

CITY OF MORRO BAY

HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD

SYNOPSIS MINUTES

The regular meeting of the City of Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board was held Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 6:00 PM in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

Present: Members: Alan Alward
 Gene Doughty
 Jeff Eckles
 Bill Luffee
 Dana McClish
 Lynn Meissen
 Ron Reisner
 Staff: Eric Endersby, Harbor Director
 Polly Curtis, Office Assistant

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CHAIR AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair Eckles welcomed the two new members to the Harbor Advisory Board, Mr. Alan Alward on the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization (MBCFO) seat, and Mr. Ron Reisner on the Member at Large seat. He said the MBCFO seat will now include two alternates, Mr. Tom Hafer and Mr. Joe Conchelos. Chair Eckles asked each new member to introduce himself.

Mr. Alward said he lives in Cambria and has been a Commercial Fisherman in Morro Bay since 1977, though he started in Santa Barbara in 1973. He graduated from Cal Poly with an engineering degree, but returned to fishing for the enjoyment it brings. He said he is happy to be on the Harbor Advisory Board.

Mr. Reisner said he is pleased to be on the Board; he and his wife are residents of Morro Bay. His professional background is a custom boat builder from the late 1960s through the early 1980s; then became a Marine Surveyor and has been a Marine Surveyor since; and in the last decade or so, specializing in representing owners for new and refit vessel construction projects and marine facilities projects.

Chair Eckles announced a community event on Saturday, February 15th presented by the Morro Bay Community Foundation, which will be a two-person play called "Love Letters." The performance will be held at the Vet's Hall, and proceeds benefit the local Youth Recreational Activities. For further information, go to www.eventbrite.com

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Garcia from Spain thanked the Board for their work on fisheries issues. He said in the last ten years, Spain's fisheries have faced a lot of problems, such as impacts on the ecosystem, and the number of fishermen and fisheries have decreased. Conversations began a couple of years ago among the fisheries program of World Wildlife Fund Spain (WWF) and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) to improve sustainability of Spain's small-scale coastal fleet.

Mr. Garcia said his group of seven people have chosen Morro Bay as a site to visit, seeing that this is one area where elements have been working well and many positive things are beginning to happen. The group is visiting fishing communities in the U.S. and other countries to see what solutions to problems have been found, and to implement the successes in Spain. He thanked the Board and Morro Bay again for the great opportunity to see and to understand the progress here in Morro Bay.

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

A-1 MINUTES

Mr. Doughty moved the December 5, 2013 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved. The Motion was seconded by Mr. McClish 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 and Fire Pump North T-Pier Maintenance and Repair Project

Lease Site News:

Bay Front Marina

Salt Building

La Roche

Harbor Front Suites

Grants: AWAFF, VTIP, and Boating Safety (for Boat Trailer)

Events:

Polar Bear Dip January 1

On Patrol:

Panga Boats/Drug Smuggling

Ocean Safety on Jetty

Drought and Water Restrictions

B-5 Presentation on the FishLine Seafood App

Chair Eckles with consensus of the Board requested Item B-5 be moved forward, to be heard as the next Public Hearings Item.

Mr. Joe Falcone, founder and managing partner of Phondini Partners, presented his new seafood application for computer pads and smart phones called FishLine. Mr. Falcone showed two videos of trailers for the new app, saying this is a powerful medium connecting the public with fresh seafood and with fishermen who are currently selling fish off their boats. He said there are about a dozen different contributors who post to this app, and in the past year the Facebook posts have been seen over 249,000 times.

Mr. Falcone said the second app called CrabLine connects people to boats selling freshly caught crab; orders for crab can be placed on this site. This app also has surf forecasts, seafood recipes, pictures of various seafood being served at restaurants, fishery news and events, as well as links to community programs. The web version is www.FishLineApp.com as well as the app on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Amazon, Google, and Apple.

B-2 Presentation of the Draft Morro Bay Fishing Community Sustainability Plan for Harbor Advisory Board Review and Recommendations

Mr. Henry Pontarelli, owner of Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. (LWC), thanked all the people who assisted with the project. He said in 2008 he began working with commercial fishermen and the community on fisheries issues, and in 2011 began the Community Sustainability Plan (CSP).

Mr. Pontarelli said the current Draft of the CSP is the first of its kind on the West Coast, and the focus is on the fishing communities of Morro Bay and Monterey. He said CSPs are cited in the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) as a requirement for communities that wish to remain eligible to participate in programs such as Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) which was instituted in the federal groundfish fishery in 2011.

Mr. Pontarelli said this Draft CSP is seen by leaders in Morro Bay as an opportunity to assess current baseline conditions and plan strategically for a stable and vibrant fishing industry and waterfront infrastructure.

Mr. Pontarelli summarized the 107-page Draft of the CSP through presentation of economic findings with graphs of the local dock earnings, landings of all species, as well as groundfish landings. He reviewed the Critical Infrastructures and Services:

1. Boatyard/Haulout Facility
2. Fuel
3. Refrigerated Storage and Deep Freeze
4. Promotion and Marketing
5. Regulation and Community Participation
6. Berth and Slips
7. Processing
8. Vehicle Access
9. Managing Sea Level Rise
10. Implement and Update

Mr. Pontarelli reviewed some of the potential funding opportunities such as through grant sources, local sources such as the Central Coast Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee, and government programs.

Chair Eckles asked for Public Comment. There was none. Discussion by the Board along with Mr. Pontarelli, Mr. Algert, and Mr. Endersby.

MOTION: Chair Eckles moved that the Harbor Advisory Board recommend to City Council to accept the Draft Morro Bay Fishing Community Sustainability Plan as presented and direct Staff to implement the Plan with special consideration to Recommendation #1 (Boatyard/Haulout Facility), #2 (Fuel), and #5 (Regulation and Community Participation) in no particular order. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Reisner, and failed with a vote of 2 to 5.

Further discussion by the Board. Mr. Luffee asked Mr. Endersby if the community will be able to make comments, corrections, or suggest changes such as those by Board Member Alward to the Plan within the next thirty days. Mr. Endersby answered, "absolutely."

MOTION: Mr. Doughty moved that the Harbor Advisory Board recommend to City Council to accept the Draft Morro Bay Fishing Community Sustainability Plan as presented with changes suggested by Board Member Alward, and to direct Staff to implement Plan recommendations as priorities, funding and Staff resources allow. The Motion was seconded by Mr. McClish and carried unanimously.

B-3 Presentation on the Morro Bay Quota Fund

Mr. Rick Algert, Special Projects/Fisheries Coordinator for the City of Morro Bay, summarized the purpose of the Morro Bay Community Quota Fund. He said the Morro Bay Community Quota Fund is a Board of seven-members which is non-profit and community based. The purpose is to permanently secure fishing privileges historically associated with the Central Coast, and the long-term goal is to create a financially stable and environmentally sustainable Morro Bay fishery, built on local stewardship of groundfish resources.

Mr. Algert said groundfish are the backbone of landings in the harbor, and trawl is the largest sector in the groundfish fishery. He defined the fishery success and increased landings after The Nature Conservancy (TNC) purchased six local trawl permits in 2005, saying TNC is now a willing seller to the Quota Fund. He discussed the processes necessary to purchase those permits in an attempt to secure long-term social, economic and conservation gains within the community.

Mr. Algert pointed to four highlights of the Morro Bay Quota Fund: 1) to preserve fishing heritage, 2) community access to fish, 3) fishing jobs, and 4) to encourage new entrants. He said the key is they must have a way to get new entrants. The Quota Fund will try to expand consumer's access to fresh local seafood; protect and improve ocean health and productivity; and advance cooperative work amongst diverse partners to improve the economic and environmental performance of smaller boat fleets such as in Morro Bay.

Discussion by the Board and Mr. Algert.

B-4 Presentation by the Central California Seafood Marketing Association

Mr. Jon Griesser, Executive Director of the Central California Seafood Marketing Association (CCSMA) made a presentation to the Board defining this Association. He said there are six members who are independent vessel owners and operators in local, wild and sustainable fisheries. He said the main catch are black cod, petrale and Dover sole, rockfish (various), thornyhead and sanddabs. Other fisheries are Dungeness crab, salmon, and squid. Mr. Griesser said the local fishermen made a detailed presentation of their gear and fisheries at the October 3, 2013, Harbor Advisory Board meeting, and so he would not need to discuss the gear tonight.

Mr. Griesser briefly reviewed the Quota Shares program, referring to Mr. Algert's presentation, adding that new entrants are needed in the groundfish fishery as well as the fishing industry in general. He discussed direct fish sales off boats and sales docks, along with the need of a haulout facility in Morro Bay. Mr. Griesser asked people to contact him at the following e-mail address: jon@wildcaliforniaseafood.org

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C-1 Update from Boatyard/Haulout Ad-Hoc Committee on Committee's Recent Activities

Mr. McClish reviewed the last meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee on January 21, 2014, saying the people present were Mr. Doughty, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Hafer, Mr. O'Brien, and a representative from LWC. The Committee reviewed the three possible sites for a boatyard as well as locations for a haulout in Morro Bay. They also discussed the proposal of Virg's Landing. Mr. McClish said the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization (MBCFO) is very proactive; they hired Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc., to do a feasibility study for a boatyard. At the Committee meeting, the MBCFO members also discussed possible funding from a cable grant.

Mr. McClish said that it is the Ad-Hoc's conclusion that the primary location for consideration of the boatyard/haulout ways should be the original location north of the power plant intake structure.

Mr. McClish said that at the Ad-Hoc meeting, Mr. Cunningham resigned and Mr. O'Brien replaced him. **Chair Eckles appointed Mr. Alward to the Boatyard/Haulout Ad-Hoc Committee.**

Chair Eckles opened the Item to Public Comment.

Ms. Cathy Novak of Novak Consulting, on behalf of Sharon Moores of Virg's, read a statement to the Board saying the City Council had delayed taking action on the Virg's Landing proposal until after the Boatyard/Haulout Ad-Hoc Committee had met and discussed the proposed location of Virg's Landing. Ms. Novak asked the Board to recommend the Virg's Landing proposal to the City Council again, now that the Ad-Hoc Committee has met.

Mr. John Gillespie, local fisherman, said a boatyard/haulout in Morro Bay is much needed, but that he recommended it be operated by the Morro Bay Harbor Department. He defined two categories of boatyards, and noted that the "for-profit" boatyards tend to be far less helpful to boat owners than those operated by a port such as Ilwaco and Eureka.

Further discussion by the Board. Chair Eckles said the Board passed a motion to support the Virg's Landing Project at their December 5, 2013 meeting, and since this is not a current Agenda Item, the Board would not be able to hold a discussion or make a further motion.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1 Election of Harbor Advisory Board Chair and Vice Chair

MOTION: Mr. Luffee nominated Mr. Eckles for Chair of the Harbor Advisory Board. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Doughty and carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. McClish nominated Mr. Luffee for Vice Chair of the Harbor Advisory Board. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Doughty and carried unanimously.

E. DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future:

**Intra-Agency Presentation on Panga Boat Landings Locally
State Park Marina, Result of City Council Meeting
Harbor Advisory Board By-Laws Changes, Result of City Council Meeting
Coast Guard Building Location Plans
Marine Mammal Center Informational Report
Planning for Power Plant Property
Clean Marinas Program
Harbor Department Budget (May)
Review of Liveaboard Ordinance Regarding Marine Surveyor Certification and
Standardization of Liveaboard Permit Inspections**

F. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.
Submitted by,

Polly Curtis
Harbor Department