

**UNB RESTORATION POLICY TEAM  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Meeting Date: Monday, May 9, 2005

Meeting Time : 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Interpretive Center

Attendees:	Brian Shelton (DFG)	Joy Barnes (HBP)
	Matt Yurko (CCC)	Ernie Seidel (HBP)
	Ashley Bautista (CCC Intern)	Tom Fox (NBNF)
	Grace Wang (CCC Intern)	Irwin Haydock (NBNF)
	Vince Almario (CCC Intern)	Jack Keating (NBNF)
	Shannon Swafford (City of NB)	Roger Mallett (NBNF)
	Spencer Langdon (Golden West College)	

Prior to the business portion of the meeting, Peter Bowler, Ph.D., Lecturer in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UCI gave a presentation on the history and current activities/issues at the UC Natural Reserve System/San Joaquin Fresh Water Marsh Reserve. Historically this was part of the Tustin Plain, which was a wetland. The whole area was drained in the early 1900's. In 1968 an artificial drainage system was created with concrete channels. The duck ponds to the north west of San Diego Creek, which were historically saltmarsh, are currently freshwater marsh. Also, tidal influence would naturally extend up San Diego Creek to Michelson, but a dam was installed at McArthur to prevent this. A big problem facing them is invasion by garland chrysanthemum which grows uncontrolled in the flood control easement along San Diego Creek. Peter believes a great opportunity exists to reconnect the UC Natural Reserve System/San Joaquin Fresh Water Marsh Reserve with the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve by removal of the dam at McArthur and restoring pickleweed, etc. to the biological corridor that exists along San Diego Creek. Peter suggested that the Team should take a tour. Matt will coordinate this.

1. The minutes of the 2/7/05 Restoration Team meeting were approved.
2. Joy handed out information on green waste disposal obtained from Tierra Waste Industries on behalf of Joni, and indicated that Joni is still trying to collect similar information from other sources. Matt noted that the disposal cost of delivered green waste was substantially less than the cost of the green waste skip they had on Shellmaker. Matt will coordinate with Joni on options. Joy will ask Joni to circulate more complete information by email in the next couple of weeks.
3. Ernie handed out the latest version of the "Design Guidelines for Site Elements" document. The next step is for the team to review the choices presented in the document and decide on which would be most suitable for major projects at UNB. At the same time construction details could be added. Jack indicated that the Management Coalition would like to formally approve the document so that it can be officially issued to those involved in design projects at UNB. Ernie will issue the document to Jack by email requesting approval, and Jack will forward it to the right people on the Management Coalition.
4. Matt reported that he had discovered that he needed to do substantially more information-gathering than he anticipated to create the Guidelines for Planting/Exotic Removal. This includes both technical and agency policy information. Discussion took place regarding the purpose and format of this document, particularly because best practices were continually changing. Brian suggested that Irwin, as UNB Research Liaison, be involved in compiling the bibliography of applicable information. Irwin will work

with Matt on this. The consensus was to create a web-based resource, and then a bulletin board that would allow people to report on their successes and failures with various planting and removal methods. As part of this discussion Tom handed out information from the California Exotic Pest Plant Council on controlling artichoke thistle which advocated applying herbicide by brush directly onto cut stumps. Tom stated that there was a huge amount of thistle at John Wayne Gulch (Newport Valley) and he would like to use that method there. Brian observed that the same type of safety precautions would be needed and suggested application to the cut stumps using a Windex bottle type sprayer with narrow jet. Matt will discuss plans with the City.

5. Brian reported on the Big Canyon project. California Coastal Conservancy funding to do the hydrology, planning and permitting has been confirmed, but the City has decided not to sole-source this phase of the work to CCI, but to go out to bid. Thus the project has been delayed. CCI were encouraged to team with another consultant with stronger design expertise and submit a bid. Shannon will check on the status of the RFP, and find out schedule for the letting of the contract and the work itself. Brian also reported on Items C, O and V on the 3-Month Schedule. The roadside beautification and removal of unauthorized turnoffs on Back Bay Drive is essentially done and can come off the list. The necessary agreements for the South Shellmaker Demonstration Marsh project funded by WCB have been signed and a contract will be issued to Tree of Life for planting. Brian will coordinate with the City to see if the grading for this project and the BBSC can be done together. A contractor has started work on the new Ecological Reserve Management Plan. Brian was not able to provide a estimated completion date.
6. Ernie provided an update on Items J, N1 and N2 on the 3-Month Schedule. The Horse Arena Relocation project has apparently transferred for the County to the City. Ernie will find out the names of the individuals involved in this. The West Bay Habitat project has slipped as a result in changes in workload within the HBP Design Group. The West Bay Access and Restoration Project is on hold, apparently because of lack of funding from the City due to budget cuts. DFG is considering fencing the area as a result. Ernie will find out the names of the individuals involved in this decision and pass along to Jack who will try to break this log jam.
7. Jack reported on the status of the Corps dredging project. The House of Representatives will mark up the Appropriations Bill this 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. Jack also reported that a meeting of the Newport Bay Watershed Management Committee would take place on May 11, 2005 at IRWD. Jack indicated that he would like to see the Butterfly Garden tracked separately from the Irrigation project (Item M), since the donor is expecting progress reports.
8. Matt reported on ROOTS projects. The two main ones are Bay View Mesa and Newport Valley. Significant weeding and plant replacement needs to be done before the watering project can begin in June at Bay View Mesa. Wednesday Steward Days are being held there instead of on Shellmaker to complete the preparation work. Invasives continue to be removed at Newport Valley, and they have stated plantings. They have a grant from the Wetlands Recovery Project. Matt also announced that the interns were organizing a special ROOTS work date on June 4. Matt will provide details to Rita McCoy so she can announce it via email and in the Clapper Rail Mail. Ashley reported on the project paper she is doing on the impact of volunteers and indicated that she would like to interview agency staff as well as volunteers. She would also like to share the paper with the team when she is done.

9. Discussion took place the state the trails and the overgrowth of vegetation over on the west side along Irvine Avenue. Joni is working on trying to obtain FEMA money to repair the washed-out barranca trails. The holes in some locations are very unsafe. Joni would like to reroute one trail at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street that gets washed out every year. The Team commented that more priority needs to be given to ensuring that the problems are properly addressed in the long-term by moving forward with Projects N1 and N2. The Team also noted that right now (after perhaps the wettest season on record) was the ideal time to inventory all of the trail and bluff damage on both sides of the Bay, so that the natural drainage paths could be noted and taken account of in future trail design, etc.
10. It was decided that in future the 3-Month Schedule will be updated after the quarterly meeting and not before.
11. The UNB Restoration 2-Year Project Planner was not reviewed. Roger will contact people individually to obtain input to allow him to update it.
12. Jack reported that the Management Coalition would like the Restoration Team to provide input on short and long-term goals for discussion at the next Management Coalition meeting on August 9. Specifically items that need elevating to the Management Coalition level in order to exert more influence in removing roadblocks to urgently needed projects should be identified.
13. The date for the next meeting will be Monday, August 1, 2005 from 3-5 pm at the Interpretive Center to allow for discussion of goals for presentation to the Management Coalition the following week.

Minutes prepared by Roger Mallett  
May 10, 2005