
**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of December 8, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joe LaCava - Chair
Chris Khoury – Vice Chair
Brian Pepin
Consuelo Martinez
Dwight Worden

REPRESENTING

City of San Diego District 1
Citizens Advisory Committee
City of Poway
City of Escondido
City of Del Mar

MEMBERS ABSENT

Terra Lawson-Remer
Joel Anderson
Jill MacDonald
Marni von Wilpert
Dustin Fuller

REPRESENTING

County of San Diego Dist. 3
County of San Diego Dist. 2
City of Solana Beach
City of San Diego Dist. 5
22nd Agricultural District, Ex Officio

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Shawna Anderson
Dewanda Vandermost
Wayne Brechtel
Brian Elliot
Lizzy Bendrick
Becca Smith

REPRESENTING

San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA, General Counsel
City of San Diego District 1
County Parks & Recreation Department
County of San Diego Dist. 3

Introduction and Announcements:

Chair LaCava convened the meeting at 11:10 a.m. A roll call was taken and a quorum of five board members were present to begin the meeting. Chair LaCava welcomed the new City of Escondido board member, Consuelo Martinez.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the Minutes of October 20, 2023

Board Member Worden moved to approve the minutes and Board Member Pepin seconded the motion. All in favor.

Yes votes: LaCava, Khoury, Pepin, Worden

No votes: None

Absent: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, MacDonald, von Wilpert

Abstain: Martinez

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Anderson announced that San Dieguito River Park was selected as one of the two charities for the Red Nose Run being held December 9, 2023.

Anderson reported that the launch of SDRP's new website is scheduled for the end of December. One of the benefits of the new website will be the promotion of SDRP's endowment fund.

Executive Director Anderson shared recent events in the park, such as, the W-19 Project restoration grading to open the channel, the JPA Staff Retreat, the Sikes Festive Farmhouse, the volunteer enrichment at the Wolf Center and the Scouts tour to Sikes Adobe. Anderson dedicated her director's report in memory of David Kreitzer.

Board Member Khoury provided details of the December 1, 2023 CAC Meeting presentation and report by Meagan Hickey from San Diego Public Utilities Department about Lake Hodges Dam's current status and future plans.

Board Member Khoury announced the Conservancy's Speaker Series "Connecting Creatures, Climate, and Community" sponsored by SDRVC and invited board members to attend January 3, 2024 where he is presenting "The Allure of the San Dieguito River Valley".

Public Comment – No public comments received.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. FY23-24 Q1 Budget Report and Coast Q3 Report

Recommendation: Receive the budget report

Executive Director Anderson presented the Q1 report for the FY23-24 budget and Q3 report of the Coast budget. Most of the budget items are on target, with the exception of Office Operation/Maintenance expenses due to the unexpected water well repairs. Board Member Worden questioned the budget for the Habitat Management income and Anderson answered that the Habitat Management funds held in the endowments have not yet been requested.

Anderson explained that the Coast budget is funded in accordance with the Trails Management Agreement with Southern California Edison, and she is currently working with SCE on the calendar year 2024 budget.

The board discussed the future lagoon project endowments and the need to complete an endowment agreement with SANDAG. A recommendation was made to create a board subcommittee when the timing is appropriate and there is more data.

Board Member Pepin made the motion to receive the budget report and Board Member Martinez seconded the motion. All in favor.

Public Comment- no public comment

Yes votes: LaCava, Khoury, Pepin, Worden, Martinez

No votes: None

Absent: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, MacDonald, von Wilpert

Abstain: None

2. **Vehicle Replacements**

Recommendation: Discuss Strategy and Approve Next Steps for Vehicle Replacement.

Executive Director Anderson presented the current need for a replacement vehicle for the park and the future requirements for zero emissions vehicles. She explained the reserve fund balance for vehicle replacement is not enough to purchase a truck.

Anderson reported her plan to obtain dealer quotes for a gas-powered truck and electric truck to replace one of the six trucks in the fleet and will bring them before the board for approval.

Board Member Khoury commented that he is in favor of a zero emissions truck and that the demand for EV vehicles has lessened creating a surplus. He believes the costs of maintenance of an EV truck would be an advantage for the park.

Public Comment- no public comment

Board Member Khoury made the motion to approve the next steps for vehicle replacement and Board Member Worden seconded the motion. All in favor.

Yes votes: LaCava, Khoury, Pepin, Worden, Martinez

No votes: None

Absent: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, MacDonald, von Wilpert

Abstain: None

3. **Fairgrounds Trail and SDRP Gateway**

Recommendation: Support to continue to implement the project

Executive Director Anderson presented a status update on the Western Gateway project at the coast. The Del Mar Foundation funded \$24,000 for the initial design and the JPA was awarded \$1.3 Million from the California state budget by Senator Toni Atkins to construct the project.

Anderson explained the goal of CTC Reach the Beach trail for multi-use. She discussed the feasibility study done by the JPA in 2012 which has a component of a trail along the fairground side which is where the

Western Gateway would be located. She shared design concepts of the future trail improvements and Hubbell designed Western Gateway.

Anderson expressed the importance of claiming the recreational buffer that was set aside by the Del Mar Fairgrounds designated for public use and has not yet been used.

Board Member Martinez inquired about the Del Mar Fairgrounds and if there is communication with their board. Executive Director Anderson answered that she is on their government and community relations committee for the 22nd Ag District.

Board Member Worden suggested that when timing was appropriate, to ask the California Coastal Commission if horses would be allowed west of the freeway to access the trail.

Board Member Pepin asked that the board minutes reflect the topic of equestrian use to reaffirm the Reach the Beach Trail designation as multi-use for hikers, cyclists, and equestrians.

Public Comment- no public comment

Board Member Worden made the motion to approve support to continue to implement the project, and Board Member Pepin seconded the motion. All in favor.

Yes votes: LaCava, Khoury, Pepin, Worden, Martinez

No votes: None

Absent: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, MacDonald, von Wilpert

Abstain: None

INFORMATION

4. Project Status Updates

- a. **Reach the Beach Fairgrounds Trail** –Under Action Item #3.
- b. **San Dieguito Lagoon Phase II Restoration (aka W-19)** – Executive Director Anderson will be sending an invite for the W19 river breaching event when the exact date is determined.
- c. **CTC Trail – East San Pasqual and Sutherland Gaps Project** – Executive Director Anderson is continuing to work with JPA's consultants on these projects. Early next year alignment maps will be presented to the CAC for feedback.

5. Coordination Reports (oral)

- a. **San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy**- no report
- b. **Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley**- no report
- c. **Volcan Mountain Foundation** – no report
- d. **San Dieguito Lagoon Committee**- no report

6. **Jurisdictional Status Reports** – Board Member Worden updated the status of the Osprey nest on an SDG&E power pole in the lagoon. He also mentioned he received a letter from Whispering Palms/Surf Cup that he will be distributing to the board members. Worden also suggested scheduling a budget committee meeting soon. Chair Member LaCava thanked Executive Director Anderson for hosting the W19 tour.

Chair LaCava adjourned the meeting at 12:23 p.m.

These minutes approved by Board action: 01/19/24



Shawna Anderson, Executive Director