

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

20 December 2007

PRESENT:

Commissioner Pellegrini
Commissioner Curless
Commissioner Wilson
Commissioner Hunter
Commissioner Higgins

The Closed Session was called to order at 6:05 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

President Curless called the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m.

CEO administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Commissioners Curless and Pellegrini and newly elected Commissioner Patrick Higgins.

President Curless led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Curless asked for a Moment of Silence in memory of Kathleen Schneider.

District Counsel reported the Closed Session items as follows: Real Property Negotiations – status of the Shelter Cove fish cleaning station and marina acquisition negotiations and Coast Seafoods' 50-acre land donation. No action was taken during Closed Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Zeppegno, Board member for Explore North Coast, a local kayakers club, read a letter written to the Board of Commissioners offering the clubs' assistance with the recreational component of the 2007-2011 Strategic Plan.

Sid Berg, President of the Building and Construction Trades Council, presented to the Board of Commissioners a resolution supporting the development of Option B of the Redwood Marine Terminal Feasibility Study.

Jerry Saner, a HSU employee, said he was in favor of Option B of the Redwood Marine Terminal Feasibility Study. Mr. Saner said he was in favor of the development of more jobs for the area; but that new people will also come to the area and a slow growth would be better in order for adequate housing to be available.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

CEO REPORT

- 12/13: Bar pilots presented a navigation simulation report to the Harbor Safety Committee (HSC). Ongoing boating safety violations from Humboldt's crew team were also discussed. At the next HSC meeting, recreational stakeholders will be invited to dialogue with the HSC members.
- 12/17: Commissioner Curless, bar pilots and CEO took Senator Wiggins and some of her staff on a tour of the mariculture and marine industrial sites of Humboldt Bay.
- 12/20: Commissioner Wilson and CEO attended a water trails project meeting.
- Through the Energy and Water Appropriations, the US Army Corps of Engineers will receive \$5.1 million for O&M in 2008.
- CEO presented the Board of Commissioners with a report on the Harbor District accomplishments for 2007, including grants and projects.

DISTRICT COUNSEL REPORT

District Counsel reported he recently worked on the following issues:

- Shelter Cove: negotiations concerning the acquisition of additional public access and property the fish cleaning station is located on. Also working on an RFP for appraiser services for the same property.
- The California Coastal Commission, as part of the Coastal Development Plan, has required Coast Seafoods' to deed 50 acres of tidelands for public trust. The Harbor District is the agency best equipped to accept this donation. Currently Coast Seafoods is working on getting the encumbrances cleared on the title of the property and the item should be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for consideration in February.
- District Counsel's staff has been working with the Harbor District staff to collect monies owed by Lawrence Badgely on his account for the vessel Yankee Girl. This matter went to a small claims hearing during which CEO acted on behalf of the Harbor District and obtained a judgment award in the proceedings.

STAFF REPORT: None

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Pellegrini asked CEO for a progress update on filling the Director of Conservation position. CEO responded currently recruitment is being done for the position of Director of Facility Maintenance. Chad Roberts and CEO will begin the recruitment for Director of Conservation in January.

Commissioner Pellegrini asked CEO what a staff safety meeting is. CEO responded OSHA requires periodic safety meetings, which have been blended in to staff awareness/educational meetings on hot topics once a month. CEO also reported that he meets with senior staff every Monday. Commissioner Pellegrini asked what the staff meeting was about today. CEO replied it was the employee gift exchange luncheon.

Commissioner Pellegrini stated the Redwood Veteran's Center would have an open house on December 21st from 1 – 3 p.m.

Commissioner Wilson reported he attended an eco-based management system meeting. He said the main topic of discussion was how to model Humboldt Bay to measure a healthy bay.

Commissioner Wilson attended an interagency trail meeting on December 17th and met with CEO and RCAA representatives regarding water trails on December 20th.

Commissioner Hunter responded to some comments made at the last Board meeting regarding advertising. He said one of the missives to come out of the Strategic Plan was to promote a more informed and active public and this has been addressed through some of the recent advertisements highlighting the Harbor District's conservation division.

CEO stated the Harbor District has tried to educate and raise public awareness different ways. Currently an infomercial program is being developed to promote each of the Harbor District's divisions: harbor, recreation and conservation at a cost of \$499 for 196 spots on 7 networks. Commissioner Hunter suggested once the three ads have been finalized, it would be good to develop a 4th one combining all three. CEO stated the ads will also ultimately be housed on the District's website.

Commissioner Hunter said a schedule will be developed for the submittal of comments on the Redwood Marine Terminal Feasibility Study and a press release will be circulated. He suggested written comments be submitted by January 10th and the consultant's responses would be available on the website by February 1st. The Board of Commissioners could then consider the item at one of the February meetings.

Pete Oringer suggested comments and responses be included in the report as addendums and become part of the record. He asked if this would be an additional cost by the consultants or if it would be included in the original agreement. Commissioner Hunter said there would be no additional cost.

Jerry Saner said the plan has been out since November 28th, but the public needs extra time and there should be better advertising.

David Elsebusch said the Harbor District advertisements should do more than just “patting yourselves on the back” and telling the public “we are doing what we ought to be doing.”

Carlos Quillez said there has been very little notice to the public regarding the Redwood Marine Terminal Feasibility Study. The public needs more time to study the document.

Commissioner Higgins suggested verbal comments should be given at the Board’s January 10th meeting and written comments should be submitted by January 15th, the consultants responses will be on the website by February 15th and the Board of Commissioners can consider the item at the February 28th meeting.

Commissioner Wilson requested staff notify the Board of Commissioners when ads will be run in the future.

President Curless reported he, CEO and the bar pilots met with Senator Pat Wiggins on December 17th and took her and her staff on a tour of the bay. He said it was a good opportunity to introduce Senator Wiggins to Humboldt Bay, eelgrass beds and oyster production.

Commissioner Higgins reported he attended the North Coast Stormwater Coalition meeting and the eco-based management system meeting

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

OTHER: None

NON-AGENDA: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

A. CONSIDERATION OF RECEIVING AND FILING HUMBOLDT BAY WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE INVENTORY, ASSESSMENT AND MAPPING FINAL REPORT.

Greg Goldsmith and Paula Golightly, US Fish and Wildlife Service, made a presentation to the Board of Commissioners on their collaborative study with CA Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Goldsmith said Jeff Robinson had previously pointed out the importance of mapping tide gates to aid in oil spill response.

Commissioner Higgins said this information is useful and that the recent revamping of the tide gate at Rocky Gulch enabled the passing of juvenile salmonids, which will improve the production in the bay.

Commissioner Wilson stated this is a great start to an important database and he asked what is the next step. Ms. Golightly responded the database could be used for developing priorities; Fish and Wildlife did not want to make the decisions for the users of the database.

Commissioner Wilson asked if there were any surprises in the results of the project. Mr. Goldsmith stated there are many structures in poor condition, needing improvement.

Commissioner Pellegrini asked who is the enforcement arm to encourage repairs. CEO stated there are policies in the Humboldt Bay Management Plan which include water control structures and the development of standard guidelines and permitting.

Andy Colonna asked if this data could be used to compare results of dredging. Mr. Goldsmith responded additional fieldwork would have to be completed.

Pete Oringer asked if attempts were made to contact private landowners. Mr. Goldsmith stated attempts were made, but not always successful.

COMMISSIONER HUNTER MOVED TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE HUMBOLDT BAY WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE INVENTORY, ASSESSMENT AND MAPPING FINAL REPORT. COMMISSIONER PELLEGRINI SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT.

B. CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTING FOR FILING PERMIT 07-08 TO PG&E FOR REMOVAL OR ABANDONMENT OF FUEL OIL PIPELINE FROM OLSON'S WHARF TO HUMBOLDT BAY POWER PLANT.

COMMISSIONER PELLEGRINI MOVED TO ACCEPT FOR FILING PERMIT 07-08 TO PG&E FOR REMOVAL OR ABANDONMENT OF FUEL OIL PIPELINE FROM OLSON'S WHARF TO HUMBOLDT BAY POWER PLANT. COMMISSIONER HUNTER SECONDED.

Commissioner Hunter asked if it was standard practice for the applicant to request the Harbor District hire the consultant for the environmental work. CEO stated it is the applicant's option to do so, but the Harbor District certifies the work, the applicant reimburses the Harbor District and the consultant works for the Harbor District. CEO said the Board of Commissioners would be presented with an agreement in the near future for PG&E to reimburse the Harbor District for the consultant's work.

MOTION CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND EMERGENCY PERMITS: None

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

RECORDED BY:

____ Signature on File _____
Ronnie Pellegrini
Secretary

____ Signature on File _____
Patricia L. Tyson
Director of Administrative Services