

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of September 19, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Roberts - Chair
Dick Daniels
Richard Earnest
Betty Rexford
Dianne Jacob
Phil Pryde

REPRESENTING

City of Solana Beach
City of Escondido
City of Del Mar
City of Poway
County 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
Jan Lines	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Freda Reid	San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
Jacqueline Winterer	Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Bill Proffer	San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Cheryl Goddard	County Parks and Rec Dept.
John Degenfelder	Ramona Trails Association
Craig Adams	San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Martha Baker	Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation

Introduction and Announcements

Chair Roberts convened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. in the County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302/303, San Diego, CA 9210.

Boardmember Pryde introduced the CAC members in attendance as ,Jacqueline Winterer, Freda Reid, John Degenfelder, Bill Proffer and Craig Adams.

Approval of Minutes

Boardmember Earnest made a motion to approve the minutes of July 18, 2008 and Boardmember Rexford seconded the motion. All in favor

Executive Director's Report

Director Bobertz announced that our Wetland Restoration Project has been reviewed by the scientists that are monitoring the area and found the project to be going better than they had expected in producing fish. This good news resulted in good publicity about the project in newspaper articles and television news. Another event that we had was "A Day at the Races" which was a fundraiser that allowed us to add \$2500.00 to our funds for a viewing platform in the Del Dios area. This event was possible due to the generosity of Becky Bartling at the 22 Ag District who invited us to do this same event again next year.

Chair Roberts gave kudos to Becky Bartling for offering this event for the River Park. This Saturday is the 24th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day and the River Park has organized with SEMPRA 2 sites to clean up, the Lake Hodges area boat dock and Dog Beach in Del Mar. Director Bobertz said that SANDAG has an item on their agenda to award the River Park \$347,000 in Transnet Funds for control of invasive species, gates, chipper, fire recovery signs and a well for Cactus Scrub irrigation.

Chair Roberts said that the Race Track Commission will be meeting on Monday to talk about the River Park participating in the percentages from their events along with another big issue on the toll road and he expected a large turnout.

Public Comment- None

CONSENT

Chair Roberts said that we would be moving the two consent items to the Action agenda and Counsel Brechtel would be giving a report on these two items.

ACTION

1. Accept County Water Authority Easement on North Shore Lake Hodges
2. Accept Horizon Church School Trail Easement

Counsel Brechtel said that there are two resolutions before the Board to accept easements for trail segments. First, the Water Authority has shut down our trail in Lake Hodges to construct the water line to the lake but they will be rebuilding the trail when their project is completed. This resolution approves acceptance of the Recreational Trail Easement subject to Executive Director Bobertz' approval. Second, the Horizon Christian Fellowship has offered an easement on their property which will be a link for the Coast to Crest Trail. This resolution approves acceptance of the Trail Easement, subject to the Executive Director's approval.

In response to Boardmember Daniels' question, Shawna Anderson said that we have several trail alignment possibilities in this area, but no one alignment has been determined at this time. She explained that we have been offered this easement alongside the church which is being expanded. The easement will be essential if one of the alignments is chosen in that area. We are working with the County of San Diego to get an alignment on that potential alternative route.

Boardmember Rexford made a motion to accept the Water Authority Easement Resolution and Boardmember Daniels seconded. All in favor

Boardmember Jacob made a motion to accept the Horizon Christian Fellowship trail easement. Boardmember Rexford seconded. All in favor

3. Award Contract for Green Valley Creek Bridge Replacement- Executive Director Bobertz said that we are reconstructing the bridges that burned during the Witch Creek Fire. Deputy Director Carter said that this is one of the first big FEMA repair projects and we will be replacing the previous

fiberglass bridge with a steel truss bridge. This contract will be specifically just to fabricate the bridge for \$52,400 to the lowest responsible bidder, Contech Bridge Solutions. We will have to award a contract to hire a contractor to install it in the future.

Boardmember Rexford made a motion to award the contract to build the bridge for \$52,400 to Contech Bridge Solutions. Boardmember Pryde seconded. All in favor.

4. Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge Shortfall Report and Recommendation:

Executive Director Bobertz said that we have some good news about the work on the bridge that will resume construction next week. Mr. Bobertz explained that we were closed down for the bird nesting season but next week we will be installing the cables for the superstructure. The Board originally had approved the bridge with a shortfall of \$675,000 but promised to find funding for this balance even if we had to take out a mortgage on our office. Unfortunately, our offices burned down but Mr. Bobertz had a meeting with the manager of the Bank of Escondido who assured us that he could extend us a loan that would be converted to a mortgage on the new office. Another option that we have looked at is the Lake Hodges Recreational Trust Fund that was set up when the Hodges Golf Improvement Center was approved by the San Diego City Council as mitigation to be spent on recreational uses. There is approximately \$400,000 currently in that fund. Recently, we were informed that the Water Department attorney has determined that those funds cannot be spent on recreational projects because the Water Department is an Enterprise Fund.

Counsel Brechtel said that he thought the City Attorney had erred in his opinion because the Hodges Golf Improvement Center lease revenues were intended to be mitigation not ratepayer revenue.

Another idea is to identify Corporate sponsors for the bridge along with a cantilever that will extend along West Bernardo Road. We will have a donor recognition portal at the north end of the bridge that will also provide the solar power for the lights and the gates on the bridge. Mr. Bobertz said that one of the items on this agenda, a property donation, would enable the River Park to earn income from selling mitigation credits. This property will generate revenue from the sale of mitigation credits and include an endowment for maintenance of the property. Director Bobertz gave credit to Craig Adams who recognized this opportunity for the park. We are very optimistic that such a sale is in the works now and will be coming to the Board in the near future, and that this sale would be nearly sufficient to make up the shortfall.

Speaker Craig Adams: Craig encouraged the JPA Board to pursue the funds in the Lake Hodges Recreational Trust Fund, because it is not just the matter of the current funds in that account, but that the funds will continue to accrue so it is a significant value. He said he worked on the resolution that created the trust fund when he worked for the City.

The Board gave direction to Counsel Brechtel to pursue the mitigation issue of this fund as those funds were designated for River Park type projects.

5. Accept Maderas Westridge Donation

Counsel Brechtel said that the Maderas Westridge property (32.6 acres) which will be donated by Sunroad Corporation as a charitable credit will generate mitigation credits and an endowment. This is an unencumbered open space donation which will become the responsibility of the River Park to maintain. Mr. Brechtel said there has been a sighting of a gnatcatcher on the property which will be beneficial to the mitigation.

Boardmember Daniels made a motion to approve the resolution to accept the Maderas Westridge property with one change to delete the comment that the property is within the FPA, because it is not. Boardmember Pryde seconded. All in favor

6. Investment Committee Report and Recommendation- Deputy Director Carter said the Investment Committee recently met and reviewed our investments for year ending on Dec 31 2007, and the first and second quarter of 2008. Two issues were discussed, 1) the Del Mar Foundation has a higher fee for administration so the Committee is recommending that the Board adopt the attached letter asking them to lower their fee to be competitive with the other funds that we have. Secondly, we have \$31,000 accrued in the San Diego Foundation account and the recommendation was to remove those funds from the San Diego Foundation and put them in the Fidelity Account.

Boardmember Jacob made a motion to approve the recommendation and Boardmember Rexford seconded. All in favor

7. Sikes Adobe Historic Farmhouse Update (Museum Manager Anne Cooper) : Anne Cooper gave a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the Sikes Adobe restoration. The presentation showed what has been done to protect the walls that were left standing and the volunteer groups that have worked on the archeology on the site. Ms. Cooper explained her reasons for rewriting the mission statement to reflect who the River Park is and our goals to build a first class museum and differentiate our museum from others in the area.

Some of the Boardmembers felt that the new mission statement was too lengthy and asked Ms. Cooper to condense the statement and bring it to a future meeting for review.

8. Rancho Santa Fe Polo Club Update

Director Bobertz said that the issue relating to this mile and a half trail segment issue has been going on many years and is a big concern for the River Park. Code Enforcement has now instructed the Polo Club to resubmit their application to include the trail and restore the river bank or risk loss of their lease. Mr. Bobertz said that staff will be monitoring the discretionary permit and report back with any news at future meetings.

No action taken

INFORMATION

9. Coordination Reports (oral)
 - a. San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy- Craig Adams said that the Conservancy received a challenge grant from the D'Augustine family which would extend the trail from behind the Albertsons to the construction trailers at the lagoon. Mr. Adams said that another family foundation will be funding a segment of the trail to Horsepark or possibly a portion of the Del Dios Gorge trail. Another grant for \$92,000 from the Water Shed Council toward establishing a natural treatment system upstream of Lake Hodges has been obtained. REI is working with the Conservancy on this Coastal Clean-up day and will be stationed at Dog

Beach in Del Mar this weekend. He explained that the Conservancy is interested in working with the Fenton Trust for a donation of property which will be used for mitigation credits. On Nov 2nd the Conservancy will be having a supporter appreciation event at the Wild Animal Park CRES and he invited all to attend.

- b. Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley- Jacqueline Winterer said that she and Stu Smith were invited by Leslie Woollenweber to clean the Boardwalk 6 hours a week. Lance Milbrand and Jacqueline Winterer have organized an “Embryonic Lagoon Museum” with objects and signs that have been found in the restoration area. Executive Director Bobertz reported that staff is in negotiations with Southern California Edison to create a sub station for rangers to monitor and clean this area.
- c. Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation- Martha Baker said that Oct 9th the Nature Conservancy will be closing escrow on Phase one(75 acres) of the Rutherford property on Volcan Mountain. Shortly after that the Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation will be purchasing 273 acres and by the end of the year the County of San Diego will take possession of the remainder of phase one acquisition. The second phase will begin with another appraisal and it is estimated that all the property in that phase will be acquired by next June.

10. Status Reports(oral)

1. Fire Recovery- Deputy Director Carter said that we will be receiving funds from FEMA for all the estimated projects in the Park which they originally estimated to be about 1.5 million dollars. Some of the costs have been deemed to be the responsibility of our insurance company leaving the FEMA costs to be about \$800,000. Ms. Carter reported that FEMA relegated our 32 projects into large and small, large being anything over \$60,900 and small projects anything less than that amount. We have received \$276,000 of the small project funding upfront and we submit a reimbursement request for any large projects as we start them and eventually draw down the funds. Our insurance for office and transitional expenses has sent us \$ 578,612 to date. As we work with the architects on the office the insurance will work with us and pay expenses as they are incurred. The same will be true with the Sikes Adobe reconstruction and they have sent us \$212,000 toward expenses there. Ms. Carter said that our insurance company covered the Lake Sutherland cabin for a replacement value of \$90,000.

2. River Park Projects

- a. Coastal Trail- Deputy Director Carter said that bird nesting season has passed and the bridges for drainage areas along I-5 trail are ready and will be installed next week. Ms. Carter reported that we will be having the next CAC meeting at the site of the treatment ponds to explain how the ponds will work and walk on the boardwalk. Shawna Anderson said the work is proceeding on the Grand Ave Bridge overlook.
- b. Del Dios Gorge Trail- Deputy Director Carter said that a grant that we received several years ago has \$180,000 left on it that needs to be spent by next spring, so we

will be contracting out to build a portion of the trail in the right of way of Del Dios Highway west of the Lake Hodges Dam with those funds. Ms. Carter also said that we are working on the area downstream from the Dam with the San Diego Mountain Biking Association who will be volunteering on this project.

11. Jurisdictional Status Reports- Boardmember Pryde said that on Sept 8th he attended a hearing sponsored by Resources Agency and the Department of Fish and Game on Off Shore Marine Reserves. Mr. Pryde said that an area covered by the Off Shore Marine Reserves is called the San Dieguito Lagoon State Marine Park which includes the body of water at the Grand Ave Bridge. State Marine Park prohibits commercial fishing but allows private fishing. Mr. Pryde suggested that we extend the reserve to cover all the lagoon.

Director Bobertz said that fishing off the Grand Ave Bridge is allowed by the Department of Fish and Game but the regulation does not allow crossing habitat to fish. The jurisdiction is the City of Del Mar and we are working with Pat Burn who is the code enforcement person at Del Mar.

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

These minutes approved by Board Action

Date

Executive Director

DRAFT