

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

b. Natural and Cultural Resources Committee (5/20/15) (Lane)

Committee Members: Beverly Lane, Whitney Dotson

EBRPD Staff: Bob Nisbet, Matt Graul, Denise Defreese, Joe Sullivan, Dave Riensche, Bev Ortiz, Kristen Van Dam,

Guests: Amelia Marshall, Carin High, Marty Morrow, Andree Soares, Cole Bush, Bill Croggins, Richard Kaufmann, Kelly Abren, Judy Banks

A meeting of the Board Natural and Cultural Resources Committee was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at District Headquarters, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA. Chairperson Beverly Lane called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. The following is a summary of the items discussed:

I. Alameda Creek Riparian Bird Community (Riensche)

Alameda Creek comprises one of the largest watersheds in the South San Francisco Bay. It provides refuge to a number of special status species, including an array of Neotropical migrant birds along the 14 mile stretch that flows through Sunol Regional Wilderness Area. Stewardship surveyed birds with point counts during each breeding season from 2007 through 2011. Over the five year study, 2,596 bird detections were recorded, including 57 species (7 riparian and 12 oak woodland conservation planning species). Multiple-species hierarchical Bayesian occupancy models were used to assess species occupancy and point richness to identify possible associations with vegetation, landscape characteristics, and stream reach location.

The highest species richness, as well as the highest focal species occupancy and richness, occurred along the upper stream reach section of Alameda Creek where elevation is higher and human activity is much lower. Vegetation factors were less influential on species occupancy than stream reach position. Unfortunately, there is no data that allows for addressing human use effects directly, as the number of visitors to the reaches is correlated with elevation. The results suggest elevation, topography, and human use patterns influence bird species richness and abundance in this riparian system.

2. Livestock Management for Environmental Services (Defreese)

Wildland Vegetation Manager Denise Defreese introduced Owner/President of Star Creek Land Stewards (SCLS) Andrée Soares and Project manager Brittany 'Cole' Bush to provide a visual presentation and short overview of services they have provided to the East Bay Regional Park District and other public land managers as a contractor for the fuel break and environmental stewardship services at the Serpentine Prairie, McLaughlin Eastshore State Park and over a half dozen EBRPD parks.

Over 200 sheep and goats were used on three acres for approximately three days to reduce the height of vegetation in the grasslands to promote the Presidio clarkia at the Skyline Serpentine Prairie. Ms. Defreese said she is looking forward to using SCLS on future projects. Chair Beverly Lane requested a Board tour of the Serpentine Prairie when the clarkia is blooming next season.

3. Cultural Services Coordinator Update (Ortiz)

Cultural Services Coordinator Bev Ortiz informed the Committee that her proposed five-year plan will be presented on Thursday, May 21 to the Board Operations Committee.

4. Future Agenda Items (Nisbet)

Stewardship Chief, Matt Graul suggested three agenda items for the August 19 meeting: blue green algae, Hayward least tern colony and grassland weed management.

Assistant General Manager, Bob Nisbet said he plans on presenting the reorganization of the Acquisition, Stewardship and Development department in November.

5. Public Comment (Lane)

Kelly Abreu distributed the New York Times article, "Roaming Elk at Point Reyes Bedevil Ranchers in California." He recommended that the grazing plan should be modified for the drought crisis at Mission Peak.

Mr. Abreu requested the iconic landmark pole at Mission Peak that marks a time capsule buried by the Boy Scouts 25 years ago not be demolished, but protected as a cultural and historical resource under the California Environmental Quality Act. He also advised a per person day use fee for Mission Peak would unfairly burden under-served communities.

Carin High reported the Ohlone Audubon, Friends of Coyote Hills and Citizens Committee to Complete Refuge is planning a poster contest for their favorite habitat at Coyote Hills. She expressed her hope that the boardwalk and additional least tern habitat at Coyote Hills would be addressed.

Chair Lane adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.