

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 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

Mr. Doughty said a good storm passed through Morro Bay last week, but not too many boats came loose; so he was glad that people must have checked their pennant lines.

Mr. McClish said in two weeks, the Morro Bay Yacht Club along with the Morro Bay Youth Sailing Foundation will be holding their 7th annual Big Rock Regatta on March 22 and 23. Kids, their parents, and their coaches all come from as far away as King Harbor as well as some from San Francisco and stay here in Morro Bay for two days. The Championship Fleet is usually held in the upper bay and the Green Fleet is in the back between the two mooring fields. Mr. McClish invited the public, saying the event is popular and something to watch on the weekend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jack Hansen asked the Board to allow him to keep his commercial fishing slip. He said Mr. Endersby informed him today that he did not qualify with fish tickets and had used two waivers in ten years. Mr. Endersby told Mr. Hansen that they will meet and discuss the issues prior to bringing his situation to the Board as a Future Agenda Item.

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR
MINUTES**

Mr. McClish moved the February 6, 2014 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Doughty 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 Delivered Today
North T-Pier Maintenance and Repair Project

Lease Site News:

Off the Hook

Events:

Tall Ships Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain

City Council Actions:

Resolution No. 60-13 Change to Harbor Dept Rules & Regulations

Resolution No. 61-13 Change to Harbor Advisory Board By-Laws

State Park Marina Operating Agreement to Be Brought Back in Six Months

Calif Marina Affairs & Navigation Conference (CMANC) Annual Washington DC Week

Discussion by the Board and Mr. Endersby on the new Harbor Patrol boat water monitor; the defined scope of work on the North T-Pier; the end-delivery date of work on the Pier and how it will be handled; the fuel dock lease agreement and fuel sales reported to the City for 2012/13; the trending of fuel demand at the dock; the Coast Guard building expansion; and the sidewalk expansion of the lease site Off the Hook.

D-1 Request by Richard Sylvester for a Waiver of Requirement to Qualify for a Commercial Fishing Slip

Mr. Endersby asked the Board if they would consent to moving forward the New Business Agenda Item D-1 so it may be heard first. Chair Eckles and the Board concurred.

Mr. Endersby reviewed the requirement of commercial fishermen to qualify for City slips. He said there are only two waivers allowed in any ten-year period, but in special situations a fisherman is allowed to appeal to the Harbor Advisory Board for a third waiver. The Board has granted third waivers to fishermen in the recent past, and a request letter from Mr. Sylvester is included in the Board's packet. Chair Eckles asked Mr. Sylvester for his comments.

Mr. Sylvester said he had a serious medical event last year, but he understands the waiver limits and will comply with the Board's decision. One of his prior waivers was due to having a knee replacement operation. The Board asked Mr. Sylvester how the boat is running and what his plans are for fishing in 2014. Mr. Sylvester said, "The boat is running good. Are you asking how long I'm going to keep fishing? Until I die."

Further discussion by the Board. Mr. Doughty said that Mr. Sylvester and his boat the "Trudy S" are part of the fabric of Morro Bay.

MOTION: Mr. Doughty moved that the Board recommend to City Council to allow a third waiver of requirement to qualify for a commercial fishing slip be granted to Mr. Richard Sylvester. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen.

Further discussion by the Board.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION: Mr. Reisner moved to amend the Motion on the table, to include the stipulation that no further waivers will be allowed and that slip fees need to be current as a condition of the waiver. There was no second to the Motion to Amend; therefore the Motion to Amend failed.

VOTE: A vote was taken on the Main Motion and carried with a vote of 6 to 1.

B-2 Presentation by the Marine Mammal Center on the Center's Activities

Ms. Lisa Harper Henderson, Operations Manager of the Marine Mammal Center (MMC) in Morro Bay, said the MMC is based in Sausalito and covers 600 miles of coastline, one of the largest in the world. The MMC in Sausalito sees 100,000 visitors annually. She said Morro Bay is a triage facility, and there is a similar triage facility in Moss Landing, but the rehabilitation facility is in Sausalito where a marine mammal hospital was built in 2009.

Ms. Harper Henderson presented pictures and descriptions of California sea lions, elephant seals, harbor seals, and southern sea otters. She described behaviors, characteristics and general habitat of each type of marine mammal, as well as the various reasons and situations when mammals need to be brought in to the care centers. She people can help by becoming volunteers or members, donating, and reporting animals who appear sick or in trouble. The phone number to call for our local area is 805-771-8300. The website is:
www.marinemammalcenter.org

Ms. Harper Henderson took questions and comments from the Board, and thanked Staff for inviting her to give this presentation.

The Harbor Advisory Board called for a ten-minute break; resuming at 7:18 PM.

B-3 Report on Clean Marina Program and Morro Bay Clean Marina Certification

Mr. Endersby said the Board requested this Informational Agenda Item in June 2013. He reviewed the origins of the Program, saying it began a decade ago out of efforts by the Shelter Cove Marina in San Diego Bay. The Clean Marina Program is now recognized as an industry standard and is to the point where marinas, yacht clubs, and public agencies are using it to comply with a number of environmental regulatory requirements.

Mr. Endersby said through education and the use of Best Management Practices (BMP) the Program works with marina operators and agencies to gain certification, and this certification is valid for five years. The Program is almost entirely run by volunteers. He said that while the Program has benefits with clean water and operations, the certification helps with the City's compliance with our Regional Water Quality Control Board's Storm Water Management Plan and other environmental permitting issues.

Mr. Endersby said that while the City's Clean Marina Certification covers the entire bay under City jurisdiction, the Harbor Department is starting to require Clean Marina Certification in leases that come up for renewal for the larger water lease operations on the bay such as the Morro Bay Yacht Club and the Bay Front Marina.

Discussion by the Board.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C-1 Boatyard Ad-Hoc Committee Report and Recommendations to Harbor Advisory Board

Mr. McClish said the Ad-Hoc Committee met on Thursday, February 20, with stakeholders and invited guests. He said the Morro Bay Commercial Fisherman's Organization (MBCFO) spearheaded efforts at obtaining grant funding of \$30,000 awarded by the Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee. The release of the funds are contingent on additional funds contributed by the Harbor Department of \$32,000. Together, these funds would go toward hiring the firm of Lisa Wise Consulting (LWC) to perform a boatyard feasibility study, which includes market analysis, potential site analysis, economic viability, funding sources, and data gathering at an estimated total cost of \$62,000.

Discussion by the Board and Mr. Endersby.

Mr. Jeremiah O'Brien of the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization reviewed the process of the grant funding, saying LWC applied to the Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee for a grant of \$62,000 but were awarded \$30,000 contingent upon the City meeting the remainder of \$32,000. He said the funds will be released immediately from the Cable Committee when approval to use the Harbor funds has been given by City Council.

Public Comment by Mr. Ed Sylvester who said the Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee had given out grant money in the past to Port San Luis for boatyard development when he was on the Committee; however, the funds were basically squandered. He explained this would probably be one of the reasons for the current Committee to request matching funds from the Harbor Department.

Further discussion by the Board.

Chair Eckles said he has reviewed documents of Morro Bay boatyard development plans from the past, one in particular dating 1996. He said this important topic has been discussed for a long time, and it now needs to be kicked into high gear.

MOTION: Mr. Luffee moved that the Harbor Advisory Board recommend to City Council to allocate \$32,000 of funds from the Harbor Department Budget toward a feasibility study for a Boatyard/Haulout in Morro Bay. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Doughty and carried unanimously.

Mr. McClish said at the last Boatyard Ad-Hoc Committee meeting Mr. Doughty stepped down, and he wanted to extend appreciation for all Mr. Doughty's efforts on the Committee. The current members now include three Harbor Advisory Board members, Mr. Alward, Mr. Reisner, and Mr. McClish, as well as the fourth member Mr. Jeremiah O'Brien.

Chair Eckles accepted Mr. Doughty's resignation from the Ad-Hoc Committee, and appointed Mr. Reisner to the Ad-Hoc Committee. He also said there had been discussion to change the Chair position, and now Mr. Reisner will be the Chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee.

Chair Eckles invited representation from the City Council, possibly the Mayor or his agent, and he extended invitations to the Harbor Department Staff, and to the National Estuary Program. Mr. Endersby said he would be the Harbor Department Staff representation. Chair Eckles appointed Mr. Endersby as another member of the Boatyard Ad-Hoc Committee.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-2 Review and Recommendations on Proposed Tidelands Park Public Boat Launch Facility Renovation

Mr. Endersby said he is in the process of applying for a grant from the California Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) and the application deadline is April 1, 2014. If this grant is approved, the project would be funded in FY15/16. He reviewed the Public Launch Ramp renovation project for the Board, along with the design and an image of a typical fish cleaning station. Mr. Endersby also reviewed a brief history of uses at the launch ramp.

Chair Eckles asked Mr. Endersby about the dumpster near the lot entrance, and Mr. Endersby said it is not ideal and an enclosure should be built around the dumpster. Mr. Doughty recommended extending the launch ramp seawards and to ease the steep break so that boats have less of a drop. Mr. Endersby said those are good suggestions. Chair Eckles and Mr. Doughty suggested the kayak launch platform should be moved to the south of the slips near the small park. Mr. Endersby agreed that is the best location for the kayak launch.

Mr. McClish asked about upgrading the restrooms to be more secure and to prevent people from destroying the shower coin op machine. Mr. Endersby agreed that there has been frequent vandalism of the coin boxes and the showers themselves, and ideally the box needs to be secured inside the wall with the plumbing, behind a locked door. Mr. Reisner asked about video monitoring to aid in prevention of theft. Mr. Endersby said the Harbor Department Staff have been looking into the possibility of installing a video monitoring system.

Mr. Doughty asked about the recent shark sighting. Mr. Endersby said there was a credible shark sighting, verified by Harbor protocol on March 6. Warning signs are posted on our beaches in Morro Bay if there is a credible report anywhere from Point Estero to Point Buchon. The signs stay up for 72 hours. The public needs to be aware that whenever they are in the ocean, they are out in nature with wild, potentially dangerous animals, just the same as there are bears in Yosemite. People should pay attention to their inner senses, if you feel something is wrong, it probably is. Also be aware that shark sightings do tend to increase when it is the pup season for marine mammals.

E. DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future:

**Intra-Agency Presentation on Panga Boat Landings Locally
Coast Guard Building Location Plans
Planning for Power Plant Property
Harbor Department Budget (May)
Review of Liveboard Ordinance Regarding Marine Surveyor Certification and
Standardization of Liveboard Permit Inspections**

Declared by Mr. Reisner with Board Consent:

Discussion of a public fish buying dock location. Input from the Harbor Department regarding possible locations, and input from the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization regarding the number and identity of fishermen interested in participating in a scheduled public buying program.

A focused discussion concerning expanded fish cold-storage capabilities in Morro Bay with specific feedback from the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization regarding how many cubic feet of product their members might like to store, for how long, and when during the course of a year.

The City of Morro Bay, via the Harbor Department, maintains a schedule of five-year capital requirements for waterfront infrastructure, including docks, wharfs and piers. A proposed Future Agenda Item is discussion with the Harbor Department regarding what periodic condition survey activities are associated with the five-year capital requirement projections.

Mr. Endersby said he would need to shorten the topic titles to fit into the Agenda Item format.

Requested by Mr. Alward:

Tsunami event warning and emergency notification to boaters and slip holders.

Mr. Endersby said he would be able to address the tsunami warning issue in his Status Report.

F. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by,

Polly Curtis
Harbor Department