

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HUMBOLDT BAY HARBOR, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

29 September 2005

PRESENT:

Commissioner Pellegrini
Commissioner Curless
Commissioner Fritzsche
Commissioner Hunter

ABSENT:

Commissioner Ollivier

The Closed Session was called to order at 6:51 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Pellegrini at 7:03 p.m. Roll call was taken. President Pellegrini lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

District Counsel reported on the items discussed during Closed Session including the dredge line easement, and the LP tideland lease but no action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Melvin McKinney asked that the CEO report on the September 14, 2005 Coastal Commission meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

COMMISSIONER HUNTER MOVED FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR.
COMMISSIONER CURLESS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT.

CEO REPORT

- ✓ CEO noted that at the last meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Board amended the agreement with Chad Roberts for oversight of the CEQA process on the Humboldt Bay Management Plan. As the first step in fulfilling those contract obligations, Jeff Robinson of the Harbor District, Chad Roberts and Commissioners Pellegrini and Fritzsche, held the programmatic EIR scoping meetings on September 28th. The meetings were held at both 3 p.m. and at 6 p.m. to accommodate questions relevant to the initial study for the draft Humboldt Bay Management Plan.
- ✓ At the last meeting, the Board of Commissioners authorized the CEO to submit the paperwork to access the Harbor District's \$150,000 port security grant. CEO reported that the paperwork had been submitted.
- ✓ The fifth annual Humboldt Bay Maritime Expo was held on September 24. CEO noted that Commissioner Hunter was the emcee and that Harbor District staff did a great job, had great weather and a great turnout. CEO noted that many of the staff started at 6 a.m. that day and worked through the entire event. Next year's event is scheduled for September 30, 2006.
- ✓ CEO conducted the Harbor Safety Committee meeting on September 23 where the oil spill drill and exercise of August 24th and 25th was the main topic.
- ✓ 9/14: Harbor District made a presentation to the Coastal Commission on the maintenance dredging of Woodley Island Marina and several city waterfront sites. As some last minute information was presented to Coastal Commission staff, the Commission tabled the item to a later meeting. Today, CEO met with representatives of the Coastal Commission and EPA on additional testing requirements to try and satisfy the Coastal Commission's information needs. It is unknown when this issue will go before the Coastal Commission again.

DISTRICT COUNSEL'S REPORT

District Counsel reported he had nothing to report.

STAFF REPORT: None

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Curless reported that this upcoming weekend is the Apple Harvest Festival in Fortuna. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Commissioner Fritzsche reported that he had been out of the county for several weeks visiting Sweden. Commissioner Fritzsche gave a brief report on his travels including the high gas prices, highway development, railroad controversy, the 300th anniversary of the death of the father of modern ichthyology, and pickled herring.

Commissioner Fritzsche noted that the Harbor District had received a request from the Table Bluff Reservation of the Wiyot Tribe requesting the Harbor District's support in obtaining a \$61,000 grant to create a salt marsh enhancement project on the east end of Indian Island. Commissioner Fritzsche noted that this project is consistent with the Harbor District's strategic plan and conservation mission and therefore requested that the CEO write a letter urging the Coastal Conservancy to fund this project.

Commissioner Hunter commended Harbor District staff for a great fifth annual Humboldt Bay Maritime Expo that occurred last weekend. He especially commended Dockmaster Suzie Howser for her role in the Maritime Expo. Commissioner Hunter also invited all attending to the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce mixer to be held October 20th from 5:30 to 7:00 at the Coast Central Credit Union main office.

Commissioner Pellegrini also thanked staff for doing an outstanding job of putting on the Humboldt Bay Maritime Expo. She noted that Harbor District staff did an awesome job.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Curless reported that the Pilotage Advisory Committee had met to discuss the status of the two current Bar Pilots.

Commissioner Fritzsche reported that he had attended two scoping meetings on September 28 concerning the Humboldt Bay Management Plan CEQA process.

a) Port of Oakland Advisory Committee Update

Ken Davlin reported that he had completed the Headwaters Grant application and that it should be delivered to Headwaters staff tomorrow. The essence of the application is a request for \$100,000 to complete a feasibility study and \$100,000 to complete a business plan with a \$60,000 match in order to create a business plan and feasibility study for the Redwood Dock Terminal Modernization Project. Mr. Davlin noted that in putting the application together he perused many documents produced over the past by the Harbor District. He recounted that these documents detailed how the Harbor District has taken a methodical approach over several years to improve port utilization in Humboldt Bay.

Commissioner Fritzsche asked Mr. Davlin how the consultant position proposed in the grant application would be filled. Mr. Davlin replied that the Port of Oakland Advisory Committee would help develop the selection criteria and that the Board of Commissioners would hire the consultant. Mr. Davlin reported that he has not met with Port of Oakland staff since the last meeting because they have been in China marketing their port. Mr. Davlin also reported that Fred Chien has just returned from China where he had met with several Chinese business owners relative to their interest in the Port of Humboldt Bay. Mr. Davlin explained that Mr. Chien would be providing the Board of Commissioners with a report from his trip to China but that in general all the news is positive. Mr. Davlin noted that the Chinese business owners are pleased that the Governor of California will be visiting China this November and are looking forward to the business opportunities between China and the State of California.

Commissioner Fritzsche asked if the recent news of the Port of Oakland being interested in operating the Sacramento port facilities would interfere with our efforts to work with the Port of Oakland. Mr. Davlin responded by stating that the Port of Sacramento concept is in addition to and not in competition with the Port of Oakland's efforts to develop a business relation with the Port of Humboldt Bay. Mr. Davlin

reported that the Port of Oakland is creating what he terms 'spokes of a wheel' with Sacramento as one, Shafter as another, and the Port of Humboldt Bay as the third.

b) Long-Term Sediment Management Study Update

As a follow-up to the report given at the September 8, 2005 Board Meeting on the details of a long-term sediment management study, Commissioner Hunter recounted the high cost to the Harbor District of participating in a cost share agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers on the feasibility study portion of that project. Due to the high cost and the need for this project, Commissioner Hunter asked the Chief Executive Officer to investigate other funding mechanisms with the State of California to augment the local cost share portion of the project. Commissioner Hunter noted that California Association of Port Authorities had previously discussed developing a program with the State of California, where by the State would provide a portion of the local share of the cost share of a navigation project like this. CEO agreed to discuss the issue with the CAPA representatives at their next meeting. Commissioner Hunter also requested that the long-term sediment management study update continue to be on the agenda as an advisory committee report to keep the board up to speed on this important project.

OTHER

None.

NON-AGENDA: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

A. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF GRANT AGREEMENT NO. CD-96956201-0 WITH THE US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO DEVELOP EEL RIVER/HUMBOLDT BAY INTEGRATIVE WETLANDS STRATEGY.

Commissioner Pellegrini asked Mark Wheatley, of the California Department of Fish and Game, to make a presentation on this item.

Mr. Wheatley noted that the Harbor District had previously applied in 2004 for this grant and had been unsuccessful. The Harbor District had then reapplied again in 2005 at the request of EPA staff. Because of funding limitations some of the items in the original grant were eliminated but those may be picked up by future grant requests.

Mr. Wheatley made a power point presentation detailing the history, the geographic scope, and the tasks to be accomplished with the \$131,685 grant.

CEO summarized the issue by noting that the Harbor District is the grant recipient from EPA and that Mark Wheatley will be the Project Manager. CEO thanked Mark Wheatley for his efforts in helping craft the grant and noted that this further demonstrates the interagency cooperation that the Harbor District uses to develop real information to be used for the best management of resources in Humboldt Bay. The Harbor District has used this cooperative interagency approach in past data gathering efforts with Humboldt State University, Chico State University, NOAA Fisheries, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Ocean Service, and others. CEO noted that in general, this grant allows us to fill in some data gaps uncovered during the Humboldt Bay Management Plan formation process, and will augment the existing databases thus providing valuable tools for the implementation of the Humboldt Bay Management Plan when it is completed.

Commissioner Fritzsche commented on task one of the grant application, which looks at historic shorelines and noted that he had acquired several old maps of the bay that show how the shoreline changes and how dynamic the bay really is.

Mr. Wheatley commented that it is important to know baseline data before public funds are invested in restoration efforts and the tasks that are outlined in this grant will help to establish that baseline information.

COMMISSIONER HUNTER MOVED TO APPROVE GRANT AGREEMENT NO. CD-96956201-0 WITH THE US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO DEVELOP THE EEL RIVER/HUMBOLDT BAY INTEGRATIVE WETLANDS STRATEGY. COMMISSIONER FRITZSCHE SECONDED.

Pete Nichols asked if NGOs would be included in the public outreach part of the project.

Mr. Wheatley responded by stating that California Dept. of Fish and Game will likely convene a lot of the public outreach as is done in other California Dept. of Fish and Game watershed programs.

Commissioner Fritzsche thanked Mr. Wheatley and the CEO for pursuing this issue for more than a year and a half to get the funds for this important effort.

MOTION CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT.

B. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO AGREEMENT WITH MOFFATT AND NICHOL FOR SHELTER COVE BREAKWATER REHABILITATION.

CEO reported that a few months ago Harbor District staff was asked to speak to a Shelter Cove Breakwater engineer and ask for information that would better define the safety and recreational impact difference of alternative one and three of the Shelter Cove Breakwater Rehabilitation study. The Shelter Cove advisory committee met on September 20, and recommended the additional information contained in this request.

COMMISSIONER CURLESS MOVED FOR THE APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO AGREEMENT WITH MOFFATT AND NICHOL FOR SHELTER COVE BREAKWATER REHABILITATION. COMMISSIONER FRITZSCHE SECONDED.

Maggy Herbelin complained about the clerical staffs billing rate at Moffatt and Nichol.

MOTION CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND EMERGENCY PERMITS: None

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

____Signature on File____
Ronald A. Fritzsche, Secretary

RECORDED BY:

____Signature on File____
Patricia L. Tyson, Admin. Assistant