yes votes: Boardmembers Roberts, Mosier, Jacob, Golich, Diaz and Kersey. There were 0 no votes and 0 abstain votes.

Vice-Chair Mosier stated the next steps of the Search Committee are to review the list of names of potential candidates, meet with them, reduce the number of candidates and recommend the final two candidates to the Board. Vice-Chair Mosier will contact the candidates. Chair Roberts and Vice-Chair Mosier will meet with potential candidates then meet with the Search Committee in August prior to the August JPA Board meeting. Due to schedule conflicts the meeting date for August may need to be changed. Boardmember Jacob asked if the money for the first 1-2 months of Interim Executive Director pay may be in our budget. Boardmember Kersey asked about the endowment. Executive Director Bobertz said the self directed endowment was approximately \$300,000 and was intended for the operation of the River Park after it was completed, with the idea that the contributions from the member agencies would stop increasing at that point. Chair Roberts said in past years the member agencies paid two assessments; one to operating budget and one to the endowment. The assessment to fund the endowment was stopped due to the tough times. Deputy Director Carter stated that the JPA borrowed \$37,000 from the endowment with the intention of paying it back when funding becomes available. Boardmember Golich stated that there may be funds available in the current budget that could be used to pay the Interim Director during the overlap period because there will be savings from Susan Carter's salary beginning December 1, as the budget includes benefits for her which will not be paid to the Interim Director. Chair Roberts thanked the Search Committee for coming together and thanked Vice-Chair Mosier for leading the Committee.

2. Comment on Coastal Commission Staff Report for North Coast Corridor Public Works Plan/Transportation and Resource Enhancement Program (NCC PWP/TREP) (page 4)

Recommendation: Authorize the Chair to send a letter to the Coastal Commission expressing the concern that the Seasonal Rail Platform design would not accommodate the Coast to Crest Trail crossing, *and may in fact preclude the trail crossing*, despite language about the Coast to Crest Trail crossing as a planned improvement in the PWP.

Executive Director Bobertz presented the issue and asked Shawna Anderson to explain the details. The PWP will be before the Coastal Commission at their August meeting in San Diego. Public comments on this issue were due yesterday, July 17, however, they said they would accept our letter dated July 18. The PWP includes a Coast to Crest Trail crossing at the San Dieguito double track project, part of LOSSAN. The crossing was in the PWP last year and it is in the final draft this year. New issues have come up, causing the concern that we may lose this Coast to Crest trail crossing. The crossing location is consistent with the JPA completed "Reach the Beach" feasibility study from 2012, showing how to get the Coast to Crest trail to the beach. Deputy Director Carter and Ms. Anderson are part of a technical working group formed by SANDAG along with representatives from Del Mar, Solana Beach, NCTD and the Ag District to provide input into the design of this project. Ms. Anderson explained that the Seasonal Platform designs are currently 30% complete, and will soon be 60% complete. As designed, the structure will block the Coast to Crest Trail from being able to reach a feasible crossing point under the north side of the new bridge.

The Consent Order required that the 22nd DAA provide a conservation/public access easement to the JPA. However, the Seasonal Platform encroaches to such an extent into the easement that it would be unusable for trail purposes. She explained that staff has questions about the easement map that the 22nd DAA provided to the Coastal Commission in compliance with the Consent Order, because there is a gap in the easement with no explanation.

Shawna has drafted two letters for the Board's consideration. The first letter has to be submitted today. This letter calls attention to the issue that the planning of the platform would jeopardize the Coast to Crest trail crossing. The second letter is to staff at the Coastal Commission dealing with the lack of language regarding the easement and the appearance that the Special Events Platform would consume the easement. There is no deadline for this letter however it is an urgent item.

Discussion: Boardmember Golich walks this area and thinks that access may be difficult on the north side during high tide. Shawna stated that there is more opportunity on the north side than the south side. Shawna stated that crossing on the south would be difficult and there are many reasons why the Coast to Crest trail on the north side makes sense. Boardmember Jacob stated that the presentation and analysis were very good. Shawna stated that the three projects being planned need to be planned together. Shawna stated that our letters make our issue very clear. Boardmember Jacob asked about alliances with any of the participating groups. Boardmember Jacob supports both letters and has to leave at 10:30.

Vice-Chair Mosier stated that the NCTD has problems with the proposed easement because it is on NCTD right of way. He continued on to state that the bridge is old and is costing large amounts of money to keep it operational. The condition of the bridge is creating a lot of pressure to advance the project and is compressing the time frame to resolve the issues.

Public Comment: Bill Michalsky –Del Mar resident – Chair of Lagoon committee and member of the Adhoc double track committee. Mr. Michalsky stated that there have been several discussions, for many years, regarding the Coast to Crest Trail. New changes have been brought up because of the Seasonal Rail Platform. The Adhoc committee supports double tracking, but believes that the Seasonal Platform could be 600 feet and that this size would serve 6 car passenger trains, instead of 1000 feet. He said that the excessive length is causing a lot of these problems. The Adhoc committee believes a shorter platform and moving the platform north would be helpful in addressing these issues.

Vice-Chair Mosier stated that the platform being considered could accommodate 10 car passenger trains. Ten car passenger trains are running and are the longest train permitted on the track, carrying 1400 passengers. He said that this issue is multi-jurisdictional and mentioned that the culvert could be widened to put the trail through, or to try to get 8 or 10 feet from fairgrounds and “tweek” the ADA ramps to accommodate the Coast to Crest trail.

Vice-Chair Mosier moved to send both draft letters to the Coastal Commission. Boardmember Golich seconded the motion. Chair Roberts asked that the Fairgrounds be copied on both letters.

Boardmember Diaz stated that she may be asked to fill in at the Coastal Commission meeting and would abstain.

The motion passed with 4 yes votes: Boardmembers Roberts, Mosier, Golich and Kersey. There were 0 no votes and 1 abstain vote: Boardmember Diaz. Boardmember Jacob was not present for the vote.

INFORMATION

3. Park Project Status (oral)

- a. Temporary Office Trailer at Future Ranger Station Site
- b. Ranger Station

Deputy Director Carter reported that a temporary office trailer will be rented. The temporary office will have power and will be available for the Rangers to work out of when they are on coastal duty. It will be a big improvement for them, as they now work out of their vehicles.

4. Coordination Reports (oral)

- a. San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy – No Report
- b. Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley – No Report
- c. Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation – No Report
- d. San Dieguito Lagoon Committee – No Report

Chair Roberts briefly mentioned a possible donor for the interpretive center, interested in our vision. It is a foundation trust with an environmental focus that likes naming rights.

5. Jurisdictional Status Reports – No Report

6. Communications – No Communications

The next regular scheduled JPA meeting will be August 15, 2014 or another date if rescheduled. If the meeting will be held on August 22, Chair Roberts will be out of state and has asked Vice-Chair Mosier to conduct the meeting. Chair Roberts said he can call in.

Chair Roberts thanked Alternate Board member Steve Vaus and Boardmember Kersey for attending. Chair Roberts stated that we are heading in the right direction, making good decisions and progress for the San Dieguito River Park.

Chair Roberts adjourned the meeting at 10:41.

These minutes approved by Board Action

Date

Executive Director

DRAFT