

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

January 28, 2010

PRESENT:

Commissioner Pellegrini
Commissioner Curless
Commissioner Wilson
Commissioner Higgins
Commissioner Marks

ABSENT:

None

Vice President Curless called the Executive Closed Session to order at 6:02 p.m. Executive Closed Session adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Vice President Curless called the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:04 p.m.

Vice President Curless led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

District Counsel reported on the Executive Closed Session as follows: Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Chief Executive Officer – No action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leroy Zerlang reported he and Stephen Pepper have been working the tug on the moving of the PG&E engines by barge from Schneider Dock to the Fields Landing Boat Yard. He said the bar has been flat; but removing the engines from the barge at Fields Landing has been troublesome. Approximately 40-50 people are working on the project.

CONSENT CALENDAR

COMMISSIONER HIGGINS MOVED FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR. COMMISSIONER MARKS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT.

CEO REPORT

- ❖ Director of Conservation has been working diligently on the MPA external array project and there has been good progress. The project will be submitted by the February 1st deadline.
- ❖ 1/19: Director of Conservation and CEO attended the Board of Supervisors meeting to speak on the Headwaters Fund grant item. The Board approved the Headwaters staff recommendation of granting \$50,000 out of the \$199,000 requested; but noted the importance of the timeliness of the process and directed the Headwaters staff to discuss the remaining \$149,000 at their meeting of February 16 and bring back to the Board of Supervisors a recommendation. CEO and Director of Conservation will attend the Headwaters Fund Board meeting.
- ❖ The Bar Pilots have been assisting Fish & Wildlife with the SeaGrass Net eelgrass monitoring. This monitoring project takes place twice each year.
- ❖ 1/20: CEO facilitated a Humboldt Bay Symposium planning meeting.
- ❖ 1/20: CEO and the bar pilots met with NOAA and HSU staff on oceanographic monitoring as part of the \$250,000 Homeland Security grant for real time oceanographic monitoring.
- ❖ 1/21: CEO chaired the Harbor Safety Committee meeting

- ❖ 1/27: CEO attended the Economic Development Committee meeting.

DISTRICT COUNSEL REPORT

District Counsel asked if NCRA had approved the promissory note at their last Board meeting. CEO said he had not heard yet.

STAFF REPORT

District Treasurer reported the District received the first check for \$31,663.50 as part of the Prop 1A repayment program. This purpose of this program is to defer the cost of the State's taking away property taxes from local agencies and special districts.

Director of Administrative Services reported a temporary, part-time employee, Corinna Mendoza, has been hired to fill in when Misty Schmidt is out on maternity leave.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Pellegrini:

- ❖ Reported the MPA Committee, a tri-county effort, will meet the external array deadline. She said that even though this is a contentious issue, all are working like champs on this important issue.

Commissioner Wilson:

- ❖ Reported he was recently in Alameda and toured the USS Hornet, a WWII aircraft carrier. He spoke to several people running the non-profit project, asking about their budget.
- ❖ Reported he and Director of Conservation met with a Natural Resources class at HSU regarding a pre-feasibility study on the expansion of mariculture in Humboldt Bay.
- ❖ Participated in the Humboldt Bay Symposium conference call.
- ❖ Stated there has been some turnover on the RREDC Board and the current members appear to take a more active role. He said this may be partly due to the fact Gregg Foster has returned as the Executive Director.
- ❖ Will attend a meeting on February 4 at the City of Arcata on the concepts for a trail between Arcata and Bracut Lumber site.
- ❖ Received a call from Rick Borges to set up a meeting regarding air quality requirements on rolling stock.
- ❖ Would like to attend the World Aquaculture Conference in March. He said this would be beneficial since Humboldt Bay has thriving aquaculture industry.
- ❖ Stated he would like to review the District's procedures on check-signing. He said there is a need to simplify the current procedures and will work with staff for recommendations.

Commissioner Marks:

- ❖ Reported he also spoke with Rick Borges, who is concerned with the future emission standards determined through port designation and the cost of modifying current equipment to meet the standards. He said there will be a meeting on February 2 at 10:00 a.m. at the District and all dock owners are invited.

Commissioner Curless:

- ❖ Reported Lori Dengler from HSU spoke at the Fortuna Rotary meeting and gave the group a report on the January 9 earthquake.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Higgins:

- ❖ Reported the MPA committee is coming down to a decision point. People are working feverishly from Crescent City to Albion Harbor to develop fewer large conservation areas not near ports in order to have safety zones.
- ❖ Presented a draft report of findings to the Economic Development Committee at their meeting on January 27. He said the report contains a great amount of information on Humboldt Bay, which was gleaned from the previous committee meetings.
- ❖ Suggested the bar pilots and CEO attend the wave energy project meetings in order to assess the District's involvement.

OTHER: None

NON-AGENDA: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President:

Commissioner Higgins suggested nominating individuals as opposed to a slate of officers.

COMMISSIONER PELLEGRINI NOMINATED COMMISSIONER CURLESS FOR PRESIDENT.

COMMISSIONER HIGGINS NOMINATED COMMISSIONER WILSON FOR PRESIDENT.

Commissioner Higgins stated Commissioner Wilson has shown himself to be dedicated to the Harbor District, is active on committees and has a good idea of a different avenue of growth and direction for economic development. He said the financial emphasis of the Harbor District needs to change to achieve economic balance.

Commissioner Pellegrini said she would say the same about Commissioner Curless, except for the part about changing the District's course. She said Commissioner Curless is dedicated, passionate and experienced.

Commissioner Wilson said if he was elected Chair he would represent the agenda of the Board of Commissioners and would not bring his personal agenda to the office. As Commissioner he represents the agenda of his constituents.

Andy Colonna said Commissioner Curless directs meeting crisply and forthright. He said he would like to see Commissioner Curless as President.

COMMISSIONERS PELLEGRINI, CURLESS AND MARKS VOTED FOR COMMISSIONER CURLESS FOR PRESIDENT. COMMISSIONERS HIGGINS AND WILSON VOTED FOR COMMISSIONER WILSON FOR PRESIDENT.

COMMISSIONER CURLESS WAS VOTED PRESIDENT.

Vice President:

COMMISSIONER PELLEGRINI MOVED TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER WILSON AS VICE PRESIDENT. COMMISSIONER HIGGINS SECONDED. COMMISSIONER WILSON WAS VOTED IN AS VICE PRESIDENT.

Secretary:

COMMISSIONER HIGGINS NOMINATED COMMISSIONER PELLEGRINI AS SECRETARY. COMMISSIONER PELLEGRINI RESPECTFULLY DECLINED.

COMMISSIONER PELLEGRINI NOMINATED COMMISSIONER MARKS AS SECRETARY. COMMISSIONER HIGGINS SECONDED. COMMISSIONER MARKS WAS VOTED IN AS SECRETARY.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND EMERGENCY PERMITS: None

The Board decided at the next Board meeting, President Curless will make appointments to the Finance Advisory Committee.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

RECORDED BY:

____Signature on File_____
Richard Marks
Secretary

____Signature on File_____
Patricia L. Tyson
Director of Administrative Services