

**UNB MANAGEMENT COALITION
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Draft 5/13/05

Meeting Date: Friday, May 6, 2005

Meeting Time : 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Interpretive Center

Attendees:	Matt Yurko (CCC)	Jack Keating (NBNF)
	Dave Kiff (CNB)	Roger Mallett (NBNF) – Chair
	John Scholl (DFG)	Lyn McAfee (NROC)
	Brian Shelton (DFG)	Milan Mitrovich (NROC)
	Terri Stewart (DFG)	Richard Demerjian (UCI)
	Joy Barnes (HBP)	Susan Brodeur (WCRD)
	Parker Hancock (HBP)	Larry McKenney (WCRD)
	Marty Getrich(HCA)	

Prior to the business portion of the meeting, Lyn McAfee gave a very informative presentation about the Nature Reserve of Orange County (NROC).

- a. The Nature Reserve of Orange County is a 501(c)3 non-profit established to manage the Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) process for the Central Coastal Orange County Planning Area. There is a parallel federal process involving development of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs).
- b. The Central Coastal Orange County NCCP/HCP includes many separately managed reserves and other protected lands owned by various public and private entities that have each signed an Implementation Agreement that obligates them to manage their lands consistent with the Natural Community Conservation Plan. Geographically it is similar to the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve, which also encompasses many separately managed reserves and other protected lands owned. Both include Upper Newport Bay. The relationship between NROC and the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve Trust is evolving.
- c. NROC is funded by a \$10.6 million endowment which is supplemented by the collection of mitigation fees from landowners who are not participants in the NCCP but whose land is located within participating jurisdictions. The NCCP encourages large-landscape open space preservation and adaptive land management efforts while providing a streamlined development process. NROC has a staff of two (Lyn and Milan) and an annual budget of roughly \$500,000 including exotic plant control. Staff presents recommendations for expenditures to its Board each December for approval of a budget. Each NCCP Participant appoints one director (with one alternate) to the NROC Board.
- d. The role of NROC is to:
 - Coordinate the activities of participating land owners/managers and ensure activities of each are consistent with the Plan.
 - Prepare annual report to wildlife agencies
 - Develop area-wide restoration, enhancement, fire management and other plans
 - Conduct and/or manage habitat/wildlife monitoring and invasive plant removal projects
 - Facilitate a technical advisory committee made up of Participants and scientific expertsNROC has no enforcement authority. The enforcement comes from whichever agency issued the permits pertaining to the land use of the Participant.
- e. Previously The Nature Conservancy was under contract to NROC to oversee contractors involved in monitoring and restoration projects. Milan was recently hired to take on this task in-house. His current focus is an analysis of 5 years of baseline data to decide how best to make future management decisions. The

planning process allows for adaptive management – i.e. what is done can change based on new scientific evidence.

- f. The Central Coastal Orange County Planning Area NCCP is focused on uplands NCCPs in other regions include watershed planning efforts, including riparian and wetland habitat. NROC has been implementing the NCCP plan for nearly 10 years and is making significant progress. Other Southern California NCCPs are still in the planning phase.

The agenda of the business portion of the meeting was rearranged to accommodate a meeting conflict. Items were addressed as follows:

1. Dave provided an update on the construction of the new BBSC. The total estimated building cost with site improvements is now \$5.2 million. This excludes the indoor and outdoor exhibits. The City feels that it now has the funds in hand or in the form of written commitments and intends to go out to bid mid-June. HCA has indicated that action must be taken before the end of this county fiscal year to avoid jeopardizing the HCA contribution. There would be a 45-day bid cycle with bid opening roughly July 31, and a contract let at the start of September 2005. Construction would be completed by September 2006. Brian has started the ball rolling on the Demonstration Marsh project funded by WCB. Brian and Dave will coordinate the two contracts to ensure the two projects are not at odds with each other with respect to civil work. Richard indicated that the ground lease with DFG has been signed and he expects design documents for the new UCI boat house to go to DFG for review next month, and then for Coastal permitting. The project will be done design/build with UCI's in-house architect providing the design development drawings and the contractor the detailed construction drawings and specifications, which gives a shorter overall schedule.
2. Dave reported that the changes suggested to the Public Use Map Poster at the last meeting have been incorporated and it is ready for printing. He has sent out an email with a link to the pdf file of the map on the City web. It was agreed that everyone should review it and provide any additional comments to Dave in the next 2 weeks at which point it will be final. Other Management Coalition members may link to it or post on their web sites. Dave indicated the city can provide laminated posters up to 4'6" by 6'0". The Restoration Team will come up with a list of locations where the map will be posted and the size/mounting specifications for each. Dave will check to see if the pdf file size can be reduced.
3. The draft minutes of the January 28, 2005 meeting were not approved. Brian will provide input to Roger with respect to shortening and rewording some of the items.
4. Roger circulated the latest Management Coalition Roster, which he updated immediately before the meeting. He will re-email it to everyone, with additional updates received in the meeting.
5. Roger indicated that revisions to the draft NBNF 2005-2007 Business Plan will be made after the bids on the BBSC are opened and it is known whether or not construction will proceed. The draft Business Plan assumes the new BBSC will be operational by the end of 2006, so it will need rethinking if this is not the case. As agreed at the last Management Coalition meeting, negative language regarding teamwork will be removed.
6. Jack gave a report on the UNB Research Liaison activities assigned to Irwin Haydock at the last meeting. Irwin's wife recently died and he has not been able so far to interact with Joni and Brian as intended because of his bereavement. He will be at the Restoration Team meeting on Monday.
7. Ernie Seidel of the HBP design group was not able to attend the meeting and report on the status of the draft "Site Element Design Guidelines" document produced by Ernie with input from Joni, Brian and others. The document shows preferred designs for land-based signage, fencing, kiosks, benches and

related items. Jack indicated that he is anxious to see it finalized and distributed to contractors, etc. for use in coming projects. It was decided that Jack would ask Ernie to issue the latest draft to the primary Management Coalition standing members with a request for email comments copied to all recipients within 2 weeks. Ernie will resolve any inconsistencies in the comments and issue an approved document immediately thereafter. The Restoration Team will decide on the distribution of the document. Lyn will get a copy.

8. Roger reported on the UNB Map Brochure. He recapped decisions made at previous meetings - that it should have the same look and feel as the current UNB Educational Programs brochure, and include a modified version of the Map discussed in Item 2 above to provide legibility, etc. at the reduced size, and the text and other components previously reviewed. In the next 2 weeks Roger will provide a complete recap as well as the latest versions of all texts for everyone to review one last time before handing over to the graphics artist to do the design. He would like any additional comments within two weeks to allow the design to be done and a pdf of the actual brochure to be issued for review by everyone. By the next MC meeting we should be ready to go to print. HBP has agreed to do the printing.
9. Matt announced that the Coastal Commission High School Activity Guide to Upper Newport Bay is now available. It will be distributed to local schools during the summer for use in the coming school year. Matt also provide a brief overview of current community restoration projects at UNB.
10. Terri requested that MC members provide electronic versions of GIS maps showing land ownership, etc. and other documents to the contractor DFG has recently hired to prepare a Land Management Plan for the Ecological Reserve. If there is any problem handing over individual document layers, generalized data would be OK.
11. Discussion took place regarding sharing of methodologies and success and failure stories with respect to restoration projects. Both the UNB Restoration Team and NROC provide a forum for information sharing. Brian asked if NROC host an annual seminar of what each is doing. Lyn indicated that NROC is planning a symposium next year on the state of the Reserve, and that sessions on monitoring and restoration projects could be incorporated.
12. Larry reported on the status of the Corps dredging project. The House of Representatives will mark up the Appropriations Bill next week and a final lobbying effort is being made to add \$13 million to the federal budget for the 2006 fiscal year which starts October 2005, with the hope of getting \$5-10 million. The Coastal Conservancy will provide the 35% non-federal funding up-front to allow work to begin this fall with or without the full federal portion. It is important to move forward now on a 2-year construction cycle. Costs are escalating, and the Coastal Conservancy money is subject to re-review in 2006. Larry and Susan will provide template emails and address lists for Jack to send out last minute reminders to the OC delegation about the importance of the federal funding in this budget. Jack will do so and forward this information on to other groups to do the same. Susan requested that Terri remind Steve Puccini the DFG lawyer reviewing the Project Cooperation Agreement that it is important that this document is finalized and made ready for signature, since this must be done for the construction contract to be put out to bid. Otherwise the project could be jeopardized.
13. Management Coalition goals were addressed. Completion of Items 2, 6 and 7 are immediate goals. Beyond that much is contingent on progress with the BBSC, Corps dredging project, Big Canyon project, DFG Land Management Plan, etc. Establishment of an Operating Plan for the new BBSC is an important goal. It was agreed that important goals of the Restoration and Education Teams should be elevated to the Management Coalition and championed by the Management Coalition. Both teams should examine what they believe should be important goals and provide input to the Management Coalition for the next meeting.

14. The next MC meeting was tentatively set for Tuesday, August 9, from 9:30 to 12 at the Interpretive Center. This date is contingent on the date of BBSC construction bid opening, since MC goals for September 2006 onwards will be driven somewhat by this project as well as the Corps project. Roger will check with Dave Kiff on this and notify everyone to a need to change the date as we get closer to the date.

Minutes prepared by Roger Mallett
May 6, 2005