

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Executive (6/24/10) (Siden)

Attendees:

Committee Members: Directors Doug Siden, Ted Radke and Carol Severin (for Director Lane).

Staff: Ted Radosevich (Acting for GM Pat O'Brien), Dave Collins, Brian Wiese, Jim Swanson, Mary Mattingly, Allen Pulido, Megan Jones.

Public: Peter Rausch, Ciara Wood, Lech Naumovich, Mary McAllister.

Committee Chair Siden opened the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

I. 2011 Fuels Management Work Plan

John Swanson, Assistant Fire Chief, discussed the 2011 Work Plan as called for by the Board per the April 20, 2010 approval of the Wildfire Plan and the budgetary implications. The program of work will be revisited quarterly due to changes from the field as well as unexpected and unanticipated time-frame shifts. Other parks involved are not part of the planning process, but are included so that work may be tracked accordingly.

Asst. Fire Chief Swanson also spoke about funding for fiscal year 2011, which treats 1,192 acres. The total program will cost approximately \$840,000 and is broken down as follows: \$536,000 is funded from Measure CC, \$118,000 is funded from the general fund (which is where the Fire department budget comes from), as well as about \$163,000 in funds that were allocated from the capital project funding. Staff also works in conjunction with the Oakland Fire Department, which adds \$22,000 for services rendered.

Asst. Fire Chief Swanson then described the Stewardship Monitoring Program, which will cost an additional \$5,840. This program of work development includes input, analysis and review, along with hands-on involvement from staff in the Stewardship and Finance/Management Services departments. About 845 acres will be areas that have already had initial entry work. Staff anticipates 94 acres of

initial treatment in 2011 and plans on completing about 250 acres of prescribed burning for habitat management. Nearly 1,200 acres total in fuel treatment are estimated to be completed.

Director Radke asked if the level of work will change annually. Mr. Swanson stated that he anticipates an increase - as the District acquires more land, there will be an increasing need for fuels management.

Director Severin asked how trees taken down are disposed of; Mr. Swanson answered that they are removed and taken out by a contractor.

Director Siden asked Director Sutter's question that was phoned in regarding when the public will be able to comment. Mr. Swanson responded that the specific recommended treatment areas (RTA) were individually called out in the plan, and the plan was developed during numerous public meetings. It is the approved plan that staff is carrying out. He added that staff is constantly receiving input from the public and continued responsiveness is a goal.

District Counsel Radosevich, acting General Manager, added that the Executive Committee was much more broadly noticed.

Director Siden asked on Director Sutter's behalf if the plan goes to a committee; Mr. Radosevich responded that this will be an annual presentation before the Executive Committee.

Mr. Peter Rausch asked several questions: what do the priorities in the Work Plan mean, how will their categorization affect behavior, and why are some priorities higher than others? Mr. Swanson responded that the prioritization criteria specified in the plan was followed, emphasis was given to maintenance areas, and it is the District's view that the identified RTAs are all important. Mr. Rausch suggested that during meetings such as today that extra time be anticipated for ongoing public comments.

Mr. Rausch asked if there were any use for sheep, or will goats be used exclusively? Mr. Swanson responded that the use of sheep is being looked at and may be used after the end of the multi-year goat grazing contract. Director Severin asked if the goats do a much better job than sheep and wanted to know if there is a cost difference. Mr. Swanson replied that there are advantages and disadvantages because they each tackle the job differently; he does not know if there are cost differences. Grazing Manager Dave Amme is evaluating whether sheep can do a better/equivalent job than goats given site conditions.

Mr. Rausch asked about post-monitoring allocation; Mr. Swanson responded that staff is taking a look at last year's work and will use that as a guide as to what, if any, work should be done the coming year.

Director Siden asked when the plan would be brought before the committee again. Mr. Swanson's expectation is that he will be back in the winter of 2011 to discuss the 2012 plan.

Lech Naumovich from the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) spoke and thanked the District on behalf of CNPS for including prescribed burning, as they feel this will yield better results when done correctly. District Counsel Radosevich asked about the challenges in conducting a prescribed burn.

Mr. Swanson explained the necessary approvals and permits required of the burn plan from Calfire, BAAQMD, sometimes Fish & Wildlife Service.

Brian Wiese, Chief of Planning/Stewardship & GIS also responded that the stewardship reports will be made available to the public.

Recommendation: This was a discussion item; therefore, no recommendation is included.

2. Request for Board Contingency Funding for Hulet Hornbeck Oral History

Rosemary Cameron, AGM for Public Affairs, and General Manager Pat O'Brien have hoped that retired Land Acquisition Chief Hulet Hornbeck would agree to be interviewed for an oral history. Over the last several years, he has declined the District's requests; however, after reading the just-published "Living Landscape" by Laura McCreery, Mr. Hornbeck has indicated that he is now willing to be interviewed. Given the very significant land acquisition that occurred during Mr. Hornbeck's years as the District's Chief of Land Acquisition, as well as his role in the annexation of Contra Costa County prior to joining the District, it is staff's recommendation that an oral history be conducted by Laura McCreery of IGS as soon as is practical. The cost for conducting a formal oral history through IGS is \$24,900. Unfortunately, at this point in the year the Public Affairs Division budget no longer has adequate funding available to cover those costs. The General Manager has indicated that he would be able to cover half of the cost through the General Manager's Contingency which would leave \$12,450 to be funded from another source. District Counsel Ted Radosevich stated that the General Manager would like, as a matter of full disclosure, to tell the committee that he is supportive of this; however he would like the Board to know that they have approved some other requests from Board contingency funds, including TIGER Grants, another pending request from IS and Public Safety and if this matter is approved, the balance of the board contingency fund would be \$27,726.

Director Severin asked if these were video interviews. Ms. Cameron stated these are formal oral histories and interviews are not videotaped. The interviews are reviewed by the interviewee and then published in a formal bound book that is housed at the UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies.

Recommendation: By consensus, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the full Board authorize the transfer of \$12,450 from the Board's Contingency funds to for the purposes of conducting an oral history of Hulet Hornbeck.

3. Review of EBRPD Board Committees

Mary Mattingly, Administrative Support Manager, made a presentation on the listing of current Board committees for discussion and comment. She prepared the role of Board committees, the different types of committees, and a listing of all current Board committees as found in the Board Operating Guidelines, and a description of each listing of Board members and staff currently assigned to each committee

Ms. Mattingly continued that upon review, the Ecology Committee and the Natural Resources Committee appear to often have overlapping interests. She stated that the Ecology committee was

developed with Local 2428 under a labor agreement and provides for meetings between District management and Local 2428. District Counsel Ted Radosevich noted that the actual practice of Board participation has changed over the years and that the practice of the Ecology committee should more closely follow the Board's labor agreement.

Mr. Radosevich concurred with staffs' recommendation to move towards what the labor agreement provides, which is a labor management committee, noting whether this occurs in 2010 or 2011 is up to the Board because at this time it has become unclear which issues should be discussed between the Ecology and Natural and Cultural Resource committees.

Director Radke stated that the Ecology Committee was originally developed to address the use of pest management and herbicides. Mr. Radosevich noted that this is where the Integrated Pest Management Report came from and that the Committee is currently designed as a worker safety orientation committee. Director Severin noted that she has reservations with the proposed change. Director Radke and Peter Rausch commented that most of the ecology issues will be taken up by the Natural and Cultural Resources Committee. Director Siden added that he would favor honoring the original agreement and not starting until January 1, 2011.

Mr. Radosevich recommended at this point to change the item to a discussion item. He suggested posing an amendment to the Board Operating Guidelines for clarification.

The Committee, under the direction of Director Siden, went through Attachment B pages 2 – 7 and discussed the Board committee descriptions as provided by Ms. Mattingly.

Mr. Rausch suggested that the Board consider forming an East Shore State Park Committee (ESSP). Mr. Radosevich suggested having an ESSP update at the Executive Committee possibly twice a year.

Recommendation: This was a discussion item; therefore, no recommendation is included.

Meeting was adjourned by Committee Chair Siden at 2:25 p.m.