

MINUTES
BOATING AND WATERWAYS COMMISSION MEETING
PITTSBURG, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 20, 2014

Pursuant to due and regular notice, the meeting of the Boating and Waterways Commission was called to order by Chairman Metz on August 20, 2014, at 8:59 a.m. at the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, No. 1474, 200 Marina Boulevard, Pittsburg, California.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

A quorum among Commissioners present was Chairman Douglas Metz, Virginia Madueno, Commissioner; Katherine Pettibone, Commissioner; Frank Peralta, Commissioner and Randy Short, Commissioner. State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) staff present was Chris Conlin, Acting Deputy Director, Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW); Tara Lynch, Chief Counsel; Captain William Duke; other DBW staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by the Commissioners that the Boating and Waterways Commission Minutes of May 7, 2014, meeting be approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Metz thanked Captain William Duke representing on behalf of Commissioner Sheriff Livingston (absent) for arranging and allowing the use of the facility. A special appreciation to Jared Zucker, Administrative Liaison, DBW, for arranging this meeting and the guided the boat tour of Delta waterways held on August 19, 2014.

COMMISSIONER'S' ACTIVITIES UPDATES

Commissioner Peralta presented goals and objectives to develop ways to help and serve underprivileged children in the Chula Vista, San Diego region, to expose them to what California State Parks and DBW has to offer. This plan is still in development, however, the objective of California State Parks and the Parks Forward Commission is to develop synergies to optimize services to urban areas.

Chairman Metz discussed the update from Commissioners Pettibone and Short (Hall of Fame subcommittee) regarding the roster of candidates for recognition by the Commission. Both Commissioner Pettibone's and Commissioner Short's intent is to have a "hall of fame" process to recognize those who have shown extraordinary leadership and development in building the recreational boating industry in California.

Commissioner Short shared his discussions with the people of Owens Valley and the Eastern Sierra regarding assistance from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, a public/private partnership for a new waterway project, consisting of 60 miles of lakes near Highway 395 between Bishop and Lone Pine. This region has millions of travelers with no boating facilities or waterway access. The objective is to provide boating facilities and access for these new lakes and an opportunity to participate in DBW's Loans and Grants program. Commissioner Short will continue the discussion at the next Commission meeting scheduled for November 6, 2014.

Commissioner Madueno expressed interest in looking at potential future projects that increase economic development opportunities and tourism: canoe launch at the Port of Stockton, a partnership between the Port of Stockton, the City of Stockton, and other agencies; a potential project site on the west end of Stanislaus County which would tie in the San Joaquin River with the Federal Bureau of Reclamation involving the City of Patterson, Stanislaus County and the City of Modesto; and finally discussions with the City of Mendota over the west end of Fresno County, putting together a master plan proposal to DBW by next year.

Commissioner Short presented an invitation to Acting Deputy Director Conlin from the States' Organization for Boating Access to co-host an event here in the West.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Acting Deputy Director Conlin shared the latest update on the state budget process and the repayment of loans from special funds.

Acting Deputy Director Conlin highlighted the positive outreach activities at the State Fair. Over 90,000 people visited the DBW exhibit learning about water safety programs. Acting Deputy Director Conlin expressed concerns regarding the drought and challenges it will bring over the next several years.

Drought-related issues will have a huge impact on waterways throughout the state, such as an increase in the infestation of aquatic weeds and quagga mussels and decreased water levels in our reservoirs and lakes, affecting our constituents' ability to boat safely.

Acting Deputy Director Conlin briefly shared the latest update on legislative activities:

Senate Bill 941 (Monning) Vessel Operator Cards

This is the mandatory education bill, currently being voted on in the legislature and is mostly likely to pass.

Senate Bill 1162 (Berryhill) Vessels Violations - Passed

This legislation is designed to help law enforcement agencies partners by reclassifying various boating violations from misdemeanors to infractions.

Senate Bill 1442 (Wolk) State Property Tidelands Transfer City of Martinez

This bill is still working through committee. Additional information and updates will be available by the next meeting in November 2014.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ally Endress, City of Pittsburg Waterfront Development and Operations, discussed waterfront development including the construction of a kite boarding, kayaking, and stand-up-paddling venue.

Erica Rodriguez-Langley, Senior Field Representative for Assemblyman Jim Frazier, 11th District, thanked DBW for its work on making the district's waterways safer.

Jack Michael, Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC) Volunteer, briefly presented RBOC's history opposing DBW's intergration with California State Parks due to funding concerns specifically regarding vessel operator certification as a revenue source outside of DBW.

Chairman Metz and Commission members heard, and this view and/or concern is being taken into consideration.

ADVISE AND COMMENT REGARDING PUBLIC GRANTS

Mr. Joe Dux, DBW Loans and Grants Financial Services, presented the Upper Sunrise Project for the County of Sacramento for the Commission's advice and comment.

The proposed \$500,000 Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund planning and construction grant, with conditions, to the County of Sacramento for the Upper Sunrise Boat Launching Facility would provide for improvements described in the August 20, 2014 Feasibility Report.

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Pettibone, seconded by Commissioner Peralta, to recommend for approval the proposed \$500,000 planning and construction grant, with condition, to the County of Sacramento, Department of Regional Parks described in the August 20, 2014 Feasibility Report. The condition is completion of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) at the county's expense by February 25, 2015. No reimbursement will occur until CEQA is complete. Commissioners simultaneously voted, passed unanimously.

Mr. Cuong Chu, DBW Loans and Grants Financial Services, presented the Lower Blue Oaks Boat Launching Facility at Don Pedro Lake for the Commission's advice and comment.

The proposed \$300,000 Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund planning grant, with conditions, to the Don Pedro Recreation Agency, would provide future improvements for the Lower Blue Oaks Launching Facility described in the August 20, 2014 Feasibility Report.

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Madueno, seconded by Commissioner Peralta, to recommend for approval the proposed \$300,000 Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund planning grant, with condition, to the Don Pedro Recreation Agency to design and permit the possible future improvements for the Lower Blue Oaks Launching Facility described in the August 20, 2014 Feasibility Report. The condition is completion of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), at the county's expense, by March 1, 2016. Commissioners simultaneously voted, passed unanimously.

RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING DIVISION PROGRAMS

Ms. Dill; Ms. Miranda; Ms. King; Ms. Naughton, Ms. Rigby; Ms. Peterson; and Dr. Flick presented on the following programs:

Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program – Ms. Dill

Life Jacket Awareness Program – Wear It California – Ms. Miranda

Life Jacket Trade-In & Loaner Programs – Ms. Miranda

Boating Safety Awareness Multimedia Campaign – Ms. King

Aquatic Center Grant Program– Ms. King, Ms. Rigby

Boating Safety Course – Ms. Peterson

Boating Accident Reporting Program – Ms. Naughton, Ms. Rigby

Oceanography Program – Dr. Flick

ADVICE AND COMMENT REGARDING CHANGES IN REGULATIONS

Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager, Edward Hard gave a brief update regarding the adoption of the Quagga Zebra Grant Program. DBW is currently developing permanent regulations for the Quagga Zebra Infestation Prevention Program to replace the existing emergency regulations.

In addition, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager, Edward Hard, provided an update to the Commission on the progress of controlling invasive aquatic plant species in the Delta. As of August 13, 2014, Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) staff has treated over 100 sites for water hyacinth within 61,000 acres in the Delta. Of the 100 sites, 274 treatments were made which is equivalent to a little over 2000 acres. Mr. Hard showed maps of *Egeria densa* and water hyacinth treatment areas. In particular, heavy infestations of water hyacinth have been observed this year, particularly in the Central and South Delta, which could be attributed to drought, higher temperatures, tidal flows, and other factors.

DBW has been working with stakeholders on an area-wide effort in managing aquatic weeds in the Delta. The area-wide project is being led by DBW's federal nexus partner, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service. The objective is to develop and implement both short and long-term approaches in controlling invasive aquatic plants. This includes exploring other control measures such as mechanical, biological, physical and possible use of biopesticides.

DBW is also working with California Department of Fish and Wildlife in conducting risk assessments of other invasive aquatic plants that are now starting to establish in the Delta. These plants include, but are limited to the following: Fanwort, Coontail, Curly-Leaf Pondweed, Watermilfoil and Water Primrose. Overall, DBW will continue to monitor and utilize appropriate control measures in suppressing invasive aquatic plants.

Recommendation from Chairman Metz to defer as an agenda item until such time as the public comment period for the regulatory process has closed and staff has had an opportunity to analyze all public comments received.

Chairman Metz commented that this was an excellent presentation.

INFORMATION: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Ms. Dill addressed to the Commissioners the proposed calendar of events per Section 82.3 of the Harbor and Navigation Code. The next Commission meetings are scheduled for November 2014, February 2015, May 2015 and August 2015. The November 2014 Commission meeting will be

in Monterey, California to correspond with the Marine Recreational Association (MRA) conference.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2014.

Chairman Metz adjourned meeting at 12:41p.m.