

The Board agreed to hold a public meeting on Measure D at the Board's February 2009 meeting.

IV-3. Commercial Fishing Qualifications for 2008 Calendar Year

Mr. Algert said he is recommending that the Board hold a public hearing on commercial fishing qualifications in 2008 and recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution to approve accepting verification of salmon disaster funds received in 2008 on a dollar for dollar basis to qualify as a commercial fishing vessel for calendar year 2008.

Mr. Algert reviewed the background of Resolution 23-91 and the current City of Morro Bay Code language for the policies and procedures of fishermen to qualify as a commercial vessel. He read aloud CMB Code Section 15.32.010 and 15.04.150 for clarification. Mr. Algert said the salmon industry has been declared a disaster for the past 2 years, and financial Disaster Assistance has been issued to some of the locally based salmon fishermen. He recommends that salmon disaster payments be counted as "qualifying" income for those slip holders who would not be able to qualify this year due to the salmon disaster.

Mr. Ewing asked if all the current slip holders qualify now. Mr. Algert said he was not sure how many can qualify for this year. After further discussion by the Board and Mr. Algert on the number of boats who primarily fish salmon, and how many boats are unable to qualify for a slip, Chairman Phillips recommended continuing this Item to the December 2008 Harbor Advisory Board meeting, and the Board agreed.

IV-4 Boat Yard/Dry Storage Project Progress Report

Mr. Algert reviewed the progress of the boat yard project, saying that a dry boat storage would be a fairly inexpensive project and a Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) low-interest loan could probably be secured. He said the boat repair yard project would be much more costly to develop, at an estimate of at least \$3 million. He said both projects are currently being pursued by RRM Design in the planning stages.

Chairman Phillips opened discussion to the public. Mr. Dana McClish said both a dry storage and a boat yard would be wonderful to have in Morro Bay, because any improvements that can be made in this industry and Harbor infrastructure are very much needed. He agreed that the dry storage could possibly be part one of the project and would certainly bring in money to the City. He said small boats would be better off in a dry storage yard and it would ease the crowded mooring situation. Mr. McClish said it is easier for boaters to take a boat out sailing from a storage yard, but it is essential to have a hoist at the yard to get the boats directly into the water. He agreed that a boat repair yard is needed in Morro Bay but due to finances, probably more likely as a future project.

Mr. Ewing said he talked with the National Estuary Program (NEP) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), suggesting it would be to their advantage to support the boat yard project. He said some financing could come from the Cable Committee and the Ocean Protection Council, but Staff would need to talk with them. He said in order to get the project past the Coastal Commission, support needs to come from environmental groups and the NEP.

Ms. Meissen said Mr. Dan Berman of the NEP is very supportive of a boat yard project and is willing to put in a good word to the Coastal Commission. She also spoke with Mr. Mike Watson of the Coastal Commission who did not even want to talk about using the area designated as Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESH) for a boat yard project. She said Mr. Berman told her the area is designated ESH so it can be renovated back to its previous state. He said one

option would be to restore a portion of the area and develop the remainder in marine dependent uses. She said ECO SLO said they would follow the lead of the NEP, and would be in favor of a boat yard even if ESH land is used. Ms. Meissen also spoke with Mr. Noah Smuckler who was concerned about the financing. She said the Sierra Club Environmental Committee resolved they will support a boat yard in Morro Bay even though it is on ESH lands.

Ms. Meissen said Mr. Watson of the Coastal Commission wants to see a list of other areas the boat yard could go and why those areas were not selected. Mr. Algert said the 1998 Boating Access Facility Committee report shows the various sites the committee discussed; so those documents are available.

Mr. Algert said if letters are received from any of these groups or people, he will forward them to RRM Design. Chairman Phillips asked the outcome of the \$15,000 estimated costs from RRM. Mr. Algert said RRM will create a more detailed layout of the boat yard concept; review the history of the ESH designation; and discuss modification of the ESH designation with the Coastal Commission with a deadline of April 2009. He said the Coastal Commission would not make an ultimate decision until the final plan is submitted to them, but they would give an idea of what might be acceptable.

Mr. Doughty asked if the road would be paved that is currently the dirt extension road. Mr. Algert said that at least a driveway access would be paved. Mr. Doughty asked if the boats would have to launch at the current launch ramp, or will there be a launch next to the power plant intake. Mr. Algert said the current launch ramp is the only area designated for small boats to launch, but it would be good to have a hoist in that power plant intake area. Mr. Doughty asked if future discussions between RRM Design and the Coastal Commission could include plans for a marine research facility.

Ms. Leary asked for a ballpark figure of a boat sinking in the bay. Mr. Algert said when the vessel Susan Diane sank, OSPR spent an estimated \$200,000, which was state funded, and the City spent approximately \$85,000 to destroy that vessel. He said currently the Restless C II vessel was a near disaster and very costly to keep from completely sinking and polluting the bay. He said if a vessel can be destroyed proactively the cost is a lot less than if it sinks first and needs to be raised.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

V-1. Harbor Department Status Report

Mr. Algert briefed the Board on the following topics:

Ad-Hoc Liveaboard Subcommittee

Patrol Boat 68 Re-Power

Letter Requesting Federal Economic Stimulus Funds for Dredging

Memo on State Park Marina Renovation & Enhancement EIR

Modular Harbor Office

Nina at Marina Square through November 16, 2008

Upcoming Events:

Lighted Boat Parade – December 6, 2008

VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Ms. Leary said there will be two more Kids at Sea programs, one on November 11th and one on November 26th. She reminded the public that kids fish free and the number to call is 771-9873.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

December: Commercial Fishing Qualifications
2008 Summer Beach Lifeguard Report
News Rack Ordinance Informational Update

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM

Submitted by,

Polly Curtis
Harbor Department