

**MINUTES
BOATING AND WATERWAYS COMMISSION MEETING
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY 23, 2013**

Pursuant to due and regular notice, the meeting of the Boating and Waterways Commission was called to order by Chairman Webb on January 23, 2013, at 9:00 A.M. at the Courtyard Cal Expo Hotel, 1782 Tribute Road, Sacramento, California.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Matthew Webb (Chair), Douglas W. Metz (Vice Chair), John R. Bañuelos, David Lumian, David Livingston and Frank Peralta

Dept. of Boating and Waterways

Personnel Present: Steve Watanabe, Facilities Chief; Sylvia Hunter, Facilities Loans and Grants Chief; Denise Peterson, Operations Manager; Joleane King, Associate Governmental Program Analyst; Amy Rigby, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, and Margarita Sanchez, Administrative Assistant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lumian noted a correction to be made on page three, under *Moabi Regional Park Boat Launching Facility*, the following should be added to the motion: "The motion carried unanimously."

MOTION: *It was moved by Commissioner Lumian and seconded by Commissioner Metz that the Boating and Waterways Commission Minutes of the October 24, 2012, meeting be approved with corrections. The motion carried unanimously.*

BOATING AND WATERWAYS COMMISSION PER AB 737

Aaron Robertson, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation and Patrick Kemp, Assistant Secretary of Administration and Finance, Resources Agency, spoke to the Commission on AB 737 and the merger of the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) with the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks).

Mr. Robertson stated there is an integration team that meets monthly on the merger and there are various teams which meet regularly to find the most efficient way to bring the departments

together without losing the service that is currently provided by the DBW. The teams are meeting on issues such as, budget, accounting, administration, personnel, space planning and, grants and local assistance. He said the newly appointed Director of Parks has commented that it is very important that the services provided by the DBW not be lost, but should be enhanced and made more efficient. Mr. Kemp added that the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency supports the move and that it will be positive for both boaters and Parks.

Commissioner Metz asked if it is the intention of the reorganization to centralize all boating activities in the division of Boating and Waterways and if there will be a combining of responsibilities within Parks for those monies in the new division. Mr. Robertson replied that Parks is forming a division of Boating and Waterways and not taking the DBW as a whole and putting it into the new division without changes. He said Parks is looking for efficiencies, by putting positions that are duplicated in the areas of administration, personnel, budgets and legal into established units in Parks. The operations and aquatic weed control units will be in the new division and Parks is looking into the engineers going into the existing Acquisition and Development unit in Parks. The DBW's grants program will be moved into Park's existing grant unit. Tracking of the money is being done by setting up a separate program in the budget and which will ensure transparency. There will be a deputy director in the new division who will be managing all the boating programs and staff in the new division will be accessible to the commission as it is now with the DBW. Mr. Watanabe added that the reorganizational team is currently considering placing the engineers in a specialized boating unit within the Acquisition and Development unit and will continue to do the work of the DBW.

Commissioner Livingston commented on protecting the subvention funds which is currently administered by the DBW. He said many law enforcement offices throughout the state rely on the funds for the purposes of marine enforcement and safety and would not have a marine unit without it. In addition, he said, the Vessel Turn-In and vessel removal programs are very effective in waterways throughout the state and there should be dialog on keeping these programs.

Mark Sandoval, past president of California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains, stated everyone is supportive of efficiencies and enhancement in customer services, but Parks should focus on the DBW's programs and the end users that are benefiting from the programs which in turn benefit California. He suggested that Parks ask the opinions of the stakeholders, marina owners, harbors masters, and boaters on how it should all work in the new division.

Brad Porter, Moffatt and Nichol, stated the department has put a lot of effort on developing guidelines for marinas, small craft harbors, boat ramps and accessibility. He would like to see the work continued and the expertise not lost in the merge with Parks.

Mr. Robertson said any thoughts, suggestions and comments are welcomed and Parks will continue to work the DBW and Commission.

COMMISSION HALL OF FAME CHAMPION

Ted Warburton, Berkeley Marina, Waterfront Manager, was inducted into the Commission's "Hall of Fame". He commented on working for 37 years in the public service sector and the one governmental organization, he said, that stands out as a model for good public policy, transparency, open decision-making, budget management process, and its open operations management and including its accessibility to all members of its staff has been the Department of Boating and Waterways. The department should be a model for government and not be taken apart. He said he will continue to make sure the interest and objectives of the department remain the same as it has for the last fifty plus years. Mr. Warburton thanked the department and Commission for the award.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Webb reported on the meeting he and Commissioner Bañuelos had with the chairman of the Off Highway Vehicle Commission. Chairman Webb said some of the Off Highway Vehicle commission members are interested in attending our meetings and he would encourage the Boating and Waterways Commission to continue dialogue with them.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Hunter gave the Director's Report.

Governors Proposed FY 13/14 Budget Proposal

- \$60.679 million proposed.
- \$7.6 million decrease from FY 12/13 budget

Differences between FY 12/13 and FY 13/14 are:

- \$2.2 million reduction in federal funds.
- \$4 million reduction in Boating Facilities Local Assistance.
- \$1.1 million reduction in State Operations due to the elimination of 7 positions as a result of the merger.

Department Activities Update

- The 2012 Safe Boating multi-media campaign awareness survey results indicated boaters who always or most of the time wear life jackets increased from 35% to 50% and boaters who reportedly never wear life jackets dropped from 27% to 14%. The reason given for not wearing a life jacket all of the time changed from "I don't need it" to "Depends on what I'm doing".
- A federal review of the Recreational Boating Safety Grant Program which was conducted December 11-13, 2012 found no problems. The DBW's federal grant is about \$5 million.

- The winter edition of the newsletter Changing Tide was released the week of December 15, 2012. The quarterly newsletter is dedicated to promoting clean boating practices in California and is published by the California Clean Boating Network and presented by the DBW and other organizations.
- A minor capital project at the Millerton Lake State Recreation Area in Fresno County was completed. Project cost was \$293,000.
- Promoted boating safety practices through partnerships with California Sportsmen, Ultimate Bass and Radio Disney stations was done at the International Sportsmen's Expo on January 10-13, 2013.
- The DBW and other federal agencies are working closely for the approval of a five year permit to treat water hyacinth in the Delta for 2013-2017.
- As of December 4, 2011, there were 47 boating fatalities, 375 accidents and 206 injuries; during this time last year there have been 53 boating fatalities, 506 accidents and 311 injuries.
- Lucia Becerra, Acting Director, will be retiring on February 28, 2012. Ms. Becerra is proud of the accomplishments done by the DBW's programs and thanked everyone for their support. Ms. Hunter will be leading the department pending the Governor appointment of a permanent replacement.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Ms. Hunter reported on the following bills: AB 8, AB 2443, SB 122, SB 11, and HR 2838. Commissioner Metz asked that staff send the Commissioners a copy of the Director's report and Senate Bill 122.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Sandoval commented on Mr. Warburton's well deserved award. Mr. Sandoval said the Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP) should not have a sunset date and that the VTIP should be merged with the abandoned vessel program. He wished Ms. Becerra well in her well-deserved retirement.

Tom Sawyer, Grindstone Joe's Boat Club, spoke on the weed abatement program in the Delta. He said it has been horrible in the Delta for the past two years and encouraged the department to take an active look at the spraying program.

Mr. Curry, retired department employee, thanked Mr. Warburton for all that he has done and for who he is.

Chairman Webb called for a break at 10:15 A.M.; meeting resumed at 10:29 A.M.

CONSIDERATION FOR PUBLIC GRANT

Wiest Lake Boat Launching Facility

Mr. Watanabe gave a presentation on the Wiest Lake Boat Launching Facility proposed project. Representatives of County of Imperial, Ms. Esperanza Colio, Community and Economic Development Manager and Ralph Cordova, County Executive Office, were available to answer questions from the Commission. Commissioner Webb had visited the site and recommended approval.

Mr. Watanabe noted that on page 2 under *General Location and Area, Wiest Lake County Park*, it erroneously states that the water is used commercially for irrigation of surrounding farms and for recreational boating. He said the County actually pays a monthly fee to put water into Wiest Lake for recreational purposes.

Staff recommended that the Boating and Waterways Commission consent to a \$1,040,000, design and construction grant to Imperial County for improvements to the proposed project described in the January 23, 2013 Feasibility Report. After discussion the following motion was made:

MOTION: *It was moved by Commissioner Lumian and seconded by Commissioner Peralta that the Boating and Waterways Commission approve \$1,040,000 Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund grant to Imperial County, for the proposed project described in the January 23, 2013, Feasibility Report. The motion carried unanimously.*

NEW BUSINESS

Aquatic Center Program

Ms. King and Ms. Rigby gave a presentation on the DBW's aquatic center program. Commissioner Lumian asked that the DBW survey the aquatic centers to find out the overall population that is being served in addition to the ones specifically funded by the centers. He also asked the DBW to consider surveying the centers on how many more people can be put on the water if more funding were available. Commissioner Lumian stated if a report were developed and available on the centers' needs, it could be useful if an opportunity arose for additional funding.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Election of Officers for 2013

After discussion, the following motions were made:

MOTION: *It was moved by Commissioner Peralta and seconded by Commissioner Bañuelos that Commissioner Metz be the Chair for 2013. The motion carried unanimously.*

MOTION: *It was moved by Commissioner Livingston and seconded by Commissioner Peralta that Commissioner Lumian be the Vice Chair for 2013. The motion carried unanimously.*

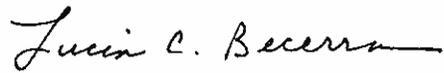
Date for March Meeting

After discussion, it was decided the next Commission meeting will be held in Sacramento on March 19 and 20, 2013.

Chairman Metz asked that any suggestions for agenda items be forwarded to him.

ADJOURN

Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 11:32 A.M.



Lucia C. Becerra, Acting Secretary