

**UNB RESTORATION TEAM
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Draft 8/10/07

Meeting Date: Monday, August 6, 2007

Meeting Time : 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Interpretive Center

Attendees:	Matt Yurko (California Coastal Commission)	Dennis Baker (NBNF)
	Shannon Levin (City of Newport Beach)	Tom Fox (NBNF)
	Ernie Seidel (County HBP)	Irwin Haydock (NBNF)
	Jennifer Naegele (County HBP)	Jack Keating (NBNF)
	Susan Brodeur (County RDMD)	Rik Katzmeier (NBNF)
	Bill Reiter (County HBP)	Don Millar (NBNF)
	Dick Watts (NBNF)	Buddy Cox (Homeowner)

1. The 7/30/07 draft of the minutes of the 5/7/07 Restoration Team meeting was approved.
2. PREVIOUS MEETING ACTIONS: All actions were completed with the exception of the information on easement details on HBP lands in the Bay View slope area. Ernie Seidel will provide the information to Dennis.
3. ROOTS PROJECTS: Matt reported excellent participation continues. Dry conditions have resulted in some plant loss, which will likely continue. Nursery on Shellmaker is producing sufficient plants to meet requirements. All projects are moving forward.
4. HBP PROJECTS. Jennifer reported that all Second Sunday projects are doing well. Irrigation of Butterfly Habitat is producing positive results. Shade Structure planning for amphitheater is well along. Donor is working with HBP staff to agree on cost and schedule for installation. Volunteers are currently providing 300 hrs/mo for assistance in planting projects. Tom offered kudos to Jennifer for her efforts.

Action Item: Jennifer will ask for additional volunteer support from NBNF.

5. WEST BAY RESTORATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT: Ernie Siedel reported the 6-Acre project has been approved and permits confirmed. Seven potential contactors have been briefed and bids are expected within 30 days. The permanent fencing along the trail is part of the specification as requested by the Restoration Team.
6. SINK HOLE: No report on the sinkhole at the terminus of Eastbluff Park.
7. BIG CANYON RESTORATION: Jack reported on the public meeting organized by the City on August 1st. The purpose was to present the details of the restoration plan. The planning elements include an assembly area for 100 students termed an amphitheater. Meeting participants generally agreed with plans as presented, requesting City to limit noise and evening activity. Plan details on City website. Public urged to offer comments on plan by August 17th.

Bluffs Homeowners President (Big Canyon area) was in attendance and requested assistance in HOA grant application to provide funds for invasive tree species removal. NBNF and City will coordinate on response. During discussion, it was agreed that this should become a model of the way the Restoration Team works with all HOA's surrounding the Back Bay in addressing the collaboration necessary to remove non-native species. There are 8 HOA's on the East side of the Bay alone.

Action Item: Matt, Bill and Tom will prepare preliminary list of ideas for items that need to be coordinated between adjacent HOA's and the Restoration Team.

8. ACOE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT: Susan reported that DD-M, the contractor is essentially on the schedule provided in June. Continuance of dredge spoil removal in the 23rd Street area awaits DFG approval because of nesting birds. HBP representatives discouraged the planned continuance of dredge spoil removal onto County property because of the impact on the freshwater marsh in the area. Susan said this additional work was estimated by the ACOE in the \$1.5 to \$2.0 million range and that it was uncertain ACOE would offer credit for the North Star Beach dredging effort already included in the contract. Jack reported that at the July 19th ACOE Status meeting, the Regional Waterboard representative commented the annual sediment load forecast for the UNB was roughly half of the load used in planning the ACOE project. He said the FWS representative at the same meeting remarked that if the sediment load is reduced, the option of not moving Skimmer Island to South of the salt dike could be available. Jack also suggested the possibility of using the additional mudflat created by the Big Canyon project as credit for not accomplishing the North Star Beach dredging. Further, the Federal share of funding necessary to complete the project is uncertain, resulting in the need to consider ways of reducing the contract scope. Susan said that a meeting of all of the involved agencies would be called within the next two weeks to discuss this situation and determine the options to realign the ACOE contract.

Action Item: Susan will arrange meeting of the agencies to review options of modifying the ACOE contract.

9. BBSC LANDSCAPING: Matt reported landscaping is in process and is being irrigated. Tom mentioned there is a need for a rock barrier placed adjacent to the entry gate. The barrier is needed to prevent high tide erosion of the road.

Action Item: Rik will contact Jeff Stoddard to discuss need for rock barrier.

10. IRWMP/CRMP/HAMP ACTIVITIES: Jack discussed the interrelationship of the three major parts of the NB Watershed management program. He said NBNF has coordinating role in establishing the ecological vision of the watershed consisting of estuary, riparian and terrestrial elements. He said this work is being coordinated with all of the agencies including NROC and IRLRT, as well as various environmental groups. He also mentioned the data assessment and cataloging effort NBNF plans to accomplish on behalf of the City as it relates to the CRMP.
11. UNB TRAIL PLANNING: Dennis suggested the need for the Restoration Team to identify specific areas for needed restoration work and then divide each area into specific projects to prioritize for funding. He provided a "google" map showing the Bay View Slope area. The Restoration Team agreed to this concept and Jennifer reported that she and Jeff will concentrate on trail planning in the Bay View Slope area and work to obtain agreement among the property

owners in the area. After this areas has trail plans defined, they will turn their attention to the 23rd Street and West Bay area.

The Bay View Slope area will include the Mesa slope. The Restoration Team will identify projects within the area and decided that immediate attention would be directed to two projects: Mesa Trail and Mesa Drainage.

1) The Mesa Trail is proposed as an 8 foot wide DG trail exiting the existing paved trail at the end of Mesa Drive to the right and intersecting the existing paved trail toward the Southwest. A map showing the proposed trail was provided. The trail will be bordered by a steel cable fence. The rationale for adding the new trail is considered to be valid in order to justify the removal of all other "illegal" trails in the area. Although valuable habitat will be taken for the trail, it is believed necessary to provide reasonable public access to the area and secure the cooperation of the public in staying on the approved trails. The project will be planned and funded so that the restoration of the area will take place immediately after the trail is constructed.

2) The Mesa Drainage is necessary to route an existing storm drain along Mesa Drive and provide a suitable route across City, County and DFG property into the Bay. The existing storm drain exits Mesa Drive between two adjacent properties and flows South to the Bay through a badly eroded ditch. The ditch contributes a considerable amount of sediment to the Bay. Consensus was reached to ask the City to include the rerouting of the storm drain in the planned project to underground the utilities. In addition the City would be asked to route the drainage at the terminal of the storm drain to the left at the end of Mesa Drive into the Bay View Park area and down the hill into the Bay. The hydrology of the area needs to be suitable to allow the storm and nuisance flow to spread into the ground rather than race to the Bay with its load of sediment. This project will take close coordination with the Santa Ana Heights PAC, the City, HBP and DFG.

12. VISTA POINT PROJECT: Jack reported the project has progressed to the point that contractors will be solicited for construction at the site. Plans have been approved by the City and Coastal Commission "go ahead" is expected next week. Essentially all of the work performed to date has been accomplished on a pro-bono basis. Potential donors of funds to complete the project have been identified and the initiation of construction is expected in October.
13. HORSE ARENA: Dennis reported the end of the comment period for the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been extended at the request of DFG. Comments on the MND will not be available until the DFG comments are received.

Action Item: Ernie will provide Dennis with information as to how to access central files at county RDMD so that Dennis can check on the details of the easements.

14. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was set for Monday, November 5, 2007 from 3-5 pm at the Interpretive Center.

Minutes prepared by Jack Keating
August 10, 2007