

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 4, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

I. ROLL CALL

Present:	Members:	Brett Cunningham Gene Doughty Bill Luffee Jim Phillips Elaine Serda
Absent:		Michele Leary Lynn Meissen
	Staff:	Rick Algert, Harbor Director Polly Curtis, Office Assistant

II. MINUTES

Mr. Doughty moved the December 3, 2009 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cunningham and carried unanimously.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Phillips welcomed new Harbor Advisory Board member Elaine Serda. Chairman Phillips recognized the passing of Mr. Ed Ewing, former Harbor Advisory Board member and commercial fisherman.

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

IV-1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Luffee moved that Mr. Jim Phillips be elected Chair to the Harbor Advisory Board, and Ms. Meissen be elected Vice-Chair to the Harbor Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cunningham and carried unanimously.

IV-2. Boat Yard Development Project

Mr. Algert introduced Mr. Mike Sherrod of RRM Design. Mr. Sherrod reviewed the history of the capital improvement project relating to boating access facilities from 1997 to present. In June 2009, a Concept Plan was developed by RRM Design on the Boating Access Facility Plan and Low-Impact Development Boat Yard. Mr. Sherrod said the next steps are to complete the CEQA then process local use permits through the Planning Commission and City Council. Mr. Algert said the project did not qualify for last year's stimulus funds due to lack of readiness, and he told the Board in December 2009 he did not believe the boat yard project should be a priority for additional funding right now.

Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Algert if the project had been ready would we have been able to receive stimulus money. Mr. Algert said most likely, because this is exactly the type of project that was being funded. Mr. Luffee asked about the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESH) designation. Mr. Sherrod said the Coastal Commission assigned the ESH designation to any dune system. All or most of the boat yard project sits on the dune system; so the alternative is to determine mitigation projects or tradeoffs.

Mr. Luffee asked Mr. Algert what the approximate costs would be for future permitting and design work. Mr. Algert said permitting costs, detailed engineering, and more design work by RRM would cost approximately \$45-60,000. Mr. Cunningham asked if the project could be reduced in scope for next year in order to lower the design costs. Mr. Algert said the scope could be lowered for next year due to limited funds, possibly by working halfway on the design project for a lower cost of \$20-30,000. Mr. Luffee asked if there were any other avenues for funding. Mr. Cunningham said the Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee might have some money available to keep the boat yard project moving forward.

Chairman Phillips said discussions on the boat yard project have been ongoing for thirteen years, and much time and money has already been invested. He did not want to put the project on the back burner another eight to ten years; so hoped that a modification of the scale of the project would help to keep moving forward.

Motion: Mr. Doughty moved that the Harbor Advisory Board recommend to City Council to continue moving forward with the boat yard project, but capping expenditures at \$25,000 for this fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cunningham and carried unanimously.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham moved that the Harbor Department Staff pursue funding from the Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee for future use toward completion of the boat yard project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Doughty and carried unanimously.

IV-3. Sea Lion Deterrence

Mr. Algert said the Harbor Department completed construction of barriers on one finger of the Anchor Park slips, and it worked well at that location to prevent sea lions from hauling out onto the dock. He said the plan is to expand to other City docks, using this passive deterrence method. He said boat owners may choose their own preferred methods that comply with the laws, and copies of the list of deterrence methods is available at the Harbor Department, or online at the NOAA's National Marine Fisheries website: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/deter>.

Mr. Cunningham said fishermen frequently ask him what the Harbor Department is doing about the sea lion problem. He recommended the Harbor Department send a mailer to all the commercial fishermen and slip holders prior to this spring when the sea lions return, describing the acceptable and not acceptable deterrents for sea lions. He said the sea lions tend to move around, and that a mobile deterrent such as the hot-wire concept would be the most effective.

Mr. Luffee asked if it is the slip holders or the Harbor Department's responsibility to put up the barriers. Mr. Algert said it is the responsibility of private property owners (boats), and lease site holders to protect their property from damage by sea lions; but the Harbor Department will help to the extent that we can to protect the commercial fishing slips. However, fishing boat owners would be responsible to protect their own boats, nets and gear from sea lion damage by using legal deterrence methods. Mr. Algert said it is a good idea to send out mailers of the legal sea lion deterrence methods to slip holders this spring.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

V-1. Harbor Department Status Report

Mr. Algert reviewed the following items for the Board:

Dredging Project Completion

State Park Marina Progress

Coast Guard Change of Command 4/06/10

Sumer Beach Lifeguards

Lady Washington 2/13/10 and 2/14/10

Central Coast Wave Energy Project Public Meetings 2/03/10 and 2/04/10

VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Chairman Phillips said the Lady Washington had been barred from California waters until their old engines are replaced. Mr. Doughty said the electrical work at the Bay Front Marina has been completed.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

March: State Park Marina Development Update
Quarterly Lease Site Development Review
Proposed Policy for Applying for Public Agency Liquor Licenses on
City Managed Tidelands Lease Sites

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

Submitted by,

Polly Curtis
Harbor Department