

## **Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends Board of Directors Meeting**

**Date:** May 18, 2006

**Location:** Newport Beach Marriott, Bayview

**Members Present:** Jack Keating, Acting president, Dennis Baker, Tom Mooers, treasurer, Carol Starcevic, Pam Ryan, Paul Kuhn, secretary.

**Staff:** Donna Carroll, accountant

**Guests:** Connie Bean, NBNF Naturalist, Sylvia Marson, NBNF Naturalist

**The meeting was called to order** at 6:08 P.M. by acting president, Jack Keating.

**The minutes of the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting** were approved as submitted.

A conference call was held with **guest speaker, Michael White, PhD, Conservation Biology Institute**, updating the board on the new **Measure M**, which will be on the state ballot in November. This conference was arranged by Dennis, who felt the NBNF might want to take a stand on this issue, which is being supported by most of the environmental groups in Orange County.

Dr White (Office: 760-634-1590, Cell: 760-815-6328) mentioned three areas in the measure which should be of concern to environmentalists:

1---\$237 million is provided to improve water quality related to transportation, such as runoff, sewers and added wetlands protection and restoration. Another \$165 million would be provided for water quality mitigation.

2—There are provisions for “Contact Sensitive Design,” which include revegetation with native species and improved wildlife corridors.

3--\$234 million may be used for “Programmatic Mitigation,” or acquisition of available open space.

Jack appointed a committee, consisting of Dennis and Paul, to study this issue and make a recommendation to the board at the next meeting whether or not NBNF should support this initiative.

The **Executive Director’s report** was presented by Jack and reviewed by the board. Our kayak and boat tours are somewhat in jeopardy while dredging is occurring in the bay. The vessels will have to have permits from F & G and be provided with radios to communicate with the dredgers to ensure safe passage near the equipment.

Jack reported that the **Restoration Team** is doing well and the minutes of the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be sent to the board members for review.

An expanded **Bay Planning Committee** meeting was held on May 17<sup>th</sup>, and included Brian Shelton, Terri Stewart, Sue McIntyre and several guest NBNF naturalists. General comments from board members were expressed and the consensus was that there is now better communication and a spirit of cooperation among the agencies and the Naturalists.

It was felt that the term “crisis” was too strong and too inflammatory a word to describe the various inadequacies and current lack of a **Comprehensive Resource Management Plan**. A study being performed by F&G will be presented to the public for information and comments in July and the final results should be ready by November, 2006.

The draft of the **City/DFG Cooperative Agreement** is now available for review.

Donna presented the **Accountant’s Report**. In March a mailing of **Tracks** and a membership letter to the Bluffs neighborhood cost \$1600 and resulted in income of \$2225. 1266 letters were sent and this resulted in 31 new memberships (2.5% response rate.). There was considerable discussion as to whether these numbers represent a failure or success of the project. It was noted that of the \$2225 that we collected, \$1000 came from one donation. **A motion** was passed to send a similar mailing this month to the Dover Shores, Westcliff, Eastbluff and two Back Bay neighborhoods and review the results when they are available.

**A motion** was passed to create a team of the Finance Committee, Fund Raising Committee and Accountant to create and have a means to evaluate a marketing plan for NBNF. Pam, Regina, Tom and Donna will work on and develop this team.

Tom gave the **Finance Committee** report. Donna suggested that \$8000 of Ford money be used to create a new and more exciting educational activity book for the children in school tours at the Interpretive Center and scout programs at Shellmaker. There was general agreement on her plan.

Pam reported for the **Fundraising Committee** that a trial run Duffy Boat event will be scheduled for June 14. Sylvia suggested that we find ways to get the general membership more involved in NBNF events and fund raising. She will research this issue and has been invited to attend our next meeting and bring suggestions.

Jack’s **Board Development** report called for suggestions of naturalists who might be good board member prospects.

Dennis reported two items for the **Advocacy Committee**. 1—The city of NB is authorizing a \$750,000 agreement to conduct design, engineering, permitting and the preparation of construction documents for the Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project and 2—The city will execute an agreement with Keeton Kreitzer Consulting to determine environmental impacts of the proposed equestrian facility in Santa Ana Heights.

Under **Key Board Initiatives** Jack mentioned the presence of Osprey chicks in a nest on Shellmaker Island. This is an exciting event for Orange County and has created fine publicity through the Daily Pilot, LA Times, OC Register and MSNBC. It has also delayed construction at the Science Center for about 2 months. He pointed out that now is the time to develop the position of NBNF in the management of the scientific programs that will be operational on completion of construction.

Carol commented on the newspaper articles and felt the publicity and photographs were quite impressive.

Donna pointed out to the group that Dennis recently took 100 biology students from Bell Gardens High School on kayak tours of the bay. They were very appreciative and the board expressed gratitude to Dennis for his fine work.

Regina sent a note with some concerns that we tried to address at this meeting. Our corporate donation drive will await the report from our new team which will develop a comprehensive marketing plan. It was noted and appreciated that Pam Ryan has offered to underwrite food and beverages for the SOCALPAPA event.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul R. Kuhn, M.D., Secretary