

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of July 19, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Don Mosier
Olga Diaz
Steve Vaus, Alt.
Dave Roberts
Dianne Jacob
Sherri Lightner
Mark Kersey
Mike Nichols, Alt.
Tom Golich

REPRESENTING

City of Del Mar
City of Escondido
City of Poway
County of San Diego
County of San Diego
City of San Diego
City of San Diego
City of Solana Beach
Citizens Advisory Committee

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Wayne Brechtel
Dick Bobertz
Susan Carter
Shawna Anderson
Jan Lines
Jacqueline Winterer
Jeff Barnouw
Stephanie Gaines
Trish Boaz
Debra DeBow
Geoff Kipps-Bolton

JPA Counsel
San Dieguito River Park JPA
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Lagoon Committee
County of San Diego
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
CAC Member
Round Rock Honey Beekeeping

Introduction and Announcements

Chair Cunningham and Vice-Chair Heebner were not in attendance so Boardmember Diaz, immediate past-chair, was asked to chair the meeting.

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

It was announced that Jacqueline Winterer is the new Vice- Chair for the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Approval of Minutes of May 17th, 2013-

Boardmember Golich made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17th meeting, Boardmember Mosier seconded. Boardmember Lightner requested a correction to the minutes where it was mentioned that \$15,000 from her office had not been received; she said she had never confirmed that she would provide \$15,000 from her office. Also, she said she would like acknowledgement of the \$25,000 that she donated and questioned why it was not reported. Director Bobertz said that that funding was donated in the previous

year, FY11/12. Ms. Lightner asked if we track outstanding liabilities like the ones from the David Kreitzer/Lake Hodges Bridge project. Mr. Bobertz responded that he didn't know if a liability for the city bridge billing was included in our last annual audit but he would check and report back.

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report- Director Bobertz said that the City of San Diego has adopted their budget and the San Dieguito River Park's member assessment has been reinstated with funding coming from the General Fund of the Public Utilities Department. It was reported that last month a contingent of Chinese delegates were given a tour of the lagoon and we were pleased that they were interested in our important project. Mr. Bobertz said that our Lagoon Day brought in 600 school children to learn about the restoration project and participate in environmental activities.

Public Comment- None

ACTION

1. New Stormwater Permit- what it does and how does it affect the San Dieguito River Park? (Presentation by Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program.

Shawna Anderson reported that the Regional Water Quality Control Board had some major revisions to their storm water permit regulations. She explained that the JPA is not a co-permittee, which the JPA's member agencies are. The CAC previously heard a presentation by County staff and the BIA to weigh the pros and cons of the proposed changes before they had been adopted. The major revisions to the permit will be implemented on a watershed basis. Shawna Anderson introduced Stephanie Gaines who discussed the adoption of the Stormwater Permit on May 8th of this year and how it will change the permits that are issued to different watershed areas. Ms. Gaines discussed the 10 watershed areas and new development regulations to improve the water quality in our area. There will be a consultation panel that will consist of a Regional Boardmember, environmental community member and an member of the agricultural community to review the proposed projects. Ms. Gaines explained the complicated regulations and processes that will determine how water will be retained and removed and Biofiltration Flow methods. There will be a two year process starting in December of 2013 to provide guidelines for the implementation of the permits. It will be in December 2015 when implementing permits will begin. This is a very costly program and will enter into the billions to implement. Boardmember Jacob said that we need to keep on top of this issue as the costs could impact our projects. Shawna Anderson said that the JPA has to comply with the permits but the purpose of the permits is to maintain and improve our water quality.

2. Award Contract for Electrical Connection at David Kreitzer Lake Hodges Bike/Ped Bridge.

Recommendation: *Award contract to lowest responsible bidder as reported at today's meeting.*

Deputy Director Carter said that unfortunately both bids for this project far exceeded our funding. The bids came in at \$45K and \$65K. Ms. Carter stated that staff needs to review these bids with our engineers and the bidders to understand why they came in so high. She said that staff did not recommend awarding a contract at this time. Boardmember Kersey asked whether we should take

another look at the solar option, even though they have twice been installed and stolen. Mr. Kersey asked staff to add this solar issue to the next agenda. No action was taken.

3. **Adopt Resolution Requesting City of San Diego to Design and Construct Trail Cantilever along el Camino Real Bridge.**

Recommendation: Adopt attached resolution requesting City of San Diego to design and seek funding to construct trail cantilever along the new El Camino Real Bridge.

Boardmembers Roberts, Kersey and Lightner left the meeting at 10:15 at the beginning of this item.

It was stated that the City of San Diego's El Camino Real widening and bridge replacement design has been in the works for many years and we have made comments and been part of a committee to address issues with this project in the past. Staff has met with the City of San Diego to ask if they could install a cantilever onto the bridge as part of our trail system that would connect the existing and proposed trails south of the river with the Coast to Crest Trail on the north side of the river. City staff has informed us that the Federal funding on the El Camino Real bridge replacement project prohibits them from adding the cantilever that we requested because it was not existing on the original bridge, therefore the funding would have to come from another source. We are requesting in our resolution that the City of San Diego design and seek funding to construct the trail cantilever along El Camino Real Bridge. Boardmember Jacob made a motion to approve the resolution and staff's recommendation to send a letter to the City of San Diego. Boardmember Mosier seconded.
All in favor (6 Yes)

4. **Ramona Grassland Conservation Bank Easement**

Recommendation: *Authorize the Executive Director to accept a Conservation Easement for the Ramona Grassland Conservation Bank provided that the Final Long-Term Management Plan is acceptable to him and the JPA Attorney.*

Director Bobertz said that the Ramona Grasslands is a very successful and extensive habitat conservation project which is south of the River Park. Along with properties owned by the River Park this forms a very important wildlife corridor for our FPA. The grassland has a in holding under private ownership and this property owner is trying to set up a habitat bank of 210 acres so he can sell mitigation credits. The property owner is working with the Federal and State Wildlife Agencies; under the terms of the agreement, the County of San Diego would manage the property but another environmental agency has to agree to accept a conservation easement to oversee the maintenance of the property. They have asked the JPA to assume that role. There is a very small physical obligation to the River Park to oversee the easement and Mr. Bobertz asked the Board to approve the recommendation to accept the Conservation Easement and direct him to carry it out. Counsel Brechtel stated that there would be minimum effort to oversee the easement but if we were alerted to a problem on the site, we would have the authority to address any issue.

Speaker John Degenfelder requested that the Community of Ramona have some input into the decisions on the parcel.

Speaker Cheryl Goddard from the County of San Diego Parks and Rec. Dept. wanted to clarify that that the County does not own the properties but are working with the property owners to review

their long term management plans that will need to be approved by the wildlife agencies. Ms. Goddard said that the County will need to get some cost estimates for the annual management for the properties and come to an agreement about the management costs.

Boardmember Jacob stated that the County is in favor of the Conservation Easement but she wanted to clarify if the area would be open to new trails. Counsel Brechtel stated that the agreement would have to state that trails would be allowed or they will be prohibited. Mr. Brechtel said that any existing roads or trails would be maintained but no new trails would be permitted unless stated in the original agreement.

Speaker Phil Pryde said that the Audubon Society supports the preservation of this property.

Boardmember Golich moved to authorize the Executive Director to accept a Conservation Easement for the Ramona Grassland Conservation Bank provided that the Final Long-Term Management Plan is acceptable to him and the JPA Attorney. Boardmember Jacob seconded the motion. All in favor (Yes 6)

5. Carmel Valley Planning Area Expansion:

Recommendation: *Authorize the Chair to send a letter to the Chair of the Carmel Valley Planning Board urging that Body to Expand the Carmel Valley Planning Area to include the area of the City of San Diego east of I-5 in the North City Future Urbanizing Area known as Subarea II.*

Shawna Anderson said that planning groups are important to the public process at the City of San Diego as they are at the County of San Diego. These planning groups have influence on the projects in their area and are required by development projects that might be proposed. The Carmel Valley Planning Board had an item on their agenda last month to add Subarea II to their focus area but did not have it as an action item. They will be voting on this next month. The Carmel Valley Planning Group has been very active in supporting SDRP over the years and they consider impacts that might occur in the FPA of the park along with upholding policies of the park. Ms. Anderson stated that over the years Carmel Valley Planning Board has reviewed projects in the subarea II even though it is not in their bylaws to oversee this area. In the past, there has never been a problem with comments from Carmel Valley Board but it is important for them to officially include this area so they have authority to address issues. Ms. Anderson said that staff recommends that the Board send a letter to the Carmel Valley Planning Board urging them to expand their jurisdictional area to include Subarea II. Ms. Anderson stated that another area that is not covered by a planning board is the City owned property near the polo fields along with the Fairbanks Ranch Country Club. Staff is recommending that the letter to the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board suggest that they add the polo fields and Fairbanks Ranch Country Club area also.

Speaker Jacqueline Winterer supported the action. There are three major properties off of Via de la Valle and El Camino Real of concern, Rancho Del Mar area where 224 dwellings are proposed, Polo Field, and the 22nd Ag. District area called Horsepark. All these properties stress the River Park and create traffic problems because they do not co-ordinate their events. The Carmel Valley Community Planning board will provide welcome oversight.

Boardmember Mosier made a motion to Authorize the Chair to send a letter to the Chair of the Carmel Valley Planning Board urging that Body to Expand the Carmel Valley Planning Area to include the area of the City of San Diego east of I-5 in the North City Future Urbanizing Area known as Subarea II and include the Rancho Del Mar, Fairbanks and Horsepark areas. Boardmember Nichols seconded. All in favor (Vote 6)

6. Discussion of Potential Board Retreat- The Next Twenty-Five Years

Recommendation: Discuss having a board retreat.

Director Bobertz reported that Chair Cunningham suggested that the next JPA meeting on September 20th be held at the San Dieguito River Park office. We would conduct our regular JPA meeting in the morning, have lunch at the office and spend the afternoon talking about the next 25 years. It was suggested that staff send out a email to all Boardmembers to see if they can attend the all day event.

7. Report from the Sikes Adobe Bee Committee

Recommendation: Receive information and provide direction to staff as necessary.

Director Bobertz said that the JPA Board appointed a sub-committee to negotiate a better financial agreement for the proposed Round Rock Honey Beekeeping classes. The subcommittee met and were not successful in getting additional funding from the bee company and were informed that any legal action about the beekeeping issues would have to be addressed in a Texas court where the Round Rock Honey Beekeeping organization is located. Anne Cooper, Museum Manager at Sikes Adobe, reported on the alternate bee classes and prices that she found but said that Round Rock Honey was the only company to have bees on site with the classes. Geoff Kipps-Bolton a beekeeper and affiliated with the Round Rock Honey explained some selling points for having the classes at Sikes which will bring in more visitors to the site along with the advantage of having the bees on site to allow the participants to get the complete view of being a beekeeper. Mr. Kipps-Bolton stated that the price of the classes are posted much higher than the actual funds that are received and the classes would bring in about \$177 a month to Sikes. Chair and subcommittee member Diaz said that the meeting to negotiate fees and legal actions did not go well with no flexibility by the proponent leaving the committee to question the other issues which are by having classes there the general public would be limited to seeing only part of the farmstead, legal issues by having beehives on site and the fence issue that allowed for the proponent to supply the materials and we would have to build the fence. Chair Diaz recommendation was for Sikes not to enter into an agreement with Round Rock Beekeeping Academy; Boardmember Jacob seconded. All in favor (Vote 6)

INFORMATION

8. Status Reports (Oral)

a. SCE Wetland Restoration Project Status since San Onofre Decommission Decision

Counsel Brechtel reported on the impact on the River Park Wetland Restoration agreement due to the shutting down of the San Onofre reactors. The maintenance obligations are all tied to the operating life of the reactors but the Coastal Commission permit states that the minimum life of 20 years or the operating life of the Units 2 and 3 reactors even though they are being decommissioned. It was stated that the reports are compiled to show how much it costs to maintain the wetlands and an analysis is required to see if enough money is in our endowment to cover the costs of maintaining the lagoon when the time comes for the River Park take ownership. Deputy Director Carter stated that SCE pays the River Park about \$212K each year to maintain the trails program at the site. Boardmember Mosier said that it will be about 30 to 40 years before San Onofre is decommissioned.

b. River Park Projects

Deputy Director Carter said that the Open-air Classroom is project has plans that were submitted to the City of San Diego and we are fine tuning our costs. Our goal is to be able to be able to award the bid at the September 20th meeting.

9. Coordination Reports (oral)

- a. San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy - Trish Boaz. Director of SDRVC, said that since she was hired in April of this year they have acquired 40 acres at Pamo Valley, they have received \$40K for the Citizen Science outreach program, received grants for Crest Canyon and have promised \$160K for the Open-air Classroom. Ms. Boaz reported that they are working with Corporate River Banks to reach out to them for a staying healthy event for their employees and in turn they can help us with volunteer projects and restoration. They are working with the River Park on trails app and many outreach projects along with a mini triathlon in the fall. There will be a fundraiser at the Belly up Tavern in September and the River Valley Fest on October 13 at the Rancho Valencia.
- b. Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley- Jacqueline Winterer said that they are an advocacy group and they are so pleased about the 10 year Grand Ave Bridge project that they worked so hard on getting completed. We do clean ups and we promote passive signs that allow the public to read about the area while enjoying the view and wildlife.
- c. Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation- None
- d. San Dieguito Lagoon Committee- None

10. Jurisdictional Status Reports- None

11. Communications- none

Chair Diaz adjourned the meeting at 11:15

These minutes approved by Board Action

Date

Executive Director