

MINUTES
BOATING AND WATERWAYS COMMISSION MEETING
BODEGA BAY, CALIFORNIA
FEBRUARY 10, 2015

Pursuant to due and regular notice, the meeting of the Boating and Waterways Commission was called to order by Chairman Metz on February 10, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Bodega Bay Fire Protection District Office, 510 Highway One, Bodega Bay, California.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

Commissioners present, Douglas Metz, Chairman; David Livingston, Vice Chair; Virginia Madueno, Katherine Pettibone, Frank Peralta, and Randy Short. State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) staff present was Christopher Conlin, Acting Deputy Director, Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW); Tara Lynch, Legal Counsel; other DBW staff and registered visitors.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Metz introduced Ted Cabral, Chairman of the Off-Highway Vehicle Commission (OHV) present with us today.

Chairman Metz introduced Christopher Conlin, Deputy Director, OHV who is also Acting Deputy Director for the Division of Boating and Waterways. I know they transacted business simultaneously. This is a good example of the efficiencies that are being realized by the new Parks Commissioner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by the Commissioners that the Boating and Waterways Commission Minutes of November 6, 2014 meeting be approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Metz gave special recognition to staff who were involved in our field tour visit on February 9, 2015. The Field tour was a very comprehensive visit. The group walked the perimeter. They boated some of us over on bay. The group had a very thorough explanation of operational challenges as well as the benefits from some of the projects around our agenda today. We certainly compliment people and staff who get it.

Chairman Metz presented a certificate and a plaque of recognition to Sergeant Ed Hoener, Bodega Bay Sheriff and the Bodega Bay Fire Protection District Office in their support of the Division of Boating and Waterways.

Chairman Metz was absent at the last Commission meeting in Monterey, Ca. Chairman Metz wanted to thank Commissioner Randy Short for briefing him on that amazing project and partnership in the development of the Owens Valley. More updates to come.

Chairman Metz expressed both Ken Wiseman and Steve Szalay were not able to make today's meeting but expressed interest the Parks Forward report. The Parks Forward Commission, which was appointed to look forward literally and say "what is the future", "what should be the future for Parks." Also within the Parks structure itself, a transition team was formed. And that report was sent out by email for all to review.

Chairman Metz continues, if you have not received the report, a resubmission to staff would be beneficial. The Parks Forward report with all its recommendations, it's going to be interesting, and confident they will be with us at the next meeting if their schedules permit. But there's so much that has been generated in the way of questions as a result of the release of the Parks Forward report. There is mention in general terms of the transformation team looking at each of the four commissions. So we're very curious as to what type of review that might be.

COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES UPDATES

Both Commissioner Pettibone (Sacramento) and Commissioner Madueno (San Joaquin Valley) expressed their concerns hearing from many legislators about their continuing concern about the invasive plants in the Delta. The report is seeing the Commission and the Department helping the dialogue to smooth out concerns and certainly the boaters who are very concerned about the growth in the basin. Has there been an increase in funding for addressing the hyacinth issue, whether it is research and development? "Are we still entertaining the same type of mitigation for the hyacinth?" Are we looking at additional opportunities to better address the hyacinth as it becomes more prevalent? Is there going to be an opportunity for us to explore different ways to again better addressing the hyacinth?

Commissioner Short expressed concerns, from the request of several agencies. The concerns about grant funding, small communities and boating launch access to over 20 lakes from Southern California, San Diego County and Los Angeles County. Out of the 20 lakes not one could really be considered accessible from a boating perspective and some facilities there would be hard pressed to call those facilities accessible. It appears that our process for grant funding may put small communities out of the running for launch facilities. Let's work with staff to address issues and access to DBW funding.

Commissioner Short mentioned, in discussion and assists from Margaret Podlich, BoatUS regarding Division of Boating and Waterways' administering the mandatory boater education program. Ms. Podlich offered that she has a NASBLA-approved boater education program in place online, and has offered that to the State of California at no cost. If the State had specific questions that are unique, the questions would be added to the questionnaire and test in boater education program. The concerns from her and boating industry is enabling legislation allowed for a maximum fee of \$35. The effects on entry level-boating and entry-level boater. Commissioner Short and Ms. Podlich expressed this offer is excellent to the State of California. Commissioner Short suggested adding Ms. Podlich name to the list to assist with the education program.

Commissioner Short expressed the Boating Needs Assessment-that funding is available and encourages to go forward. The need to access impact that the census shows us about small communities and the importance to reach out to a diverse market, such as the Hispanic and Asian market. These are the future of boating in California, and hopefully we can get going with that Boating Needs Assessment. Chairman Metz suggested this as a next reporting item for the next meeting.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT - LEGISLATION

Acting Deputy Director Conlin thanked staff and representatives with appreciation to the community of Bodega Bay regarding the field tour. I mean not only did you invite us here, but you provided a glorious weather. I keep hearing that this is not normal, but I'll tell you what, if you could get these four or five days a year, this is phenomenal. What a beautiful area.

Acting Deputy Director Conlin continued, thank you very much for spending the time with us yesterday. I will tell you that I have not done many of the Commission tours with Boating and Waterways. I'm still kind of a new kid on the block. But yesterday, certainly seemed to be the right way to do it. We had everybody there that could answer any question on any of the various projects that we looked at, and they all look like exciting projects. They all looked like they're very promising. Thank you for doing that, I know that's a commitment. That means that people are not sitting at their desk doing their normal work. They're out there walking about answering all sorts of questions, and I just deeply appreciate that people came out. We also got great representation from Senator McGuire's office. Thank you very much for coming on out and being with us as well. The staff did a good job of setting this up out here, and we really appreciate the district office here, the Fire Protection District Office for giving us this great room, it worked out well. It's a good public venue, and wherever we can, I know the Chair particularly likes to utilize that.

Acting Deputy Director Conlin briefly discussed the aquatic invasive species concerns. Obviously, it's a very hot topic. Governor's proposed budget, there is a plus to aquatic invasive species, and that is again a proposal I did, but it's about \$3.9 million and what we hope to do with that would be to buy some additional equipment, but more importantly get about eight more people that would be out spraying and about three more environmental scientists that are evaluating the issues and providing us good synergy with our other agencies and everything. So in this particular fight, we are talking about 60 to 70,000 acres worth of Delta that we're trying to provide services to. The numbers of people we can get out in boats that are spraying, boots on the ground, if you will, are absolutely essential. So if this proposed budget does go through, it will be almost a 100 percent increase in the numbers of people we have matching this problem, and that should help us out significantly. Obviously, the weather is another factor. The rains we just saw should have changed the dynamics in the Delta. We should be able to get a feel for that here pretty soon, and we'll talk a little bit about it today. But you should also know that we've got throughout the Delta right now several mechanical harvesting operations going on out there to try and help clear things. Those are not a good solution Long-term. They are very expensive. They are about the least efficient way to get the plants out of the Delta, but we'll do what we can until the next spraying season. If anybody wants to come on out, the party starts on March 2. On March 2, we'll be out there spraying the Delta doing everything we can. In March, we'll be doing a town hall, and that town hall should be in Discovery Bay, and at that we should be unveiling the plan for this year for what we're going to be doing out there as far as spraying and taking care of the herbicides.

Acting Deputy Director Colin gave an update regarding the California vessels operator's card. Just to reassure everybody, that there is a cap on the amount that that can be. We're going to be well below that as far as what is charged. However, the critical component of that is going to be the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and who is on the TAG. What we would like to do is to share with all of the people and all the Commissioners, take a look at it and give us your thoughts on it as well now that the subcommittee has done that so we can get your feel. My only concern -- quite honestly, it's a very good list. It's a good diverse list -- is the size of what we want it. I counted about 17. So it would be nice if we could narrow that down to a smaller body. There were some

great names, some good people on that, but we're not in a rush. This will be a follow up for next meeting.

Acting Deputy Director Colin introduced Jared Zucker. Mr. Zucker manages the Boating Needs Assessment and is on our Transformation Team. He understands this concept of trust funds and making sure that the trust funds are being used for things for those specific divisions, for those programs, keeping those funds separate; and understands a little bit of the dynamics of the division and recreation and what that means in the park system.

Mr. Zucker gave a briefly overview of the Boating Needs Assessment. Approximately, \$750,000 to do this Boating Needs. Mr. Zucker is working with Sacramento State their parks and recreation department, to kind of craft what that methodology is going to look like, what kind of research questions we're going to have. And it's going to look very similar to what we did back in 2002 using 2000 and 2001 data. A lot has changed with the economic downturn. There were 760,000 registered vessels. 760,000 registered vessels this year, and on the Boating Needs Assessment in 2002 there were 925,000. In projections in that survey effort back in 2002, they were thinking that they were going to be in the millions, and we're actually seeing a decrease. It will be interesting to look over the past 15 years to see what the trends have been, addressing some of those demographic issues that you bring up with the Baby Boomers and seeing how the Millennials might fit into that. It's going to be a good study and very comprehensive. The concerns is expanding the scope too big, because \$750,000 isn't a whole lot in trying to cover an entire state looking at the number of facilities, the number of slips, the vacancy rates, all those types of things. That's going to eat up large portion of that money in resources. Previously, it was \$900,000. We've only got about 750,000. Possibly, partnering with Fish and Wildlife to get some other funds to look at things like fishing, recreational fishing, that can be a possibility. Further update at next meeting.

Acting Deputy Director Conlin gave a brief overview of the Budget. At the beginning of January, the Governor released his proposed budget. The proposed budget for us for this year is not looking bad. First, operating bonds for Division of Boating and Waterways support, which is out of the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund, \$22,944,000; administrative overhead to the department, \$4,959,000. The Vessel operator certification account, the startup to get that running, 503,000. Reimbursements, you get back from other agencies that owe us money essentially, 200,000. Total of \$28,606,000. That's on our support side. On local assistance, boating facilities, \$23,550,000; For subvention, which is our law enforcement, 11,350,000; for the Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund, 1,750,000, and that's an increase; Public Beach Restoration Fund, the erosion control we're doing out on the beaches, 4,849,000; reimbursements, again, monies that's given to us by other agencies, 1 million, for a total of total for Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund, the proposed budget 71,105,000, so a significant chunk again. So let's keep our fingers crossed and hopefully that's what gets passed. And, again, a big ticket item was that \$3.9 million that is going towards the Aquatic Invasive Species, which I think we all agree that we need.

Lastly, to recap the Chair mentioned, it is going on right now is the fact that Parks Forward has released their report, and we had a transformation team. Change is going to happen throughout Parks. One of my favorite authors, Machiavelli, said, "There's nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things."

Acting Deputy Director continues, Mr. Steve Szalay is running the transformation team. Mr. Szalay is going to be introducing a new order of things. I don't think any of the things that are within the Parks Forward report most of the major items are a surprise anybody. There needs to be bureaucratic efficiencies. There needs to be better, stronger funding sources for Parks. We need to think a little

bit better about doing technology and instituting that within Parks. There are some discussions about how we're doing our selection of senior leadership, and then even more important to me is how you build that, how you create that pyramid of success for everybody in Parks so that you have a good diverse sector of leaders running the Parks, running all of our areas. Those are great beefy items, and they're going to be worked here strong by the transformation team. I'm part of the executive steering group on it. There's about a two-year time to get it done. What I would like to assure you, though, at the same time that's going on, you're not going to see a lot of mention in any of those reports about the Boating and Waterways Division. Now, that's because there was an aspect of "If it ain't broke, we don't need to fix it." Nor do you see Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation there. That's a good thing. However, it is my intention and I'm going to be pushing this hard, that there probably isn't enough mention right now about recreation and the importance of recreation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris Lauritzen, Co-owner of Lauritzen Yacht Harbor at the Antioch Bridge. Mr. Lauritzen expressed his concerns regarding the water hyacinth. I'm from the Delta. My sister and I co-own Lauritzen Yacht Harbor at the Antioch Bridge. You came to our Marina last year when you did a Boating and Waterways Commission meeting, looked at the water hyacinth. I'm talking a little bit about the water hyacinth today. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is proposing three dams, removable rock barriers, in the Delta. Steamboat Slough and Sutter Slough are in Sacramento County, and then the most important one is in Faultz River in Contra Costa County at the confluence of the San Joaquin River and San Joaquin River and Faultz River. Our concern is the water quality issues. We've had huge EC, electrical conductivity, salt, in the Delta in the last couple of years. I'm in favor of the rock barrier at Faultz River from the standpoint of saving the water supply for CCWD, Contra Costa Water District, which its only water supply is the Delta. I'm more concerned about the issue of water hyacinth as it relates to water quality and what it's going to impact when that dam goes in at Faultz River. When it goes in at the mouth of Faultz River, you're going to have Armageddon come to the Delta as it relates to the water hyacinth issue. Water is going to be a problem because water temperatures are already warm because we've had a very mild, mild winter. Water temperature right now in the Delta is 52, 53 degrees. You put in the rock barrier on May 10 when they're talking about proposing to do that, you will have higher water temperatures. We've had a very mild winter. That's going to impact the growing season. It's going to start that much faster than what we normally see. It's going to impact Frank's Tract, Will Frank's Tract, Fisherman's Cut, and Taylor Slough, all of Bethel Island because you're going to have a fight with the water hyacinth that you've never seen before because of the rock barriers. So if staff has not been talking to DWR about how they're going to mitigate that problem when they put the dam in, certainly all of us in the Delta should be concerned about that particular issue.

BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITY APPLICATION UPDATE

Ms. Dill gave a brief overview of the Boat Launch update. In fiscal year '15/'16, 12 applications for \$22.75 million were received. The Governor's budget included funding for three of those projects for a total of 12.65 million. Those projects are the Shelter Island Boat Launching Facility in San Diego County, San Diego Unified Port District; Colusa Boat Launching Facility for the City of Colusa; and the City of Antioch for their boat launching Facility. For the '14/'15 fiscal year, our current fiscal year, we received four applications requesting \$1.74 million. Division of Boating Waterways (DBW) have approved funding this year for that program for \$1 million. The Ramp Repairing Modification Grants also received seven applications for 2.12 million. DBW have \$1 million approved funding for this fiscal year. DBW be making selections on both of those, the ramp repair and the non-motorized by the end of February. The Small Craft Harbor Loans fiscal year '15/'16, DBW received one application from the Alamos Bay Basin 2 Marina. DBW was able to fund that

with last year's funding. It was not appropriated to a specific project. Therefore, due to the lack of additional requests for loan funding, no additional funding was included in the Governor's budget for that program. The Private Small Craft Harbor Loans, a total of one application for \$22.44 million was received. Fiscal year '15/'16 of the Governor's budget included \$4.2 million for that program. DBW just received all of our applications for our unit. The Loans and Grant unit manages the Boat Launching Facility Grants, Small Craft Harbor Loans, Private Small Craft Harbor, Marinas, Beach Erosion Control Grants and Beach Restoration Grants, those are for fiscal year '16/'17. Those applications are vetted through the Division, and they go to the Governor for his consideration and then those included projects that are selected would be included in the Governor's budget next fiscal year Jan 10 of next year, and we will know which projects are selected at that time.

For fiscal year '15/'16, which is next fiscal year, grant applications for the Non-Motorized Boat Launching Facility Program as well as the Ramp Repair Program. Those applications are vetted through the Division, and they go to the Governor for his consideration and then make selections early right after the fiscal year begins in July.

Ms. Dill continues-- our programs are higher this year. We had a couple of significant projects. The San Diego Unified Port District normally our Boat Launching Facility Grant Program, we seek between \$7 and \$9 million. Because this project was so large, it's probably one of the most significant Chair Metz can talk about the significance of Shelter Island. It's need in dire replacement. So we asked for additional funding this year to help cities like Colusa and are in these remote locations that their entire economy is based on boat launching facilities. We are fortunate to get these two projects and Antioch passed through the process.

Ms. Dill expressed the Boating Needs Assessments Study is going to help us determine where in California we should be putting our resources, where is the greatest need, where are we lacking, where's the next ten years where should we begin investing. I think it would be very helpful from our program standpoint in determining what our priorities should be.

ADVICE AND COMMENT REGARDING PUBLIC GRANTS

Mr. Casey Caldwell, Project Manager, Loans and Grants Unit gave a brief overview of the Sonoma County Regional Parks, Westside Park Boat Launching Facility. Also present were Ms. Elizabeth Tyree, Grants Program Manager and Mr. Mark Cleveland, Senior Park Planner, Sonoma County Regional Parks located in Bodega Bay. Lastly, Mr. Bill Trowbridge, Commissioner on Sonoma County's Parks Advisory Commission and Mr. Brad Porter, Engineer, Moffatt and Nichol, who has been working on this project. The Division of Boating and Waterways seeks Commission's advice and comment on the proposed \$1,800,000 Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund Construction Grant to the Sonoma Regional Parks for the Westside Park Boat Launching Facility for improvements described in the February 10, 2015 feasibility report.

MOTION: The Commission supports that the Division proceed with the construction grants to Westside Park Boat Launching Facility for the improvements described in this February 10, 2015 report. It was moved by all Commissioners to approve. The Commissioners simultaneously voted, passed unanimously.

Mr. Leo LaMattina, Project Manager, Loans and Grants Unit gave a brief overview of the City of Alameda, Encinal Boat Launch Facility. Also present was Amy Wooldridge, Director, Parks and Recreation, City of Alameda. Division of Boating and Waterways seeks Commission advice and comment on the proposed \$300,000 Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund Planning Grant to the City of Alameda for the Encinal Boat Launching Facility for improvements described in the February 10, 2015 feasibility report.

MOTION: The Commission supports that the Division proceed with the construction grants to City of Alameda for the Encinal Boat Launching Facility for the improvements described in this February 10, 2015 report. It was moved by all Commissioners to approve. The Commissioners simultaneously voted, passed unanimously.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Robin Turgeon, Analyst, Aquatic Invasive Species Branch, gave a brief update regarding the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grants. The process is in review and ongoing. Award letters are scheduled to be sent out in the month February and the grant agreement will accompany the award letters. When reviewing the applications for compliance, we focused on the high risk for infestation. So part of the project components are planning; assessment; vulnerability assessment; risk assessment; program evaluation, and then there is the implementation part of the plan, and that includes education, monitoring and management of the recreational activities within the reservoir. The planning assessment, the prevention plan should be consistent with the Fish and Game Code.

RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING DIVISION PROGRAMS

Mr. Ramos, Ms. Dugger, Mr. Carroll, Ms. Sykes presented on the following programs:

Aquatic Invasive Species Control Program	Mr. Ramos
Boating Enforcement Programs	Ms. Dugger
Boating Enforcement Training Program	Mr. Carroll
Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund Grant Programs	Ms. Sykes

ACTION: ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2015

Chairman Metz and Commissioners simultaneously voted elected David Livingston, Vice Chair as the new Chairman and Virginia Madueno, Commissioner as Vice Chair for the Division of Boating and Waterways Commission.

INFORMATION: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Next Commission Meeting:
May 12 & 13, 2015 Paradise, Ca.

SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEM FOR NEXT MEETING

Acting Deputy Director Conlin expressed next item to follow up the Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.