

**UNB EDUCATION TEAM
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Draft 6/8/05

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Meeting Time : 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: Back Bay Center, Shellmaker

Attendees: Matt Yurko (CCC) Roger Mallett (NBNF)
David Moore (DFG) Rita McCoy (NBNF)
John Scholl (DFG) Jean Whitaker (NBNF)
Lane Calvert (Learning for Life/Exploring) Graham Towers (Newport Sea Base)
Marla McGee (Learning for Life/Exploring) Marcella Gilchrist (OC Coastkeeper)
Annie MacAulay (Mtn. & Sea Adventures) Ray Hiemstra (OC Coastkeeper)
Donna Carroll (NBNF) David Meyer (Ret. Teacher/ BBSC Volunteer)
Sue Lau (NBNF/BBSC Volunteer))

1. David Moore gave an overview of his responsibilities as statewide Aquatic Education Coordinator and his involvement in watershed stewardship, inland and marine programs. Department of Fish and Game (DFG) education programs and staff are funded through federal grant money derived from Sports Fishing. David explained that there is a state/local matching requirement attached to these funds. The state/local component is 25% which may be hard or soft. Soft matching is volunteer time, etc. For this reason maximizing volunteer involvement and documenting this is very important. David discussed several documents including the Interpretive Plan for the new BBSC, California's Underwater Gold (a 7th grade science curriculum that addresses genetics, resource management and other topics not found in typical 7th grade curricula), Merito (a bilingual program developed at Elkhorn Slough for Grades 6-9), and the Project Wild freshwater/marine ecology program. He handed out three DFG Marine Life Education Curriculum Guides for the BBSC that incorporate Project Aquatic Wild activities for Grades 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 respectively.
2. Marla and Lane provided an overview of the Workability Program organized by Boy Scouts Exploring /Learning for Life and Rotary International. This program is designed to assist students with disabilities by providing work experience and job training to benefit the students, employers and the community at large. Programs are conducted at three sites – UNB, the Newport Sea Base, and Rancho Las Flores. Lane indicated that there will be a training session for those conducting the programs at the Sea Base on July 30, 2005.
3. Graham is Junior Aquatics Director at the Sea Base. The Sea Base collaborates with the BBSC on various programs, including summer water/boating programs. Up to 70 kids are brought over to the BBSC by boat Tuesday and/or Thursday for a half-day marine life education program.
4. Annie introduced Sea and Mountain Adventures, an organization started in 1997 that provides outdoor education at various locations in Southern California. They will again be conducting summer day camps at the Newport Dunes for children ages 5- 12, and will be bringing 30-50 kids over to the BBSC once a week for different marine projects involving activities such as squid dissection. Sea and Mountain Adventures also has an outdoor year-round school K-12 program.
5. Ray and Marcella explained OC Coastkeeper's involvement in water quality monitoring and kelp restoration along the coast here in Orange County.
6. Matt gave a brief overview of the California Coastal Commission (CCC) Restoration/Education Program at Upper Newport Bay (UNB), which includes the ROOTS community restoration projects on Saturdays and

the Steward Days on Wednesdays. Matt also talked about the CCC in-school curriculum “Our Wetlands/Our World” created specifically for UNB and focused on high school students.

7. Roger apologized for the absence of representatives from OC Harbors, Beaches and Parks (HBP) which operates the Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center, and OC Health Care Agency (HCA) which operates the Water Quality Laboratory on Shellmaker. HBP Rangers are currently undergoing 8 weeks of Peace Officer training. Additionally 2 staff are out on leave/vacation. The HCA team designee and her alternate are in Atlanta for a conference. Roger explained that the Interpretive Center is geared towards family and younger students with school programs being offered for K-3. Jean handed out copies of the Upper Newport Bay Summer Program Schedule which HBP produces on behalf of all the UNB Education Team members, and the UNB Programs Summary she maintains that lists all programs and tours conducted by Team members at UNB. Jean also maintains metrics on all of the programs and tours conducted. This includes dates, and numbers of participants, volunteers and/or staff. Rita maintains similarly detailed information of all Newport Bay Naturalist and Friends (NBNF) volunteer hours stretching back to 1990.
8. Roger provided an overview of NBNF’s involvement at UNB. NBNF is a non-profit dedicated solely to providing volunteers, staff and funding for education and restoration at UNB. NBNF was formed in 2001 by the merger of the Friends of Newport Bay and the Upper Newport Bay Naturalists. The Friends of Newport Bay was started in 1968 by Frank and Frances Robinson and others who were instrumental in the creation of the UNB Ecological Reserve in 1975. The Friends nature tours that began in 1968 are still conducted by NBNF. The Upper Newport Bay Naturalists was started in 1990 by HBP and DFG to enlist volunteer and financial support jointly for the state Ecological Reserve and county Nature Preserve. Roger and Donna briefly mentioned the school, scout, walking and water tours conducted on behalf of HBP and DFG.
9. Copies of the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve and Nature Preserve Education Policy Team Policy, Draft 3/4/03 were distributed. Roger explained the structure of the Education Team and the Restoration Team which both operate under the direction of the UNB Management Coalition made up of DFG, HBP, CCC, HCA, NBNF and the city of Newport Beach and UCI. Roger also very briefly explained the transition that took place from 2000 onwards. Prior to that time most of the responsibilities for education programs, tours, outreach, special events, etc. had been delegated to various Naturalist committees, with overall direction coming from the UNB Coordinating Council made up of the Senior HBP Ranger, DFG interpreter, Naturalist Volunteer Coordinator and the chairs of the various Naturalist committees. Roger also noted that a change to the Team Policy had been agreed by the Team at the 6/30/03 Education Team meeting to state that any team member may act as Team Leader. This is consistent with changes to the UNB Management Coalition and Restoration Team policies made at about that time. Roger further indicated that other parts of the policy were in need of revision and so updating had been postponed until the whole document could be reviewed by the team. Discussion took place on the policy, which is summarized as follows:
 - A small task force should be set up to review and revise the policy. All standing team member organizations need to be involved in deciding on the makeup of the task force. Any change in standing member organizations should be agreed by the UNB Management Coalition.
 - It is still appropriate to include as part of the policy (or alternately-named document) a matrix showing what program are routinely conducted for what age group at which locations and on which days. This should not preclude specially-arranged programs such as Workability which do not fall within any pre-defined slots.
10. Concerns over availability of dates for NBNF school, scout and water tours were expressed by Donna, Jean and Roger. There was not time to discuss these fully in the meeting. However immediate concerns were resolved with John after the meeting.