

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

c. Ecology Committee (9/9/09) _____ (Dotson)

Committee Members: Whitney Dotson, Carol Severin, Mike Anderson, Gail Broesder, Britt Thorsnes

EBRPD Staff: Nancy Brownfield, Aileen Theile, Wilde Legard, Gayle Still

Public: Sylvia Falcon, Lou Falcon, Jean Peters, Diane Sequoia, Judi Bank, Jean Sweeney, Barbara Koor, Jim Sweeney

A meeting of the Ecology Committee was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at District Headquarters, Oakland, CA. This meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m. by Chairperson Whitney Dotson. The following is a summary of the items discussed:

I. Finalized 2008 Annual Analysis of Pesticide Use at East Bay Regional Park _____ (Brownfield)

This annual report was presented to the Ecology Committee on July 29, 2009. The Committee members made a number of suggested changes, corrections and additions to the text and tabular information presented. The recommended changes, corrections and additions have been made to this finalized version of the 2008 Annual Report. IPM Specialist Nancy Brownfield requested the Committee to accept the finalized version of the 2008 Annual Report. Chair Whitney Dotson made the motion to the Committee members to accept the finalized version of the 2008 Annual Analysis of Pesticide Use at the East Bay Regional Park District. The Committee members concurred. Director Carol Severin suggested that this report be presented to the Board of Directors. Assistant General Manager Mike Anderson commented that the continued low overall trend in pesticide usage over the years is quite an achievement for a 100,000 acre agency. Sylvia Falcon requested as a matter of better public understanding of the by-park pesticide usage that Pt. Isabel be separated from that of Miller Knox. Ms. Brownfield responded that the Committee members agreed with that process of accountability at the July 2009 meeting for satellite park pesticide usage.

2. Report on the Results of the 2009 Annual Santa Cruz Tarplant (*Holocarpa macradenia*) Survey in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park (Legard/Theile)

Resource Analyst Aileen Theile and District Botanist Wilde Legard gave a brief history of the occurrence of the Santa Cruz tarplant (*Holocarpa macradenia*) in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park and discussed the results of the 2009 survey conducted on August 5th. Wildcat Canyon Regional Park is only viable location in the East Bay where this plant exists. The Santa Cruz tarplant is considered state endangered and federally threatened and yet population numbers in this park continue to fluctuate year to year since their introduction in 1982. District staff, as well as volunteers and staff from other public agencies, meet each year for a day to survey eleven sites to monitor site status and population numbers. The removal of artichoke thistle and grazing helps to keep the thatch down and the Santa Cruz tarplant seed do best in disturbed areas. Years with heavy rain causes the grass to grow so much that grazing cannot keep up. The grass and thatch grow and shade out seeds and therefore reduces the numbers of Santa Cruz tarplant. This has been a twenty five year experiment and there have always been some sites that do well, with site six consistently being the best. There is one site where young trees have shaded out the plants.

3. District Response to a Letter from the Pt. Isabel Dog Owner Association (PIDO) regarding the Use of a Natural Weed Control Product at Pt. Isabel Shoreline Park (Anderson/Brownfield)

Assistant General Manager Mike Anderson distributed a July 18, 2009 letter from Pt. Isabel Dog Owners Association that a natural weed killer, BurnOut II, be considered as a replacement for Roundup for landscape weed control. IPM Specialist Nancy Brownfield distributed a current article by the Director of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation outlining California pesticide selection and use by government agencies. Key in this discussion was that the District is considered an "Agricultural Use" site and as such is restricted to those pesticide products labeled and manufactured for agricultural use sites. Burnout II is formulated and labeled for home use sites only. Naturalist Gail Broesder stated she reviewed the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for BurnOut II and indicated she would not recommend it because of the sensitivity some people have when exposed to the active ingredient clove oil. Committee Chair Whitney Dotson asked if there are any other natural weed killers commercially available as a Roundup substitute. Ms. Brownfield indicated there are products with less acetic acid and their efficacy is being evaluated, but they are not yet registered for use in agricultural use sites. Sylvia Falcon pointed out an article in Scientific American that indicated Roundup is toxic and alternatives should be explored. She requested a copy of the Committee Minutes when they are available.

4. Agenda Items for the next Ecology Committee Meeting – December 9, 2009

At the next Committee meeting, Nancy Brownfield will provide information on the District's participation in the local Two County Weed Management Area. The benefits of a coordinated coalition on invasive and noxious weed control will be discussed. Ms. Brownfield indicated that the Stewardship department would like to present updates on the Spartina Project and the Least tern project. Ms. Brownfield advised that union representative to the Ecology Committee,

Ed Leong, has retired and suggested that a letter of thanks be prepared for Committee Chair Whitney Dotson's signature. Gardener Britt Thorsnes has been appointed by the Union as Ed Leong's replacement.

5. Public Comment

Sylvia Falcon stated her concern with the new toilets being constructed at Pt. Isabel to replace the portable toilets. Large areas were dug up and she wanted to know if there are hazardous materials present. The area was formerly a dump site. AGM Mike Anderson said he would find out and report back.

Chairperson Whitney Dotson adjourned the meeting at 3:03. The meeting was reconvened at 3:14 for three residents of Alameda who arrived at 3:10. Jean Sweeny expressed her concern that Jeff Rasmussen gave his approval to the Boys and Girls Club for the Measure WW money to be used at a 22 acre rail yard that the City of Alameda has the opportunity of acquiring. She, along with Jim Sweeny and Barbara Koor, spoke of their desire to see the land preserved with native plants and trails and not privatized by the Boys and Girls Club.

Director Carol Severin asked if Ms. Sweeny has talked with the Park and Recreation Department. Ms. Sweeny said she would be meeting with them tomorrow. There is a public meeting in Alameda on the 15th and she welcomed anyone who would like to speak on their behalf.

Mr. Sweeney requested the District to make it clear that the Park District was not endorsing the Boys and Girls Club with Mr. Rasmussen's letter. Mr. Anderson said he would meet with Mr. Rasmussen to clarify that the letter was to qualify and not necessarily recommend the Boys and Girls Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35.