

**IUNB RESTORATION TEAM
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Draft 11/18/06R1

Meeting Date: Monday, November 6 , 2006

Meeting Time : 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Interpretive Center

Attendees: Rik Katzmeier (NBNF) Jack Keating (NBNF)
Irwin Haydock (NBNF) Ernie Siedel (HBP Design)
Jennifer Naegele (County HBP) Tom Fox (NBNF)
Susan Brodeur (County RDMD)

1. The minutes of the 8/7/06 Restoration Team meeting were approved.
2. ACTION ITEM – UCI Reserve Tour. Matt will arrange.
3. ACTION ITEM-DREDGE SPOILS: Susan stated that all permits are in place for the work currently authorized under the current ACOE contract. Action complete.
4. ACTION ITEM-ACOE KIOSK DESIGN: Susan will determine the amount of funds in the current ACOE contract for interpretive signage. Jack will then engage Jim Cokas or possibly Acorn Naturalists to help with the design and placement of the signage.. (NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting Susan reported \$44K is available for kiosks in Option III of the contract. This option has not been authorized. Action complete.
5. ACTION ITEM-IRVINE RANCH ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT FUND: Matt will write a thank you note to TNC and let them know that the Restoration Team will be ready to go again next year with all County and DFG permits in place.
6. ROOTS PROJECTS: Tom reported on the very successful work accomplished last month in Newport Valley. 144 volunteers, organized in 5 groups removed substantial quantities of exotic plants and learned a great deal in the process. The “educational talks” provided at this event will be a standard for similar events in the future. The upcoming Bay View project was also discussed.
7. WEST BAY RESTORATION: Ernie (HBP) presented the specifications for the “6-Acre Project”. Ernie will provide a copy of the specs to DFG, CCC and NBNF as soon as possible. Approval to release the specs for competitive bid by the BOS is expected in January and work will begin in early Spring 2007. Discussion resulted in following decisions.
 - Ernie will include an option in the bid package to include a permanent fence along the trail. A temporary fence is baselined, but it seems more practical to provide the permanent fence since it will be required after project completion.

- A monitoring program will be arranged by HBP staff with volunteers to determine the long-term effectiveness of the planting and erosion control provisions.
 - A program will be arranged at the IC by HBP in February 2007 to acquaint the public with the purpose of the project and obtain their support in helping make the project successful.
8. **BIG CANYON RESTORATION:** Rik reported on the October Stakeholder meeting held by WRC. A second Stakeholder meeting will be held in December. The “historic tidelands” option has been selected which will result in restoring tidelands and routing Back Bay Drive around the fresh water pond. After discussion, the Restoration Team recommended the City consider the option of limiting the paved portion of Back Bay Drive to the section between San Joaquin Road and Big Canyon. The paved section would be used for bus transportation and ADA purposes. It was noted that if the road required widening, this option may not be desirable because of possible erosion problems or habitat loss. The remainder of Back Bay Drive would be available for walking, hiking and biking. These activities may increase because of the planned Back Bay Loop Trail and the Mountain to Sea Trail. Jack will approach Dave Kiff to determine the strategy of taking this recommendation to the City Council.
9. **SOUTH SHELLMAKER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT:** Rik reported that the dredging of the marsh has been completed and arrangements have been made with ROOTS and Tree of Life to initiate planting early next year. The work of Coastal Resources Management (Rick Ware) in creating the marsh was well planned and was accomplished on schedule
10. **LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN (LMP):** Jack reported the planned public review of the plan was not held, and had no further information.
11. **COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (CRMP):** Jack reported that HBP is ready to proceed with the CRMP and the process of creating the statement of work for this important Bay wide plan has begun. The City has taken the lead role. (Note: This information has been updated since the meeting)
12. **BUTTERFLY HABITAT PROJECT:** Jennifer reported on a successful meeting between the donor, NBNF and HBP to determine the completion dates for the authorized project features and plans for future improvements. All of the authorized work will be completed by year end. Discussion of future projects included the possibility of including shade trees in the area of the Butterfly Habitat. It was recommended that oak trees not be considered because of their effect on other plants in the habitat. The donor has agreed to accelerate the project funding to cover the work already accomplished.
13. **ACOE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT:** Susan Brodeur provided the following information:
- The existing contract is valued at \$18M and has an option to be extended provided the Congress authorizes additional funds for the second year. The work on the current contract is expected to be completed in July 2007. Since \$5M has been authorized by both Both the House and Senate Water

and Energy subcommittees it is likely these funds will be available for additional contract work. The County Legislative staff is forming a strategy to ensure sufficient federal funds are available to complete the project.

- The contractor is making good progress. The Unit II basin is being dredged and 4500 cubic yards of material are being removed daily. Some noise complaints from homes adjoining the bay are being addressed by the County. After Unit II dredging is completed, the contractor will build the new skimmer island south of the salt dike. The existing skimmer island near the Unit I/III basin will not be removed as a part of the current contract. (See note below).
- Dredge spoils near 23rd street will be removed. ACOE is considering doing additional restoration work in this area instead of the originally planned dredging of a channel adjacent to the Newport Aquatic Center. Details of this contract change will be available in December. (See paragraphs 3 and 4 above for details relating to this project).
- The latest ACOE status report is now available and will be distributed to Restoration Team members.

NOTE: At the August meeting, Jack expressed concern that relocation of the Skimmer Island to the South side of the salt dike could result in curtailing boating in the area during tern nesting season and may result in unnecessary disruption of endangered species. Instead, he suggested the possibility of reshaping the existing Skimmer Island, shifting it to the South to make room for the Unit I/III basin. Further discussions have indicated the ACOE re-planning to accommodate this idea is extensive and that since F&WS and DFG have approved the existing plan, no changes will be made. Subsequent to the meeting, Irwin and Jack reviewed this concept and concluded it will be necessary to carefully monitor the activity of bird usage on the new skimmer island and continue the monitoring process to understand the effects of the disruption of bird use of the existing skimmer island. Dick Zembal was recently contacted by both Irwin and Jack and although he did not initially support the idea of moving the island, he recognizes the decision should stand provided adequate monitoring is accomplished.

14. VISTA POINT PROJECT: Jack reported that the Vista Point Project coordinator, Ralph Clock, has re-submitted the permit application and the Coastal Commission is expected to approve the project at its mid-January meeting. (NOTE: This information has been updated since the meeting).
15. COUNTY PROJECTS: Jennifer reported on the following projects:
 - Early College HS. Freshmen from this nearby high-school have been actively participating in restoration projects on Nature Preserve lands. The interest level is high and the results are rewarding. Students are helping remove non-natives, planting natives and monitoring results. This relationship is expected to last for many years involving the new freshman class each year. The possibility oft having some of the freshman students

return in subsequent years to help provide leadership for the new freshmen is being discussed.

- Ventura Marsh Milk Vetch. This endangered plant has been found historically at Bolsa Chica and the possibility of establishing a community at the Nature Preserve is being explored with the Native Plant Society.
- OC Coastkeeper Water Conservation Project. Jennifer is working with OC Coastkeeper to establish a water conservation project near the corner of University and Irvine Blvd. It is expected this project will provide irrigation for this area and subsequently provide a more attractive entrance to the IC. The goals of this project are in keeping with the GDP and Preserve mission statement and include:
 - Beautification of a highly visible segment of the Preserve.
 - Education/outreach to a broad public segment.
 - Productive use of an area using negligible habitat.
 - Partnership with a well respected community-based non-profit.
 - Release of facility staff to concentrate on Preserve core areas..

16. **NEW BUSINESS:** UNB Trail, Site Element and Integrated Interpretive Planning. Jack introduced this subject to ask for the Restoration Team support on the immediate need to address this subject in advance of the availability of the CRMP. He pointed out that many significant restoration projects have begun requiring detailed planning in these three areas. The projects include Big Canyon, Vista Point, West Bay (6-acre), Shellmaker salt-water marsh, and ACOE restoration projects. Styles of fencing, kiosks, and interpretive panels should be consistent with the Site Element Guidelines approved by the Management Coalition. In addition, interpretive themes at the UNB should be determined holistically to avoid unnecessary duplication at various sites. The Restoration Team agreed this issue must be addressed now. Jack agreed to discuss this matter with DFG, HBP and the City and recommend a method of organizing and funding this effort. The target completion of this planning is April 2007 so as to provide guidance for the above projects.
17. **NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting was set for Monday, February 5, 2007 from 3-5 pm at the Interpretive Center.

Minutes prepared by Jack Keating
November 19, 2006