

Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends Board of Directors Meeting

Date: April 20, 2006

Location: Newport Beach Marriott, Bayview

Members Present: Jack Keating, Dennis Baker, Tom Mooers, Carol Starcevic, Paul Kuhn

Staff: Roger Mallett, Donna Carroll

Guests: Connie Bean, NBNF Naturalist; Larry B. McKenney, Manager of Watershed & Coastal Resources Division of the Resources and Development Management Department of the County of Orange.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M. by acting president, Jack Keating. President Regina Fodor was absent due to recent successful knee replacement surgery and we all send her our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved as amended by prior E Mails.

Larry McKenney then presented a description of the work of his division as the permittees for the watershed cities of Orange County. This work primarily involves monitoring the storm drain runoffs to comply with provisions of the Clean Water Act.

He provided a history of the various committees which have been formed, acted and expired between 1981 and the present. Current storm water permits are now granted under rules adopted in 1990. Their mandate is to limit the Total Maximum Daily Loads of Sediment, Nutrients, Pathogens and Toxins to certain mandated standards. They now have an agreement among Orange County, cities of Tustin, Irvine, Newport Beach and Lake Forest, The Irvine Company, California Fish & Game and Lennar Homes. Other groups are being added as programs are expanded. CalTrans is now also a participant.

Current "Hot Topics" are, 1) Recent clearing of vegetation from the San Diego Creek flood control channel so the channel may actually be available for flood control, 2) Dredging of Upper Newport Bay by the Army Corps of Engineers, 3) Renewing storm water permits as they expire and 4) Looking for sources of funding for their activities. His division currently has a staff of forty people.

His presentation was followed by a series of questions and answers and he was excused from the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

The Executive Director's report revealed that we have a little less money this year than we had last year. Our fund-raising efforts have been postponed due to bay planning issues.

Donna presented the Accountant's report.

The Finance Committee will meet on April 26, and submit a written report to the Board at our May meeting.

Dennis presented the Advocacy Committee report. The city of Newport Beach is still studying water quality and habitat issues relating to the proposed horse arena.

Jack reported for the Fund-Raising Committee that Duffy Boats will take a leadership role in providing electric boat trips for donors and potential donors.

Jack's Board Development report asked for suggestions from the members for naturalists to add to the board.

Under Key Board Initiatives, Jack presented plans and developments of the new Back Bay Science Center. Construction is about to start under the leadership of the city of Newport Beach.

Jack also presented a summary of the Management Coalition Meeting, which was held this afternoon at 1:00 P.M. Attendees were Kevin Thomas and several other officials from Orange County, Dave Kiff from the city of Newport Beach, Brian Shelton from Fish & Game, Matt Yurko from the California Coastal Commission, Sue McIntyre, chief executive of the Muth Interpretive Center and Ray Williams, Roger Mallett, Jack Keating, Regina Fodor, Lori Kiesser, Donna Carroll and Paul Kuhn representing the Naturalists and Friends. Useful discussion was held regarding the **Resource Management Plan (RMP)** for upper Newport Bay. The city and county agreed to participate with financial assistance for the plan creation but Brian Shelton stated that Fish and Game would like to complete their land management plan for the ecological reserve first, and report their findings to the Coalition at the July meeting.

Sue and Brian indicated some annoyance at the recent negative publicity their organizations had received in the local newspapers. They felt the public has been showing less respect for their enforcement efforts, demonstrated by allowing dogs off leash and not staying on marked trails. The NBNF naturalists present volunteered to try to have a column in the Daily Pilot to publicize the educational and recreational opportunities available in the bay and to educate the public about the importance of obeying the rules of conduct.

There was no new business. Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 18th at 6:00 PM at the Newport Beach Marriott, Bayview.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul R. Kuhn, M.D., Secretary