

**Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends
Approved Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
March 20, 2008**

1. Call to Order.

President Dennis Baker called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM at the Newport Beach Public Library. Board members present were Dennis Baker, Carolyn Kraber, Matt Yurko, Blake Anderson, Peter Bryant, Larry McKenney and Rita Goldberg. NBNF staff present: Roger Mallett, ED. Others present: Irwin Haydock

2. Minutes.

Moved by Larry, seconded by Carolyn to approve the re-corrected draft minutes. Motion passed.

Action: File minutes of the February 21, 2008 NBNF Board of Directors meeting

3. Accountant's Report.

The Accountant's report was received as distributed. Dennis briefly reviewed Donna's report. There is some concern that our membership renewal rate is down. Donna is investing in credit union CDs to some income from our cash deposits.

Action: File the Account's Report

4. Executive Director's Report.

The Executive Director's report was received as distributed.

- a. Carolyn commented that she would appreciate a glossary of terms and acronyms added to this report in the future.
- b. There was a brief discussion of the item at the Newport Bay Watershed Stakeholder Committee meeting on March 19 regarding the new Central Orange County Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan that the City of Newport Beach is writing. Roger and Carolyn Schaffer (Watershed Coordinator for the County) and Mark Tettermer of IRWD, who were largely responsible for the current Plan, will be reviewing an advance copy of the draft City Plan in preparation for a discussion workshop for the primary stakeholders arranged by Bob Stein/Dave Kiff of the City on April 7.

Action: File Director's Report

5. 2008 Action Plan

Dennis introduced the subject by commending Roger on what he has produced here. Roger stated that it is his intention that this action plan may or may not be adopted tonight—that is really the decision of the board. Roger sees this effort as a “work in progress” that will evolve over time. Roger emphasized that it is entitled “2008” but that

the specific objectives are ambitious and may well very extend beyond 2008. Roger emphasized that NBNF's ability to complete the tasks rests in large measure on Roger successfully enlisting volunteers to do some of the tasks. The priorities in implementing the various items in the Action Plan will be dictated by the availability of Naturalists, interns, etc. volunteering to take on the various tasks listed. Roger has place a help wanted listing on the website. It includes 44 positions he has in mind. Naturalists, interns and others will be essential for making all of this happen. Some of the positions are already occupied, but many are not.

It is the intention to achieve a holistic "desired state" for the Newport Bay Watershed and to make the NBNF Business Plan and the UNB Comprehensive Resource Management Program consistent with the desired state objectives.

There is a real need to get timely, comprehensive, and continuous observations to accomplish some of the baseline science in place. For instance, bird nesting surveys that will be meaningful require daily observations to understand the pressures that drive populations up and down. Infrequent surveys fail to provide adequate and informed understanding.

Regarding the UNB Management Coalition, there is movement towards much closer collaboration between DFG, the County, NB and NBNF to provide an accurate baseline of conditions for the entire Bay and then track changes.

Roger has been enlisting help in the data cataloguing effort that will be the pre-CRMP. **Roger** indicated that the effort will begin April 1.

Dr. Irwin Haydock was asked to join the conversation at this point. Irwin has been working alongside NBNF for several years now as Science Advisor and Friend. Irwin's emphasis is to bring science-based adaptive management to the UNB. This has been envisioned in a proposed work plan since 2004—the intent of NBNF as well. Irwin described a "pines-to-palms" areal analysis that must be combined with a decade-to-decade temporal analysis. These are both necessary to thoroughly understand the watershed in which we find ourselves. Status and trends of the resources of the UNB requires the whole context if headway in managing the resources we love will be a long-term and sustainable reality.

Irwin emphasized the need to enlist young and bright researchers to whom he and other scientists can hand the mantle of stewardship. He believes we must find and describe all of the original research (and researchers) that is occurring around us and help to integrate the work.

Dennis and then Peter challenged Irwin to name the priorities. What do we look at first? Benthic inverts? Plastics? Mammals? Water Quality? The list is endless. Should we conduct a forum to capture the priorities? Should we establish a forum on the website for collecting commentary from the science community that begins a wide ranging dialogue?

Roger noted that these are questions to be addressed in the Pre-CRMP project we have been engaged to perform and said that he will begin to draft a schedule for the tasks of the pre-CRMP in the next couple of weeks. Roger then asked **Peter** and **Irwin** for help in putting the protocols together for evaluating and compiling the data that presently exists within the UNB. Dennis asked **Peter** for an agenda item that will frame the discussion for April's board meeting.

A motion was made by Rita and seconded by Matt to approve the 2008 Action Plan.

Action: The 2008 Action Plan was approved on a vote of 6-0-1

6. Ad in the next edition of the magazine "Location"

Rita led the discussion. "Location3" is a coastal/south county magazine about a year old with a circulation of 16,000. It is a high-end coffee table magazine. Rita said she can get a 50% discount for an ad for NBNF and the UNB. The ad would cost \$1250. NBNF has an advertising budget of \$5000. The next issue, which has a feature on local open space, goes to press in early April and presents NBNF with a unique opportunity to be more visible in the community.

Roger said that he is currently working on a Marketing Plan that is not yet complete.

A motion was made by Carolyn and seconded by Larry to authorize a not to exceed expenditure of \$1250 for an ad in the next issue of "Location3" to promote primarily the Southern California Plein Air Painters Association (SOCALPAPA) Art Show and Sale at the Interpretive Center July 26/27, which contributes funds to UNB.

It was suggested that NBNF track the addresses of the people that purchase art so that we can develop a profile that may help us in promoting the event in future years. Roger stated that, in fact, this was done in prior years and we will do so again.

Action: The expenditure of up to \$1250 for an ad in the next issue of "Location" was approved on a vote of 4-3

7. Army Corps of Engineering Funding for the UNB Restoration/Dredging Project

Larry reported that advocacy for continuing federal funding for this project is advancing on several fronts. The Irvine Company, NB, Orange County Coast Keeper, the County, and others recently met to discuss options for advocacy. Meetings in Sacramento are planned with DFG and the State Controller to look for help from California resource agencies.

On the federal side, Supervisor Bates recently visited DC and did the rounds. All members of the OC delegation (with the significant exception of John Campbell) have expressed support for the dredging project. Campbell rejects earmarks and for this reason has not provided support to the project. Finestein has in the past and is apparently willing to do so again.

Letters of support are being collected for the project and will be presented to the OC delegation soon. Dave Kiff has asked all cities in the watershed to support the project and send letters of support.

Action: Information item only. No action requested.

8. NBNF Outreach to OCBC

Roger, Larry and Blake attended the March 11 meeting of the Public Infrastructure Committee of the Orange County Business Council. Roger provided a description of UNB and the NBNF and talked about the resources that need to be preserved. Larry provided an overview of the ongoing UNB preservation project consisting of a multi-year effort to dredge certain portions of the UNB to provide sediment retention and to reverse the encroaching sedimentation of the entire UNB. Upstream development has significantly accelerated the tendency of the watershed to erode and transport sediment to the coastal zone. In the absence of significant intervention, the UNB and eventually the lower Newport Bay will fill with sediment and be lost as a coastal wetland and bay.

The Public Infrastructure Committee expressed enthusiastic support for the project and said that it would recommend to the Executive Committee of OCBC to support the project when members of the OCBC visit Washington DC in April. Visits to the Orange County delegation and other key Congressional leaders are planned to occur.

Kris Murray of OCBC has invited Larry to attend the DC trip. Larry's employer, RBF Engineers, is a charter member of OCBC and an active member of the Executive Committee. Larry said that he is willing to attend the meeting but needs help in covering the expense of travel and lodging.

Blake made a motion for NBNF to provide up to \$800 to partially cover the cost of the trip, assuming that RBF or someone else will pick up the rest of the cost. Rita seconded the motion.

Roger said that NBNF ought to take a lead as the NGO with the most at stake and the most to say about the fate of UNB and the restoration project. Also, because we have now begun a relationship with the OCBC, we ought to continue our effort to maintain it—what better way than to have a representative in the midst of other OCBC members for several days and nights.

Action: Up to \$800 to cover Larry McKenney's travel to DC to attend the OCBC Washington Legislative Visit was authorized on a vote of 6-1

9. County Reorganization.

Larry provided a brief overview of the recent organization changes that the Board of Supervisors enacted. *(Note from Blake: **Larry**, do you want to put something here?)*

Action: Informational Item. No action requested.

. Advocacy Committee Members

Dennis said that he is the only member of NBNF's Advocacy Committee. He asked Larry and Blake to join the committee and provide help and support. **Larry** and **Blake** agreed to be on the committee. Dennis extended an invitation to other board members to join as well. No takers.

Action: Information item only. No action requested.

11. Announcements

Matt suggested that backup material be included with agenda items. He observed that the agenda provides very little information about what the agenda item is about and what is about to be asked of the board. **Dennis** agreed to provide more information in the agenda for future meetings.

Matt re-iterated the need for a pickup truck for the restoration program.

12. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Blake P. Anderson, Secretary