



**NBC Board Meeting, Wed., 2.23.2022, 5:30-7 pm (zoom)
Minutes**

Attending:

President - Kim Bick

Board members - Mario Cuevas, Randall English, Julie Ferguson, Ramraghi Fuller, Susie Onate, Cassandra Radcliff-Mendoza, Taylor Sais, Angie Vazirian

OC Parks - Derrick Ankerstar

Staff and guests - David Banuelas, Peter Bryant, Heather Cieslak

Excused absences: Sherry Marger, Dave Waller

5:34 Call to order/roll call

5:35 Approval of Minutes: from Josie, Wed., 11.4. 2021
Julie moves; Ramraghi seconds; motion carries

5:40 President's Report

Kim reminded committee chairs about action items from the retreat. We still need to reschedule the Implicit Bias Training. She proposed highlighting the activities of one committee at each board meeting.

An issue for consideration: NBC receives requests to sign on to petitions of other groups. We need a policy to guide our response to these queries. One possibility: the Executive committee will examine them. After discussion, Kim and Heather will make the decision. If they involve NBC or are obviously supportable, Kim will respond. In other cases—for example, a request to criticize CDFW for their response to oil spills and a request to comment on a Native site that's not in our area – there will be no response. The goal of this policy is to make decisions quickly without taking up board time. This policy was accepted by consensus.

5:45 Treasurer's Report

Ramraghi Fuller highlighted the comparison between 2020 and 2021 budgets. Programs such as kayaking picked up post-pandemic. Revenue from PPP loan from the end of 2020 has not come in, so our profit and loss statement appears as a negative. Membership is up. Marketing and outreach is doing a good job getting our message out. Once accounts receivable money comes in for contracted restoration work, the negative net operating amount will improve.

Proposed budget for 2022: Restricted moneys are allocated. We hope to have continued momentum with events. We have an increase in staff costs with the restoration coordinator position becoming full time. The two big grants in Big Canyon will cover that cost. FiiN will be running Sept. through Dec. Newport Beach revenue from FiiN, \$100,000, will go under restricted expenses.

Vote to approve: Randall moves with amendment; Julie seconds; motion carries

Cassandra asked for a discussion of a request for an \$1,800 educational expense. We've been asked if we want our name on a watershed sign. This sign will appear at 75 sites throughout our county and Riverside. The fee pays for two years; our location will be starred and we will be listed as an environmental group. Questions were raised: are there funds already available for signage? can we make one of our own? can we get the rights to reprint the digital copy? Julie will work with Cassandra to create a map of our own as a teaching tool. We will have an email vote to decide by March 10th.

6:14 Operations

Heather prepared a spreadsheet with our history of grant-seeking and acquiring since 2013. In lieu of a fund-raising chair, the burden of grant-writing has fallen to the staff. Grants focus has been on expanding our restoration team, focus on Big Canyon with multi-year contracts. We have had success returning to same funders year after year, creating a solid grant foundation. Once you develop relationships with these funders, they can continue to support us. We stick to funders who have supported us in the past. Sometimes board member connections come into play. It might be helpful to invite a third party to review our organization is doing and give advice. Should we go for professional support? For example, with Big Canyon, we used a contractor to prepare the grants. If you have an initiative that can use grant support, Heather and the team can help. A grant toolbox is available as well as an all grants database including 233 foundations and organizations that donate to environmental groups.

Heather presented another report of funders from 2021 over \$5,000, including Orange County for the underwater movie. All of these larger donations and grants demand quarterly or yearly reports which can be time consuming.

The most recent newsletter from CalIPC, *Dispatch*, highlights the work of David Banuelas.

6:25 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

Susan asked for comments on the revision of the Naturalist Diversity Scholarship. Some felt that recipients should be required to do a diversity-oriented activity in the year after their training. Others questioned that demand, pointing out that few graduates met the existing 100-hour requirement for all graduates. The DEI committee will consider these comments and produce a new proposal to be circulated by June 1st. Mario Cuevas reported on an NBC presence at a Lowell Elementary STEM activity. We are continuing plans for participating in their April science fair and the May field trip. Also in progress is an Accessibility Day for deaf and hard of

hearing kids. We have a date (May 7th, 10-noon), a plan for engaging sign language interpreters, and a flyer in process. The DEI reading group continues on the first Wed. of the month at 5:30 pm; everyone is welcome. Susan contributed an article on our NBC DEI activities for the CalIPC newsletter (upcoming).

6:20: Community Outreach, Website, Tracks

Cassandra reported that the *Tracks* committee has been launched. Her report offers a list of where we've appeared in the news.

6:46: Research Committee

Peter reported that the World Wetlands Day virtual symposium (Jan. 29-30) was a success. One of the presenters is involved in MOTUS, a digital bird tracking system. Peter would like for NBC to explore the possibility of siting a MOTUS station at the Muth Center. MOTUS reports more than 30,000 animals in more than 272 species fitted with devices; there are over 1,000 receiving stations; A station at the Back Bay would contribute to research and education. Peter proposes that we invite someone from MOTUS give us a talk/workshop to help us figure out how NBC could be involved. At present the cost is \$4,000-10,000. We have been provided with maps of "viewsheds" in the Back Bay. We should keep other organizations involved in the discussion and perhaps spread the cost (Amigos de Bolsa Chica; Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy; Sea & Sage Audubon).

There is no update on RAMSAR; the application has been delayed.

6:40: Board Development Committee

Taylor reports that there is a meeting of this committee coming up in two weeks. Please send any names his way

6:45: Education Committee

Julie reports that they will keep pushing on the osprey camera. The underwater film showing is postponed because of sound problems in the theater. Nathan has made a report on a very exciting, updated Muth Center Exhibit plan. He also reports that he's working on a program for blind/visually impaired visitors. The DEI committee will coordinate with him on these accessibility programs.

6:55: Restoration Committee

Randall reports that, in Big Canyon Phase 2A, Brightview is stepping up--maintaining the site. For Phase 3, it's possible that we don't have to submit a CEQA. Ron Vanderhoff has invited NBC to lead a tour for the California Native Plant Society in Big Canyon.

7:00: Other Business

In response to a request from a board member, we reviewed the staff schedule and telecommuting agreement. It was noted that this an HR issue and not the domain of the board, but the review was conducted in the interest of full information sharing. NBC staff are available by phone or internet during their work hours; they are provided stipends for their equipment. OC parks partners are accessible to NBC volunteers in the Muth Center. We welcome Patricia Escobar as a new OC Parks employee. Randall noted that volunteers at the front desk are volunteering for OC Parks. Any NBC info needed is available at the desk. It's important to recognize that these arrangements are a response to risks posed by COVID.

7:19 Motion to adjourn -- Susie; Angie seconded; motion carries

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jarratt, Secretary