

**CITY OF MORRO BAY**  
**HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD**

**SYNOPSIS MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the City of Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board was held Thursday, May 4, 2006 at 7 P.M. in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

**I. ROLL CALL**

Present	Members:	Rodger Anderson Mandy Davis Ed Ewing Gene Doughty Lynn Meissen Jim Phillips
	Staff:	Rick Algert, Harbor Director Susan Lichtenbaum, Business Coordinator
	Absent:	Don Lockwood

**II. MINUTES**

Mr. Ewing moved the April 6, 2006 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips and carried unanimously.

**III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Nancy Castle noted that the Morro Bay Cruisin' Car Show is happening this weekend. Ms. Castle said she is using cloth bags for shopping to lessen the use of plastic and urged people to do the same. Ms. Castle said that the Morro Bay Historical Society is having a meeting Sunday, May 7, 2006 at 5:00 pm in St. Peters Church in Morro Bay; she added it is a potluck and the public is welcome.

Mr. Roger Ewing said he watched the April Harbor Advisory Board meeting and was saddened and disappointed that the Board could not come up with 3 recommendations for the City Council on the Green Cities Accord. Mr. Ewing also noted that Friends of the Library are looking for support to keep the library staffed and opened as County funds have diminished.

**IV. ACTION ITEMS**

**IV-1. Assessment of Current Harbor Services and Development of a Harbor Strategic Plan – Continued**

Mr. Algert stated the Board at their March and April meetings discussed this item. In April an Ad-Hoc committee was appointed to draft a letter regarding Harbor Services. Mr. Algert said the committee met in April and Vice Chairman Lockwood produced a draft of ideas/concepts to include in the letter. Mr. Algert requested the Board review the draft and either make recommendations on what to include in the letter tonight or refer it back to the Ad-Hoc committee for refinement. Mr. Algert said he would request that the letter be brief.

Vice Chairman Anderson asked if the item is urgent. Mr. Algert said it is urgent in the sense that Harbor Services are being lost and infrastructure is needed, but that the letter itself is not. Vice Chairman Anderson agreed, and stated that he feels it is important to make sure the letter is done right.

Mr. Phillips said he felt the main issues could be summarized into 4 main items without losing the essence of the overall ideas:

- ◆ Introduction and history of commercial/sport fishing in the area;
- ◆ Changes over the last few years and impacts on the fishing and business community
- ◆ Infrastructure consequences; (fuel dock, boat repair/boat supply facilities)
- ◆ Potential Solution

Mr. Doughty stated that he felt the most important thing is to find middle ground between the fishing community and environmental community; there should be a way to maintain a healthy fishing community and a healthy environment. He suggested bringing in a consultant/land use planner to determine ways to approach the problem. Mr. Doughty said he would like to bring the item back when Chairman Lockwood is present.

Mr. Ewing said that many of the fishermen today are working with environmental groups, but some environmental laws are unreasonable. Regarding the Board's action on the Green Cities accord, Mr. Ewing said that the City is already doing many of the things listed in the accord and the City's budget has no funding available for additional or new programs at this time. Mr. Ewing agreed with Mr. Doughty that there is room for the environmental community to work alongside with the fishing community and both sides need to be looked at.

Ms. Meissen noted that she attended the MIG meeting last week and heard discussion and controversy regarding which studies should be used to determine policy; some say fish stocks are plentiful, others say fish stocks are in decline. Ms. Meissen feels there needs to be something in the letter detailing what is needed for a viable fishing industry; she agreed the item should be brought back to the next meeting and the letter should be abbreviated.

Ms. Davis apologized for not being able to attend the first ad-hoc meeting. She said that all viewpoints can be taken into account. Ms. Davis read a section on ecology and said that the ecological and environmental terms needs to be broadened in terms of what makes an "ecosystem" and said that "care of the commons" is the main issue. Ms. Davis said she felt the letter should convey the current situation, ask for help and offer pro-active solutions. She stressed the need for the Board to refrain from inflammatory statements, aim for common goals and present facts. Ms. Davis agreed it would be better to have the ad-hoc committee review, edit and refine the letter.

Vice Chairman Anderson agreed the content needs to be shortened and said the general consensus of the Board is to reconvene the ad-hoc committee and bring the item back at the June meeting. Board members concurred.

Ms. Davis requested that Boardmembers listen to each other respectfully.

Mr. Algert requested that if Boardmembers have any items/ideas they would like to refer to the ad-hoc committee, they bring them in to the Harbor Office.

Mr. Doughty asked about using a consultant to determine environmental concerns and infrastructure needs. Mr. Phillips said he feels the goals should be determined first and then the Board could discuss the idea of using a consultant. Ms. Davis suggested contacting other coastal communities for ideas. Mr. Algert agreed that it is critical to resolve the differences between the environmental and fishing communities and that a consultant might be useful in that regard. Board consensus was to have the ad-hoc committee meet again and bring the item back for review at the June meeting.

**IV-2. MLPA Act Implementation Status Report and Recommendation to the City Council to Support Package #1 at the Fish and Game Commission Meetings – Continued**

Mr. Algert said the Board reviewed this item in April and requested additional information regarding definitions, comparison of the packages and maps. Mr. Algert noted that definitions of all the terms (State Marine Reserve, State Marine Park, etc.) were included along with a spreadsheet comparing existing conditions in the Central Coast area and of the three proposals.

Vice Chairman Anderson asked for Board comments.

Mr. Phillips said he appreciated the information as it did help clarify the issues, but it still sounds like the specific regulations within a designation could be determined by the managing entity with a wide range of impact on users. He voiced concern over who would determine the level of restrictions. Mr. Algert said that the Science Advisory Team (SAT) labeled the designations in the proposals low, moderate, high in terms to reflect environmental benefit, not user impacts. Mr. Phillips said he is concerned that the designations could be changed after the initial design and also asked what a “cultural marine resource” is. Mr. Algert said he was not sure, but would try to find out.

Ms. Davis said she still is opposed to recommending City Council support of Package #1.

Ms. Meissen stated the additional information was very helpful, but the designations and specific regulations within each area are still confusing. Ms. Meissen said she felt Package #1 is the only one she could support.

Mr. Ewing agreed that Package #1 should be supported.

Mr. Doughty said he is concerned that some of the proposed packages could preclude any dredging in the back bay area and mariculture; he also said he supports Package #1.

Vice Chairman Anderson agreed that Package #1 is the preferred alternative; stressing that regulations can be added in the future if deemed necessary, but it is more difficult to remove restrictions in the future if they are found unnecessary.

**Motion:** Mr. Phillips moved that the Harbor Advisory Board recommends that the City Council support Package #1 to the Fish & Game Commission. Mr. Ewing seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Davis voting No.

**IV-3. FY 06-07 Budget Review**

Mr. Algert noted that the FY06-07 draft budget was not available for public review when the packets went out, and that it was received this Monday. Mr. Algert stated the General Fund budget as proposed is balanced. The Harbor Fund, as a special fund within the City, must balance expenses with revenues. The Harbor Fund receives no property tax, TOT or franchise tax funds. Mr. Algert provided an overview of the proposed Harbor Fund Budget:

**\$800,000: Personnel Costs:** All full-time and all temporary employees (Reserve HPOs, Beach Lifeguards, Maintenance). Mr. Algert noted he is proposing changing the Office Assistant IV to Full-Time from ½ time, an increase of approximately \$20,000 per year.

**\$300,000: Supplies/Services:** Utilities, equipment repair, vehicle repair, office supplies.

**\$200,000: Cost Allocation**

**\$130,000: Capital Projects:**

Boat Repair Yard Design/Feasibility

Lease Site Inspection Program

North T-Pier: Due to delays in funding repairs, more pilings have been found deficient and the entire south finger of the North T-Pier may need to be replaced. An engineer will be hired to review cost/benefit analysis of replacing with steel pilings.

Benches/Bike Racks: This account covers public use areas and funding will be set aside to update the City's signage at the Beach area and Launch Ramp area.

Mr. Ewing asked if the gangways will be repaired. Mr. Algert said the department still intends to replace the wooden gangways with aluminum.

Mr. Doughty said he has been asking for funding of a Marine Research Facility for 15 years and he still feels this should be a priority. He asked if having the ½ time position go to full time would impact the General Fund. Mr. Algert said it would not.

**V. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**V-1. Harbor Department Status Report**

Ms. Lichtenbaum briefed the Board on the following items:

**Back-Bay Update**

**State Park Marina**

**City Council Action**

**Summer Sailing Lessons**

**Beach Lifeguard Coverage**

**Future Agenda Items**

**VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Mr. Phillips asked if there had been any results yet from the State Park Marina sediment sampling. Mr. Algert said no results are in yet.

**VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**June 1, 2006:** FY06-07 Budget  
Beach Signage  
Harbor Services  
Cancellation of July 6, 2006 Meeting

**August 3, 2006:** Progress Report on the Ice Machine Project

Ms. Davis suggested having an update from the NEP regarding projects in the watershed. Board consensus was to agendize this for August or September. Mr. Algert said he would also like to have a presentation to the Board from the Fish & Game Department at a future meeting; the Board agreed.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Submitted by,

Susan Lichtenbaum  
Harbor Department