

**UNB RESTORATION TEAM  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Meeting Date: Monday, November 5, 2007

Meeting Time : 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Interpretive Center

Attendees:	Matt Yurko (California Coastal Commission)	Sudath Alvis (Dudek)
	Jennifer Naegele (OC Parks)	Bill Whittenberg (Dudek)
	Bill Reiter (OC Parks)	Tom Fox (NBNF)
	Carolyn Schaffer (County WCRD)	Irwin Haydock (NBNF)
	Bob Stein (City of Newport Beach)	Jack Keating (NBNF)
	Siri Eggebraten (Connective Issue)	Rik Katzmeier (NBNF)
	Nancy Heuler (Connective Issue)	Roger Mallett (NBNF)
	Krista Sloniowski (Connective Issue)	Don Millar (NBNF)

1. The 8/10/07 draft of the minutes of the August 6 Restoration Team meeting was approved.
2. **PREVIOUS MEETING ACTIONS:** The following actions from the previous meeting were reviewed:
  - 2.1 Jennifer has talked to Rita McCoy about more volunteer support for OC Parks restoration projects. An orientation on the community-based restoration opportunities at the Bay and the associated volunteer needs will be included in the 12/1/07 Naturalist Training class.
  - 2.2 A meeting was held with The Bluffs HOA to ask them to try to remove Brazilian pepper, pampas grass and iceplant growing next to the Bay. The Landscape Committee chair of the HOA will coordinate this effort with the management company and its landscaping contractor.
  - 2.3 A meeting has been arranged for 11/7/07 to review options of modifying the ACOE contract for the dredging of UNB to leave Skimmer Island in place. See also Item 9.
  - 2.4 A rock barrier placed adjacent to the entry gate to the BBSC was suggested as needed to prevent high tide erosion of the road. This will be addressed on 11/11/07 as part of the ROOTS work on Shellmaker that day.
  - 2.5 Regarding action on Bay View Projects, Jack agreed to take the lead in working with the City (Bob Stein) to define a strategy for rerouting the Mesa Drainage. Jennifer and Bill will define a strategy for permitting the Mesa Trail and locating funds to accomplish the project.
  - 2.6 Ernie was going to 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 in the area of the planned new Horse Arena. The status on this was unknown.
3. **BRAINSTORMING OF IRWMP PROJECTS:** Roger provided a brief introduction to the Integrated Regional and Coastal Water Management Plan currently being prepared for the Newport Bay (Central Orange County) Watershed and the Newport Coast area. This Plan provides the opportunity to obtain Prop 84 and other bond funding. Most of the meeting was

devoted to brainstorming projects at and adjacent to UNB and correctly depicting them on an aerial photo of the Bay. A report on this brainstorming will be issued separately.

4. **ROOTS PROJECTS:** Matt reported that the nursery on Shellmaker has been producing sufficient plants to meet requirements and is now full. The October ROOTS event was cancelled. The November ROOTS event on 11/10/07 is the landscaping at Shellmaker Island. State Street has awarded NBNF a grant for \$10,000, which will be used for a tool trailer.
5. **OC PARKS PROJECTS.** Jennifer reported that Second Sunday projects continue to do well. The sign at the upper entry to the Butterfly Habitat is now in place. Mulching is currently being done and more planting will take place in December. Early College High will again do service learning at the Preserve.
6. **WEST BAY RESTORATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT:** A public meeting on the 6-Acre project was held on 10/25/07.
7. **SINK HOLE:** Bill Reiter reported that rock infill from the sinkhole at the terminus of Eastbluff Park has been disturbed. It is unclear whether this is a human or natural (i.e. rain storm) action.
8. **BIG CANYON RESTORATION:** Bob reported on the status of the project. The City had concerns about the ability of WRC to put in place the necessary engineering staff to complete the construction drawings in a timely fashion and intends to use a new contractor, VA Consulting, instead. The same sub-contractors will be used. This will be presented to the City Council in December. The design phase is expected to be complete by June 2008.
9. **ACOE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT:** The ACOE reported last week that the project only had sufficient authorized funds to continue dredging until March 2008. The contractor would need to be demobilized. Remobilization later would cause additional costs. The City, County and other local stakeholders are seeking at least \$4 million this fiscal year to enable work to continue, however this is very uncertain and other options may need to be explored.

As noted under Item 2.3, a meeting has been arranged for 11/7/07 to review options of modifying the ACOE contract for the dredging of UNB to leave Skimmer Island in place. The sedimentation issue was explored in depth during a 3-hour presentation and question and answer session. Key points raised were the potential for a huge influx of sediment in the next few years if a wet winter occurs before the slopes burned in the recent wildfires are re-stabilized by new growth, the importance of the large Basin I/III for not just holding capacity but also drop-out efficiency, and the lengthy and onerous process to change an approved ACOE project. This would likely jeopardize funding. It appears that the project will continue as-is.

10. **BBSC DEMONSTRATION MARSH:** Matt reported that irrigation was stopped at the end of September. Monitoring will be performed over the next few years as the vegetation matures and becomes resilient.
11. **UNB TRAIL PLANNING:** Jennifer reported that the Mesa Trail will need a new permit from the Coastal Commission because it does not follow the routing of the trail identified in the General Development Plan.

12. VISTA POINT PROJECT: Jack reported that there are a couple of minor items holding up the project. One is a Statement of Assumption of Risk is needed from DFG, the landowner of the site. The other is a Plan Check comment from the City regarding inclusion of modifications to the sidewalk curbing adjacent to the project. Jack requested assistance from Bob in resolving this matter, as NBNF does not have the budget to include this additional work. Bob said the City would be willing to waive the requirement to include this additional work in the site plans. Discussions with candidate contractors will take place next week with groundbreaking anticipated in January. The public opening ceremony will coincide with the first Friends Walk of next season in October 2008.
13. HORSE ARENA: Dennis reported at the last meeting that the end of the comment period for the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been extended at the request of DFG and that comments on the MND will not be available until the DFG comments are received. The status is unchanged.
14. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was set for Monday, February 4, 2007 from 3-5 pm at the Interpretive Center.

Minutes prepared by Roger Mallett  
November 12, 2007