

NEWPORT BAY CONSERVANCY
AGENDA, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, May 15, 2019 5:30-7:00 pm, Muth Interpretive Center

5:45: Call to order/roll call: Randall English

Approval of minutes April Meeting: Randall English

Approved as amended, motion by Tim Brown, seconded by Pam Winkler

Restoration Committee Report: Heather Cieslak (Amanda reported)

1. Overarching Restoration Efforts in UNB

Meetings with landowners.

Met with Carla Navarro (CDFW) today, May 15th.

Meeting with Bob Stein (City) and Alisa Flint (OC Parks) next Wednesday, May 22nd.

Discussion of overall goals for restoration of UNB; developing Targeted invasive control plan which could build into Baywide Restoration Plan.

Intern interviews successful, with offers to David Banuelas and Brittney Dantuono.

2. Big Canyon SCC Project

Awarded USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant (\$1 million).

Awarded CDFW Prop 1 grant (~\$1.2 million).

Will negotiate with funders to try to put remaining funds toward planning and permitting of Phases 2B and 2C or completion of Phase 1b implementation.

Randall moved and Derrick Ankerstar seconded to approve the acceptance of the award and authorize the signing of the Resolution of the Board of Directors authorizing the application and acceptance of grant funds for the Big Canyon Habitat Restoration and Adaptation Project – Phase 2. Although the ayes (7-0) carried, Randall subsequently withdrew the motion; it was decided that the vote would take place electronically so that all of the Board members have an opportunity to vote.

3. Permitting

CDFW 1600 Streambed Agreement- in negotiations.

Santa Ana Water Quality Control Board 401 Water Quality Certification-received.

US Army Corp 404 Permit-in progress but should receive within next 2 weeks.

CCC Coastal Development Permit-in progress and currently providing supplemental documentation which includes alternatives assessment and staging during construction.

Preparing for Implementation. 90% nearly complete.

Refining budget and special provisions for bid package (planning to go to bid in June).

Met with Ad hoc committee of Parks, Beaches, and Rec on April 17th to ensure they gave input prior to moving forward with 90% design.

4. Voluntaria tubuliflora (Egyptian Knapweed)

Submitted application to California Department of Food and Agriculture Noxious Weed Program for funding-rejected

Been regularly surveying for Voluntaria in Big Canyon and Muth Center.

Amanda has written a report summarizing this past season's efforts and has drafted a plan and timeline strategizing next year's season. This report will be presented at a stakeholder's meeting on June 13th (OC Parks, NCC, CNPS, UC-Cooperative Extension, Cal-IPC).

5. Limonium ramosissimum and L. duriusculum (Algerian Sea Lavender and European Sea Lavender)

Marcus and Amanda continuing mapping ASI/ESL

Began exploring areas up San Diego Creek and Bonita Creek.

ASL team helped have been treating along Bonita Creek in recent weeks; canceling last two weeks in May since all leads will be traveling.

Two, possibly three, corporate groups scheduled to help out in the summer.

6. Bayview Restoration

ASL team helped with Bayview two days in May.

Corporate group for Target helping with Bayview on May 31st.

Operations Report: Heather Cieslak

1. Volunteer Training

Volunteer orientations training on May 4 had only 3 people attend but one did become a member at \$100. Final Associate Training for the year set for Sept 7 (which should be large as this is a prerequisite to Naturalist Training). A CPR/First Aid class has been scheduled at the Muth Center 8/24. We had a special send-off for the Corks on 4/24 where 50 people joined in to celebrate their lifetime membership. Join us this Thursday 5/16 for Naturalist Night with Native American/Soapstone Activity.

2. Operations Activities

Administration. Brittney Dantuono and David Banuelas will be our new Habitat Restoration Interns through the end of the year, starting next month. Conducted final evaluations of FiiN staff. Still in process of transferring over duties and coming up with procedures/directions for handling all accounting transactions with Treasurer.

3. Marketing/PR

Received front page press in the OC Register about the Bay on Earth Day - link to read [HERE](#). Randall presented at SPON (Still Protecting our Newport) Annual Meeting on 5/11 to about 100 of their members and NBC received a service award from Cottie Petrie-Norris,

Assemblywoman for District 74. Will be hosting a private kayak tour for Representative Harley Rhouda, staffers and some of his family on 5/29 and will be having an outreach booth at the Newport Underwater Cleanup on 6/1 at the Balboa Bay Club.

4. OC Marathon

NBC hosted the water station hydrating thousands of runners at Mile 11 on 5/5. Big thanks to Randall for being the early bird, picking up the water truck at 3:30 am and getting it back to the fairgrounds by 11-- quite a day!

5. Fundraising

Partnered with Saalt to promote an Earth Day Fundraiser to support our trash cleanup events. Saalt will be sending us a check for \$3,500. See Fundraising Committee Report for other updates. Working with volunteers to streamline donor/membership recognition process.

6. Grants

Submitted NLT grant application to help fund a portion of FiiN on 4/17. Working with Cassandra and Carissa to submit other applications for sponsorship of both Gourmet by the Bay (7/20) and Coastal Cleanup Day (9/21).

7. Programs

Reminder to all that the ALL PROGRAMS SPREADSHEET is updated routinely. See GOOGLE CALENDAR for upcoming events as they are scheduled/confirmed. EARTH DAY was 4/20 with about 1,200 people participating. Spoke to the success of the FiiN program at the City of Newport Beach, Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting on 5/7. Outrigger and Muth tours are in full force while we will be going to Santa Ana and Century (5/21) and Santa Ana High Schools (5/30) for their environmental fairs.

8. Partners

City of Newport Beach. Submitted last invoice for FiiN (April program services). Have partner program follow-up meeting on 4/16. Working with City Council & staff to come up with an agreement how to handle payment processing for construction of Phase IIA of the Big Canyon Restoration Project (City to upfront costs).

9. Orange County Parks

OCP's Resource Specialist is in the process of updating the Jr. Ranger Handbook for the Bay and NBC's Education Committee submitted their comments. Also promoted and lended a hand to OCP's special event, Migration Day on 5/11. Volunteers helped staff the front desk, crafts, bird walks and more. California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Approving updated

signage for Vista Point. NBC will be placing the order for these to be replaced in the Fall (funds previously received from REI).

Treasurer's Report: Pam Winkler

Pam reported that the revenue met or exceeded the expenses for April.

Pam and Heather are working on reorganizing the accounting procedures for sales within quickbooks.

It was a quiet month. Earth day raffle came in at \$953, around the same level as prior years (\$1000).

The big cost in January was for the map table (\$20,000), but it should not be in the expense category because it is classified as a restricted expense.

Tim Brown moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and Julie Ferguson seconded. Motion carried.

Board Development Committee: Tim Brown

Tim has been looking for another public member. Tim asked Peter and he accepted.

Randall English appointed Peter to the Board Development Committee.

Jennie Hader, committee member, needs to discontinue for the near-term, for health reasons. Need another public member, preferably a former Board member.

Nobody on the Board is approaching term limits this year.

Education Committee: Tim Brown

Looking for ways to promote and enhance the kayak tours.

Topo model – the background display artwork was received and there has been a test print run

Since Objective 3 previously approved for enhancing the kayak tours has been postponed the Staff has requested we consider adding the following objectives for the Education Committee for the 2019-2020 year:

The corner of the classroom where the surfboards are- circling back to make that space an educational exhibit about trash and plastics in the ocean. An area that focuses on marine life/protection, plastics, etc. Could have info links to things like Coastal Clean up day, Earth Day, kayak tours, Community Day, etc. We could also have something there about the Osprey and their return from endangerment with DDT- which could also have a link to the webcam, where people could watch it in the classroom- (which would be an electronic connection between the Muth and BBSC). My vision is to have another mural with underwater scene on the facing wall (currently behind pond turtle, but Nathan already said we could move the turtle) and 3-D real trash glued to the wall in that space to represent the issues. Then on the concrete column next to that wall, we could construct an artificial Osprey nest (maybe with taxo Osprey or stuffed animals) and a touch screen with link to webcam and more info.

The other idea would be to get some improvements to our kayak rack area at the NAC. My thought is that after having our boats at Camp James for FiiN, I really like their "cage" that they store their equipment in. Obviously we wouldn't need anything quite that size, but I wonder if the NAC/City would be ok with us having a small chain link cage between our boats and the NAC boats where we could store paddles, seats, and life jackets. The problem currently is that the dock boxes do not contain all the vests well and they are so packed that they don't dry out well and get really smelly, same with the seats which can't make for an enjoyable experience when you pay \$25 to go on the tour and have to wear a damp, stinky vest... The boxes also gather a LOT of sand and need to be cleaned out every few months, but drilling any holes in the bottom to let water and sand escape could also invite critters in... By having a cage, we could then hang all of our gear up so it can dry out better and is easier to count and take inventory for, and we could then re-purpose the dock boxes for storing other equipment like our dry bags/waivers, and maybe additional materials for doing citizen science programs down there with our tours (BIG dream- maybe they could house some microscopes, plankton nets, and water testing materials that we could then use on our tours). An additional improvement would be some signage to the racks/the cage that advertises NBC, our tours, and our work with clean-ups etc (maybe plug rotary or get their contribution to fund).

Fundraising Committee: Dave Waller

1. Gift Shop

Polo shirts had embroidery mistake, were returned for correction. Will arrive for sale 5/15/19.

Committee discussed opportunities to promote t-shirt sales. Shirts will be featured on website and in classroom.

Denise displayed "Junior Ranger" shirts and hats to be sold in Gift Shop. She will work with Linda on purchase.

0. Events

Earth Day by the Bay 4/20/19 **COMPLETE**
Thank-you letters have been sent
\$1,000 made in Opportunity Drawing
Gourmet by the Bay 7/20/2019
Chef Brian Huskey has committed to the event
Creating a "Save the Date" mailer
Committee discussed possibility of making it a dressier event
Will contact Gunwhale, NBVW, and Kean for support
Plein Air 2019 7/27/2019
39 artists have committed to event
Coastal Cleanup 9/21/2019
No new information
Fall Event
No new information

0. Membership

Liz presented the fact that membership letters will be emailed instead of mailed and members will be given the opportunity to pick up their gift instead of mailing. This will reduce costs and be more aligned with NBC mission.

0. New ideas

Committee approved “Giving Back to the Bay” concept.

Committee agreed to run planned giving article to align with “Giving Tuesday.” The first Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

Research Committee: Julie Ferguson

1. “Ask-a-scientist naturalist” outreach

Changing the name to allow us to incorporate and highlight the expertise we already have among our naturalists.

Suggestions for communication included adding a short section to the Tracks newsletter or monthly emails, posting in social media on Facebook or twitter, and creating an archive of the questions on the NBC website. There were suggestions that answers/questions could be both written and also short videos if appropriate. Wherever possible we’d like to include images/pictures. Hilary volunteered to speak with Heather about how long the question and answers should be to be included in the e-mails or newsletter.

Hilary is going to reach out to our tour leaders and ask whether they have questions they’d like answered. Other suggestions were also a Question Box in the Muth Center but we want to ensure that we are up and running and have a rapid response system to answer these questions promptly if we do this. We can also use a general e-mail (info@newportbay.org) for the general public to submit questions – this could then be accessed by multiple people. Susan, Drew, and Joseph created a great list of common questions to get us started. Susan is going to look over these again after our discussion and work with David on setting up a google spreadsheet where we can organize and share these among the committee members.

Answering the questions is still a work in progress and will probably evolve as the project gets started. We are hoping that most of the questions asked may be able to be answered by the NBC naturalists or by Fish and Wildlife or OC Parks personnel. If questions have a more complex answer then we can reach out to local scientists or Research Committee members with specific expertise e.g. David volunteered to help us answer plant questions.

Based on feedback from the group especially Drew and Diana, the group chose to start with the question of “Why do the fish in the Bay jump?” because there are a lot of different ideas out there – to get extra oxygen, remove parasites, avoid predators. Joana will research and write up an answer to this question for our next meeting so that we can share on different platforms as part of our announcement of this new project. This should be a good example to encourage people to send in their questions. We hope to use the communications expertise in the group to help us edit and write answers in terms that would be appropriate for our audience.

0. Updates on potential citizen science/research volunteer opportunities

David Bañuelas reported on his ongoing research into the Brazilian Pepper Trees around the Bay. He will be carrying out field sampling and surveys this summer during which he could use volunteers who could survey where the trees are and assist in soil sampling. He will contact Hilary Cunningham to recruit interested volunteers once the dates are better known. He also was keen to find some assistance from expert photographers or drone operators (if permitted) to document some of the field sites before and after tree removal. He will also help us update some of the educational materials about fungi!

Joana Tavares is still considering how to structure citizen science projects based around phytoplankton sampling and long-term monitoring.

0. Creating a record of past and ongoing research in the Bay

Ashton Bandy has made a great start on this. She reports that there is a USB database of the research done in Newport Back Bay up until 2012 which was compiled by Newport Beach staff. She will explore the database and report back to us on the contents. She will also be reaching out to Fish and Wildlife in coming weeks to request updates on the research that has been done since 2012. The committee discussed investigating whether we could make at least some of this material more publicly available both for the general public but also for the researchers who are actively working in the Bay.

0. Updating front desk and training materials

Hilary Cunningham mentioned that she is keen to incorporate more about climate change into the naturalist training and is going to reach out to Dr. Maseri who has given recent talks at the Bay about this. Further updates to front desk and training materials will be happening later this year.

0. World Wetlands Day Symposium

Joana Tavares and Peter Bryant have discussed selecting climate change action/impacts as the topic for the 2020 World Wetlands Symposium and will keep us updated with their ideas.

0. Other projects and ideas

Diana Grice suggested incorporating some information about the health of animals in the Bay, and the best practices when doing restoration to limit potential exposure e.g. wearing gloves. We will look for opportunities to use Diana's expertise in updating our materials.

Other business:

Wetlands Day – Taylor will take over the transportation grant. Use grant towards Worlds Wetlands Day. May be difficult because USFWS has to nominate the area. Discussion about getting local people on board and also collaborating more broadly.

Adjournment:

Ian moved and Julie seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.