



Mr. Algert suggested that Mr. Phillips first talk with the City Attorney, then rather than give just a “good idea” to City Council, create a more concrete proposal. He said a subcommittee could be formed who could build support for the issue by getting sample ordinances from Santa Barbara and Carmel; then base the proposal on those other town’s successes. Mr. Algert recommended that Mr. Phillips and a subcommittee then submit a well-designed proposal to City Council.

Mr. Phillips withdrew the previous motion, saying he would rather investigate the issue further and then create a better proposal to City Council. The second by Ms. Meissen was also withdrawn.

#### **IV-2. Coastal Conservancy Grant for Transition to More Sustainable Fisheries on the Central Coast**

Mr. Ewing stepped down for this Item. Mr. Algert said the trawl buy-back program hit the fisheries hard, which greatly reduced landings in Morro Bay. He said the issues became, how to keep local businesses open and how to create markets. Mr. Algert said the grant proposal was submitted to the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), and will be considered for funding by the SCC Board at their November 9, 2006 meeting in Monterey. He said if the grant is approved by the SCC in November, it will be scheduled for City Council authorization and approval at their next scheduled City Council meeting.

Mr. Algert said plans are in the works to lease back one or two of the trawl vessels (South Bay and Molle) from the Nature Conservancy in order to modify the gear for fishing only in sand or mud to reduce habitat impacts and by-catch. He said the idea is to subsidize some of the costs, such as fuel, for “low impact trawl fishing.” Mr. Algert said that Mr. Ewing has stepped up to be one of the skippers, as he has had thirty-five years of trawl fishing experience. He said it is mostly a matter of modifying some of the fishing gear and putting it all together, as much of the gear is essentially already on the vessels. Mr. Algert said the current black cod fisheries have exploded, and although years ago this same industry collapsed due to prices, it is currently making money. He said the plans for the ice machine are moving forward, and that slowly but surely we can recreate ourselves. Mr. Algert asked the Board to review the grant proposal and recommend City Council approval of the grant agreement, should the Coastal Conservancy Board approve the grant.

Chairman Lockwood opened the Item to the audience. Mr. Ewing, local fisherman, said he is pleased to be able to try this low impact trawl fishing, as he has hated to see the fisheries go downhill like they are now. He said there have been drag net fishing boats here since the 1950s, and that the mainstay in the Morro Bay area has always been bottom fish. Mr. Ewing said he met with the Nature Conservancy for three hours, offering the short-term goal of having a sustainable local trawl fishery going with four or five draggers, getting the infrastructure back in place and our marketing going. Mr. Ewing said his idea is to modify a dragger by taking off the rollers, using a seven-inch disk and smaller nets and doors; saying it is better to catch fewer fish and get more money than to catch a lot of fish for less money. He said the long term goal is to have allocations for local community boats, to have more accurate stock assessments, and to preserve the area from Point Arguello to Point Sur for our local fishermen.

The Board discussed the definitions of several terms in the grant proposal, and Mr. Algert explained some of the terms, such as “low impact trawl” meaning the fishing method does not tear up the ocean bottom. He said the PFMC is the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and said both the Nature Conservancy and Environmental Defense Fund are non-governmental, non-profit organizations. Mr. Ewing answered the definition of IFQ/ITQ as Individual Fisherman Quota and Individual Transferable Quota. Mr. Algert said this is a complex issue, but basically the definition is to take what is allowed and divide it up between the people who harvest it. He said a community quota for groundfish for our area would help our infrastructure. He described the “local area” as being Morro Bay and Port San Luis, where groundfish are offloaded or landed.

Chairman Lockwood said the grant agreement would appear to be a win-win situation. Mr. Doughty said that Mr. Algert has put a lot of time and effort into trying to assist the local fishing industry, and he will support the grant proposal.

Mr. Phillips made a **MOTION** to recommend City Council approval of the grant agreement, should the Coastal Conservancy Board approve the grant. Ms. Meissen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 4 to none, with Mr. Ewing abstaining, as he had stepped down.

**V. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**V-1. Oral Presentation on NEP/Fish & Game Back Bay Cleanup**

Mr. Alkert said that Dan Berman of the National Estuary Program (NEP), and Dean Hileman of Fish & Game were both attending other meetings tonight, and would not be available for this presentation. Mr. Alkert reviewed the status of the Back Bay, saying there is only one boat remaining in the Back Bay, which is now being signed over to Fish & Game. He said of the thirty vessels removed from the Back Bay, six or seven are still on City facilities. He said these vessels are required to pay dockage fees thirty days in advance.

Mr. Alkert said the funding to demolish the abandoned derelict vessels came from fines imposed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board on the California Men's Colony; some of those funds were issued to the NEP and then given to the Fish & Game Department for that specific purpose. He said the next vessel in line for removal is the Sea.

Chairman Lockwood said he is pleased at the appearance of the bay when he takes his canoe for outings in the Back Bay. He said a big "Atta Boy" should be given to Dean Hileman of Fish & Game for this accomplishment. Mr. Alkert agreed, saying credit should also be given to Dan Berman of the NEP for the funding, and to the Harbor Advisory Board for continuing to bring the abandoned vessel issue to the City Council.

**V-2. Harbor Department Status Report**

Mr. Alkert briefed the Board on the following issues:

**Grant from the NEP for Pollution Response Equipment**

Ms. Curtis briefed the Board on the following issues:

**Tall Ship Lady Washington & Lighted Boat Parade**

**City Council Action**

**Support for Hyperspectral & Multispectral Data Collection**

**Hybrid Vehicle**

**Waterfront Boardwalk Project**

**VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

NONE

**VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

December      **News Racks on Waterfront**  
                    **Update on State Park Marina**  
                    **Presentation on Clean Marina Certification**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM

Submitted by,

Polly Curtis  
Harbor Department