

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

The regular meeting of the City of Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board was held Thursday, December 4, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

**I. ROLL CALL**

Present                   Members:     Gene Doughty  
  Ed Ewing  
  Michele Leary  
  Bill Luffee  
  Lynn Meissen  
  Jim Phillips  
Staff:           Rick Algert, Harbor Director  
  Polly Curtis, Office Assistant

**II. MINUTES**

Ms. Meissen requested a correction be made to Item IV-4, paragraph 4, to change "Sierra Club" to "ECO SLO," and to add the sentence, "The Sierra Club Environmental Committee resolved they will support a boat yard in Morro Bay even though it is on ESH lands." Mr. Ewing moved the November 6, 2008 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved as corrected. The motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen and carried unanimously.

**III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Ed Sylvester, local commercial fisherman, asked the Board which member represents the waterfront lease holders. Chairman Phillips replied that seat is still vacant. Mr. Sylvester reviewed his understanding of a situation at one of the waterfront lease sites, requesting someone be responsible for dock repair where he ties his boat.

Mr. Dmitri Jarocki, Harbor Department Lifeguard Coordinator, said he will be working on his college thesis project at Cal Poly this winter on the topic of wave energy. He said this project would include a site assessment of Morro Bay. He asked the Board for any input on the subject, saying he could provide his e-mail address for responses. Mr. Ewing said there are bigger waves off Diablo Canyon, and he suggested a vessel traffic study as well as a study of the fisheries that may be affected. Chairman Phillips said Morro Bay City Council requested a "stakeholder role" in the wave energy site process, including receiving any information on Green Wave Energy.

Mr. Sylvester said the waters off Diablo Canyon would be an excellent location for wave energy, partly because it is a protected zone. Chairman Phillips said that area has been looked at by Green Wave Energy, but the area near Morro Bay is where Green Wave Energy has the application to do their studies.

#### **IV. PRESENTATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS**

##### **IV-1. 2008 Summer Beach Lifeguard Report**

Mr. Dmitri Jarocki and Mr. Cale Moore, Lifeguard Coordinators, reviewed the statistics and events of the lifeguard season for 2008 for their six seasonal lifeguards. They reported a significant increase in beach use over the 2007 season, noting a total count of 81,000 people over the 91 days between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend. They reported 37 rescues, 26 of those occurred in the rip current near the power plant outfall and jetty, 18 swimmer assists, 4 surfer assists, and 1 missing child (found).

Mr. Jarocki reviewed the current process of certifying Morro Bay as a United States Lifesaving Association agency (USLA) for the first time in order to hold an annual in-house academy to train lifeguards. He said Harbor Operations Manager Endersby has worked with him through the Regional and State approval, and now at the final National level. He said the goal is to host the first-ever USLA Academy in Morro Bay next spring along with the Cayucos lifeguards. He said the academy will be held on two three-day weekends, May 1-3 and May 8-10, and will include lifeguards from Morro Bay, CDF, and SLO County.

Mr. Doughty asked if it would be a good idea for the lifeguards to keep a life ring located at the lifeguard box near the jetty, and Mr. Moore said that would be a good idea. Chairman Phillips thanked both Lifeguard Coordinators and all the Morro Bay lifeguards for their stupendous job as they risk their own lives while saving others.

##### **IV-2. Commercial Fishing Qualifications for 2008 Calendar Year (Cont'd.)**

Mr. Algert reviewed the Item, which was continued from the November agenda, explaining the requirements for commercial fishermen to qualify for a slip each year. He reviewed the salmon disaster situation, recommending that the Board allow salmon fishermen to submit their valid 2008 salmon permits rather than fish tickets to qualify this year.

Several local fishermen, including Tommy St. John, Joe Nungaray, Richard Sylvester and Ed Sylvester offered their opinions on the topic of qualifying for a slip. Discussion ensued by the Board, who also asked the fishermen for details of the salmon permit process and the slip qualification process.

MOTION: Mr. Ewing moved that Staff would allow commercial fishermen to use their valid 2008 salmon permits for slip qualification for calendar year 2008. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Doughty and carried unanimously.

##### **IV-3. News Rack Ordinance Informational Update**

Mr. Algert said there has been no movement from the City Attorney on this Item so he does not have an update. He said the news racks were relocated from the South T-Pier area due to the new Harbor Boardwalk being installed, and those are now out of the view shed. Chairman Phillips said he is frustrated by the slow progress of this Item, as he began doing extensive footwork over a year and a half ago. He said his perception was that this project would be easy to accomplish and relatively inexpensive, and would benefit the community as well as tourism. He said he found many ordinances from cities up and down the coast which could be used as a model, and hopes this project can come to fruition soon.

**V. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Mr. Algert briefed the Board on the following topics:

**Wildlife Signage**

**Hazwoper Training for Harbor Patrol**

**Liveaboard Subcommittee (Brief by Ms. Meissen)**

**Fishing Gear Recovery Project**

**Derelict Vessels**

**Fisheries and ITQ Update**

**Modular Harbor Office**

**Harbor Advisory Board Meeting of January 2009 Cancelled**

**Three Harbor Advisory Board Appointments Expire on January 31, 2009**

**Upcoming Events:**

**Lighted Boat Parade – December 6, 2008**

**VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Mr. Luffee said the Planning Commission will hold the public hearing on the EIR/Dredging of the State Park Marina on January 5, 2009.

**VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**February: Measure D**

**Elections of Harbor Advisory Board Chair/Vice Chair**

**March: Review of Harbor Department Fees**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM

Submitted by,

Polly Curtis  
Harbor Department