

CITY OF MORRO BAY
HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD
SYNOPSIS MINUTES

The regular meeting of the City of Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board was held Thursday, September 2, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

I. ROLL CALL

Present:	Members:	Brett Cunningham Gene Doughty Michele Leary Bill Luffee Lynn Meissen Jim Phillips Elaine Serda
	Staff:	Susan Lichtenbaum, Harbor Business Manager Eric Endersby, Harbor Operations Manager Polly Curtis, Office Assistant

II. MINUTES

Mr. Luffee moved the August 5, 2010 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen and carried unanimously.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Carla Borchard, City Councilmember, said that she welcomes any questions or concerns from the Board in her capacity as liaison to the Harbor Advisory Board. She said the Planning Commission approved the changes to the EIR Amendment on the Back Bay dredging project. She said Council would like the Boards and Commissions to discuss the issue of loading zones and delivery truck traffic on the Embarcadero at a future meeting. Also, the power plant has been sold, and information on the new owners will be passed on to the Board when available.

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

IV-1. Presentation by Dr. Dean Wendt on San Luis Obispo Science and Ecosystem Alliance (SLOSEA)

Chairman Phillips introduced Dr. Dean Wendt, professor at CalPoly. Dr. Wendt thanked Ms. Leary for asking him to make this presentation to the Board and giving him the opportunity to define his organization and explain the research. He said one of the goals of SLOSEA is to support sustainable fish populations and fishing communities.

Mr. Wendt reviewed the data on rockfish research in the packet handed out to the Board, specifically from the California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP). He said this project has combined the expertise of fishermen on their boats and scientists, and has established protocols that can be used to gather data for fishery management state-wide, as well as monitor changes in local fish populations. He said there are also three locations inside Morro Bay where monitors are set up, including on the pier in front of the Harbor Office, which records water quality, temperatures, tides, nitrates, and water flow. This data can be found on their website at www.slosea.org/collaborative.

Dr. Wendt pointed out one example of results from their collaboration with the Moss Landing Marine Labs after the third sampling year; data showed blue rockfish declining in numbers even though fishing was prohibited in the MPA collection area.

Discussion by the Board and Dr. Wendt on tidal flow data, MLPAs and laws, further data collection, length of time for monitoring, other colleges involved in data collection, and lack of funding. Mr. Cunningham asked why MLPAs exist if the state does not fund their own research and monitoring. Dr. Wendt agreed, saying that is a frustrating situation to everyone, since the cost can be upwards of \$200,000 per year. He added that it is very important and valuable for fishermen to return tagged fish or give the location and species information to SLOSEA (for the \$20.00 reward per tag) as the information will only increase the amount of knowledge to help scientists understand this area. He said it is to the benefit of fishermen and there is no ulterior motive for this data collection.

Dr. Wendt thanked the Board for inviting him. He quoted local fisherman and president of the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization, Jeremiah O'Brien, who said, "Coastal fishing communities are at risk. We all need to work together to make sure that we have a sustainable fishing industry for years to come."

IV-2. FY2010-2011 Harbor Budget Update

Ms. Lichtenbaum summarized the budget, which was approved by the City Council and adopted at their June 14, 2010 meeting. She gave the Board details on the capital projects for the Lease Site 35W-36W, and for the North T-Pier. The Board discussed the capital projects, and Chairman Phillips said the Board would like to be informed of the date when the LS35W project is on the City Council agenda. Mr. Doughty asked if stabilizing the Cannery dock would be a possible project, rather than the currently scheduled demolition project. Mr. Endersby reminded the Board that there is no land access and there are no easements on the property, therefore limited use. Ms. Lichtenbaum said estimates from several years ago for renovating the dock was \$300,000.

IV-3. Review of Request for Annual Launch Ramp Parking Pass

Mr. Endersby reviewed the Item, and said Staff recommends that no action be taken to implement an annual parking pass or permit program for the Launch Ramp pay parking for at least a year from initial implementation in order to review the current system. He said that one of the driving forces behind pay parking was the long-standing problem of vessels on trailers being stored in the lot. An annual pass system would likely recreate the storage issue without strong permit conditions in place. After researching other harbors, Mr. Endersby recommended using similar language to Ventura Harbor's Legal Notice for their Annual Pass. Discussion by the Board continued. Chairman Phillips suggested this Item be reviewed again next summer, and the Board agreed by consensus.

IV-4. Discussion Regarding Joint Harbor Advisory Board/Recreation & Parks Commission Meeting

The Board discussed the possibility of holding a Joint meeting with Recreation and Parks.

MOTION: Mr. Luffee moved to hold an onsite Joint Harbor Advisory Board/Recreation & Parks Commission meeting at the Coleman Park area in the spring to review any updates to the Master Plan. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen and carried unanimously.

V-1. Harbor Department Status Report

Ms. Lichtenbaum briefed the Board on the following topics from the Newsletter:

State Park Marina Dredging

Lifeguards

Avocado Festival

Harbor Fest

Rock to Rock Fun Run

Morro Photo Expo

Derelict Vessel Demolition Bid

St. Joseph

Dredging Nearly Completed

Coastal Cleanup Day

Local Fishermen Stories Exhibit

Tall Ship

Storm Preparation

VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Mr. Doughty said the mooring fees of \$150 per day for AIS Construction equipment in Morro Bay does not seem adequate, and that the fees should be \$150 per vessel per day. He also said the mooring should be on a temporary basis and not continue to a longer period. Ms. Meissen expressed her disappointment at the City Council's decision to let go of the Cannery dock.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Oct: Lifeguard Report

SPM Dredging

Nov: Sea Scouts in Morro Bay

Loading Zones on the Embarcadero

Boat Yard

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Submitted by,

Polly Curtis
Harbor Department