

**CITY OF MORRO BAY**

**HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD**

**SYNOPSIS MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the City of Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board was held Thursday, March 7, 2013 at 6:00 PM in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

**ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER**

Present:           Members:     Gene Doughty  
  Jeff Eckles  
  Bill Luffee  
  Dana McClish  
  Lynn Meissen  
  Jim Phillips  
  (Vacant Seat)  
                          Staff:           Eric Endersby, Harbor Director  
  Polly Curtis, Office Assistant

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CHAIR AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS**

Chair Eckles asked the Board for their announcements. Mr. McClish said the Morro Bay Yacht Club is completely reworking the gangway to the dock. The Yacht Club will host the Big Rock Regatta Youth Sailing on March 16-17, which includes a lot of races in the bay.

Chair Eckles announced the upcoming City of Morro Bay Goal Setting Workshops on March 11 and March 13.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. David, Morro Bay Coast Guard Auxiliary Commander, said the Auxiliary meets the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. He said topics include boating inspections, licensing, environmental protection, sailing, search & rescue, and patrol. The lake operations range from Nacimiento to Cachuma. Ocean ops are generally Central Coast. Mr. David gave his contact information: Phone 440-8501, website: uscgaux.org and email: DrTiki@sbcglobal.net. He welcomed anyone to join them, as there are many opportunities and benefits. The military ID gives members access to good surf locations such as Point Magu and on Kauai. Chair Eckles thanked Mr. David for his presentation.

**A.     CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A-1   MINUTES**

Mr. Phillips moved the February 7, 2013 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved as submitted. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Luffee and carried unanimously.

**B.     PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**B-1   Harbor Department Status Report**

Mr. Endersby briefed the Board on the following topics:

- New Harbor Patrol Vessel**
- North T-Pier Repair Project**
- CMANC Winter Meeting**
- EVOC Training for HPOs**

**Status Report Continued**

**Tall Ships Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain Turnout  
Snowy Plover Nesting Fences February 27 through October  
Lifeguard Requalification and Tryouts April 5, and Following 3 Weekends  
Easter Sunrise Service at the Rock  
City of Morro Bay Goal Setting Workshops March 11 & 13**

**B-2 Morro Bay Community Quota Fund Update**

Mr. Rick Algert said the City of Morro Bay has led a project to create the Morro Bay Community Quota Fund (MBCQF) which is a non-profit corporation intended to permanently secure West Coast Trawl sector fishing privileges associated with the Central Coast. He said the long-term goal is to create a financially stable and environmentally sustainable Morro Bay groundfish fishery, built on local stewardship of groundfish resources and secured fishing rights anchored permanently in the community.

Mr. Algert discussed The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) role in buying six Morro Bay based West Coast trawl permits in 2005, and now is a willing seller to the MBCQF in an attempt to secure social, economic and conservation gains for the community and the fishery. TNC now owns the Quota Share, which can be sold separately from the permits. There is a strict timeline on TNC to find suitable buyers and close sales agreements, which is between January 1, 2014 and January 1, 2016. Mr. Algert continued to discuss the issues and challenges with the program during the acquisition process.

Discussion and questions by the Board. Mr. Algert emphasized that the MBCQF non-profit organization, a seven-member Board, will be independent from the City of Morro Bay.

**B-3 Boatyard/Haulout Ad-Hoc Committee Report**

Mr. McClish reviewed the committee meeting that took place on February 22, 2013, which included himself, Mr. Doughty, Mr. Cunningham, and Mr. Algert. He said the discussion focused on the three alternative travel-lift haulout location plans by RRM Design, and two boatyard locations. During a discussion with the Santa Barbara boatyard owner, Mr. McClish learned that the travel-lift usage for moving boats is a real spectator sport.

Mr. Doughty presented his overlay of the Santa Barbara boatyard onto an aerial view of Morro Bay: three possible locations for the haulout, and two for the boatyard. He said the third haulout location view is on power plant property that the City does not own.

Discussion by the Board on the best use of the current City-owned parking lot at the south end of the power plant, and whether it should remain as public parking or be converted into a boatyard. Mr. McClish said the Ad-Hoc Committee will continue to look at all alternatives, and they are hoping to talk with a representative from the power plant.

**C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**C-1 None**

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**D-1 Appointment of One Harbor Advisory Board Member to the Morro Bay Fishing Community Sustainability Plan Advisory Working Group**

Mr. Endersby reviewed the item for the Board, and explained that most of the meetings will be via emails and teleconference, rather than physical meetings. He reviewed the duties of the members, which would be to review and comment on the "Background and Existing Conditions" document, and move to the phase of "Strategies and Recommendations."

Chair Eckles said he would be happy to represent the Harbor Advisory Board, and volunteered himself. Mr. Endersby thanked Chair Eckles for volunteering to be a member of the Morro Bay Fishing Community Sustainability Plan Advisory Working Group.

**D-2 Status of PG&E's Lower Energy Seismic Studies ("LESS") and Mitigation**

Mr. Endersby said PG&E had been conducting Lower Energy Seismic Studies (LESS) in local waters over the last several years, based on permits issued by the State Lands Commission back in the 1980's. Although staff has no hard data, in hindsight it was reported by several commercial fishermen that catch rates coincidentally went down while the LESS vessels were in the area.

Mr. Endersby said PG&E requires a standard claim form to be filed by any fisherman or businessman who feels they have suffered a financial loss due to the LESS activity. Specific to the LESS work, no separate or special mitigation, compensation, or MOU was put in place for that work.

Mr. Brian Stacy, commercial fisherman, reported his personal situation to the Board regarding PG&E's lack of mitigation to fishermen for displacement of gear. He believes two years of mitigation is due to local commercial fishermen. Mr. Phillips asked if Mr. Stacy filed any claims with PG&E, and Mr. Stacy replied he filed a claim to PG&E for his time doing representative work, but did not file the standard "Fridge" form due to the formula, which would disqualify him.

Discussion by the Board and Mr. Stacy regarding PG&E's lack of mitigation funds.

**MOTION:** Mr. Doughty requested staff to first invite a PG&E representative to appear at the Harbor Advisory Board to discuss concerns of rate increases and dispensing of LESS/HESS mitigation funds; then if no reply, send a letter of request to PG&E for mitigation funds. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen, and carried unanimously.

**E. DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**May: Capital Improvement Budget for Slips  
State Park Marina Proposed Maintenance Plan  
Morro Bay Aquarium  
State Park Marina Operating Agreement**

**June: Review of Harbor Lease Sites**

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Submitted by,



Polly Curtis  
Harbor Department