

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

9. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Board Executive Committee (7/5/2018) (Waespi)

Present

Board: Dennis Waespi, Ayn Wieskamp, Ellen Corbett

Staff: Ana Alvarez, Becky Pheng, Carol Victor, Bob Nisbet, Jim O'Connor, Brad Gallup, Aileen Theile, Kristen Van Dam, Jeff Rasmussen, Lisa Baldinger

Public: Dee Rosario, Jim Hanson, Marla Schmalle

Board Executive Committee Chair Dennis Waespi called the meeting to order at 11:50 am.

I. 2019 Safe and Healthy Forests Program of Work

Brad Gallup, Acting Assistant Fire Chief, presented this agenda item.

Mr. Gallup gave an overview of the history of the *Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan* ("Plan"). He showed a PowerPoint presentation of recent fuels management projects at the campground at Anthony Chabot, Grass Valley at Anthony Chabot, Frowning Ridge at Tilden, and Wildcat Canyon-Alvarado Park.

In 2018, the Park District maintained approximately 800 acres of previously treated fuel breaks in the Plan area and outside the Plan area. Projects that are near homes/neighborhoods have been identified as priority. Civicorps crews and contractors are hired to perform the fuels management projects. Funding for the projects come from a variety of sources including Measure CC and FEMA grants. The Alameda Whipsnake trapline project is a study to determine the effects of Alameda Whipsnake to thinning brush. Matt Graul, Chief of Stewardship, noted that as part of the FEMA grant, USFWS is requiring the Park District to undertake the study. Director Ellen Corbett asked staff for more information about the project, and how the trapline works. A discussion of the trapline and Alameda Whipsnake ensued. Director Dennis Waespi inquired if any studies have been undertaken to see what happens to Alameda Whipsnakes after a fire? Mr. Graul responded that no formal study has been undertaken. Mr. Gallup also commented that the projects are often difficult to prioritize. For the next two years, staff will focus and prioritize

those projects that are close to homes and neighborhoods, especially given the recent fires in the Bay Area. Director Ayn Wieskamp inquired if post assessments are conducted to determine if native species return in the project area. Mr. Graul responded that post assessments and follow ups are conducted. The reports will be posted on the Park District's website. Director Dennis Waespi asked if stakeholder groups or members of the public have been invited to view treatment projects as they are being conducted. Mr. Gallup replied that staff is working with Public Affairs on communication and public outreach. Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Deputy General Manager, commented that the Park District has a team working to provide more information and awareness to the public about the projects and the fuels management program.

Public Comment: Jim Hanson from the California Native Plant Society thanked staff for the presentation on the fuels management work and the living shorelines project.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

2. Giant Marsh Living Shorelines Project

Matt Graul, Chief of Stewardship, introduced Marilyn Latta, Project Manager from the California State Coastal Conservancy ("Conservancy"), who presented this agenda item.

Approximately 14% of U.S. shoreline is hardened through installation of hard infrastructure such as levees, seawalls, and ripraps. While this is necessary in certain locations, hard infrastructures have an effect on flora and fauna, and limit shoreline access and use.

Living shorelines include any shoreline management system that is designed to protect or restore natural shoreline ecosystems through use of natural elements and, and if appropriate, manmade elements. The work will occur in the bay and the reefs, and will be installed by boat and barge. The reef installation will improve the subtidal habitat and reduce wave energy at the shoreline. When selecting a project site, the following criteria was taken into consideration: existing uses, parcel ownership, bathymetry (depths for habitat restoration and access), orientation of wind/waves, existing species and habitats, sea level rise modeling, and required physical space. Currently, there are seven project test sites in the Bay Area, including Giant Marsh. Pictures of habitat enhancement treatments were shown, including shell bag mounds, reef balls, reef ball stacks, oyster blocks, and layer cake.

The San Francisco Bay Living Shorelines Project at Giant Marsh in the City of Richmond is a multi-habitat restoration project that will experimentally test the use of native oyster reefs, eelgrass beds, and other habitat enhancement treatments to provide shoreline protection and habitat improvement benefits. The pilot project will take place in the summer and fall of 2018. The Park District is working in partnership with the Conservancy on this project. Pictures from the San Rafael marsh project site were presented to the Committee. The project site has seen an increase in species. Staff anticipates a similar occurrence at Giant Marsh.

The Committee commented that this was a fascinating project, and inquired when data from the projects will be available. Ms. Latta responded that the projects are on five-year monitoring plan.

Monitoring reports are made available annually. The Committee inquired if additional project areas are being considered. Ms. Latta responded that there is a list of 30 potential project sites.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

3. Open Forum for Public Comments

None.

4. Board Comments

Director Dennis Waespi asked staff to provide an update on activities in the regional parks over the July 4th holiday. Mr. Gallup responded that there were no fires in the parks. Aileen Theile, Acting Fire Chief, commented that the Fire Department was fully staffed. There were a lot of medical incidents; no drownings occurred in our swim facilities.

There being no further business, Chair Dennis Waespi declared the meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky K. Pheng