

NORTH ETIWANDA PRESERVE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
COUNTY SERVICE AREA 120 – North Etiwanda Preserve
Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2010
2:30 p.m.

In Attendance:

Board of Directors:

Tim Johnson
Gil Rodriguez, Jr.
Paul Williams
Robert McKernan

Non-Board Members:

Jennes McBride – U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Richard Thornburg, Deputy District Ranger – U.S. Forest Service / Front Line Ranger Station
Al Cunningham – Resident of the Area
Tim Millington – Special Districts
Anthony Madrigal, Cultural Resources Director – San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Michael D. Flores – CA Dept. of Fish & Game
Steven Farrell – Sierra Club, San Gregonio Chapter
Rob Hills – Cucamonga Valley Water District
Candyce Burnett – City of Rancho Cucamonga

Introduction:

The San Bernardino County North Etiwanda Preserve (Preserve) meeting was called to order on January 28, 2010 by Tim Johnson at 2:30 p.m. and introductions were made.

Review of Minutes from the November 19, 2009 Meeting:

Board Chairman, Tim Johnson requested review and approval of the January 28, 2010 meeting minutes. Board Member Williams made a motion that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. McKernan and the minutes were approved without changes.

Public Comment:

Anthony Madrigal, Cultural Resources Director for San Manuel Band of Mission Indians commented regarding insertion of San Manuel Band of Mission Indians in paragraph 2 of section 4.2.1 Management of Cultural Resources. Mr. Madrigal also commented that the San Manuel Tribe is looking forward to the development of an MOU that would allow Preserve access for ceremonial gathering and education programs.

Deputy District Ranger Richard Thornburg, appreciate the way comments from the U.S. Forest Service were addressed in the Management Plan. Deputy Ranger Thornburg also spoke about the need for access through the Preserve to gain access to the National Forest for fire suppression. Deputy Ranger Thornburg would like to see a gate locking mechanism that includes a Forest Service lock. He indicated that the Forest Service would like to participate in the development of the Fire Management Plan for the Preserve.

Endowment Interest Report:

CSA 120 Manager Tim Millington distributed endowment interest report and indicated that the endowment was earning 1.167%. The interest generated during the latest quarter was \$4,665.85. The endowment has a current balance of 1,598,867.69 as of July 1, 2010. Mr. Millington explained that with the current interest rate the endowment would only generate about \$18,000 to fund operations for the year. He also pointed out that the budget was based on interest earnings of 2% or \$35,000.

Mr. Millington indicated that other avenues of support are needed. Jenness McBride with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency indicated that she would investigate grant opportunities available through the agency.

NEP Management Plan:

CSA 120 Manager, Tim Millington gave a brief summary of the history of the NEP Management Plan. He indicated that the current Draft Management Plan incorporates items that didn't appear in the original Management Plan adopted in 1998. Mr. Millington also noted that the draft Management Plan has been posted on the internet and gone through a public review and comment period. He stated that the current draft reflects changes based on comments received. Mr. Millington believed the plan ready for adoption.

Jenness McBride of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicated agency support for the draft Management Plan. She also mentioned how Mark Pavelka was the agency coordinator that worked with Special Districts and CA Dept. of Fish and Game in getting the draft Management Plan written. Ms. McBride spoke about how the plan gives highest priority to protection of resources, but is flexible enough to adapt to funding levels. She noted that the U.S. fish and Wildlife Service is happy with the draft Management Plan and encourages the District Board to adopt the plan.

California Department of Fish and Game representative Michael Flores indicated his agencies support of the draft Management Plan.

Board Chairman, Tim Johnson thanked everyone for their participation in the process of getting the Management Plan to this point. He also asked for any Board Member comments.

Board Member Williams indicated his disappointment in not allowing dogs in the Preserve. He read a statement about how the current urban dog is considered part of the family and allowed to accompany the owner in a variety of venues. He indicated visitors with a dog would bypass visiting the Preserve based on restrictions. Mr. Williams said that he didn't feel that the damage supposedly caused by a dog to the Preserve was well supported.

Board Member Robert McKernan felt that even with signs that dog owners would not adhere to restrictions. Mr. Williams indicated that consciences owners would obey restrictions. Board member Gil Rodriguez indicated how policies are meant for protection of the habitat.

Some discussion took place about how funding had limited how the Preserve had been managed relative to dogs in the past. Mr. Millington indicated how recent efforts to control uses in the Preserve are effective and that dog owners have been respectful of the no dog policy. Mr. Millington indicated that the policies are set-up to protect the habitat and species of the Preserve.

Jeness McBride of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife stated that the responsible dog owners who keeps their dog on a leash and picks up after their dog would not seem to pose a problem to the Preserve. Chairman Johnson indicated that Cucamonga Canyon has regular problems with users.

Steven Farrell recalled how the Cooperative Management Plan is to take into account all common species as well as those that may be listed. Mr. Farrell indicated some personal support for having an appropriate area set aside for dogs at some point in the future.

On section 4.1.7 Management of Exotic Species, Board Member Robert McKernan had a question regarding what constitutes a qualified specialist in reference to removal of weed species. Discussion ensued about how there are different specialties and that different methods may be needed. Mr. McKernan asked whether the District Board would have an opportunity to review method and timing of removal. He also asked about the section on Additional Actions 4.1.4 and the development of MOU's or permitting of additional actions by other parties. Mr. Millington spoke about implementing a permit process. He noted that a frame work for a permit has been developed. Mr. Millington would bring a draft of the permit formulated for discussion at the next meeting. Board Member McKernan asked if there was a section on the web site regarding protocols for the different agencies working within the Preserve.

From a biological stand point Mr. McKernan felt that the Management Plan represents the needs of the Preserve, but he acknowledged that Management Plan may not satisfy everyone. Mr. McKernan asked about whether an appendix to the Management Plan would include a species list. He recommended that a species list be offered on the web site. Jeness McBride of the U.S. Wildlife Service felt that display of a species list on the web site would be beneficial.

Board Member McKernan motioned that the draft Management Plan be adopted. The motion was seconded by Member Rodriguez and all were in favor of adoption.

Chairman Johnson described the process for adoption of the Management Plan and that it would need to be approved by the County Board of Supervisor. Mr. Johnson was to work with Mr. Millington on getting the Management Plan before the Board of Supervisor for approval.

Mr. McKernan asked about the process for future amendments to the Management Plan and how often the Plan may be revisited. He also spoke about the formulation of a Fire Management Plan that may cause the need for amendment of the Management Plan in the future. Mr. Millington suggested an annual review of the Management Plan and Board Member McKernan concurred.

Board member McKernan amended his original motion to include an annual review of the Management Plan and the motion was seconded by Mr. Rodriguez. The motion was approved by all.

Review of 10/11 Budget and Discussion of Annual Work Plan:

Tim Millington passed out a budget summary and explained the revenue and expenses contained on the budget summary. The budget summary indicated \$113,450 in expenses and revenue. Mr. Millington explained revenues from various sources. He also outlined expenses that coincide with various revenue sources. Mr. Millington identified \$30,000 in County Counsel

charges that were from the Intent to Sue filed by the Habitat Trust relative to the enhancement project.

Robert McKernan had a question regarding how County Counsel is charging for their work. Mr. Millington explained that all items reviewed by County Counsel result in a charge to the District.

Chairman Johnson asked about the level of staffing in the preserve and whether it was at an appropriate level. Mr. Millington indicated that the amount of staff time devoted to the Preserve allows for periodic clean-ups but is largely reactionary. Mr. Johnson indicated that he hasn't noticed a lot of problems at the present time.

Steven Farrell asked for clarification on the start of the budget year and whether the budget was for next year. Mr. Millington indicated that the fiscal year for this budget began July 1st.

Mr. Millington initiate discussion on what is considered an Annual Work Plan and how the budget represents expenses related to the Work Plan and identifies specific items in the budget.

Mr. Johnson began a motion to utilize the annual budget and identified expenditures as an Annual Work Plan. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. Steven Farrell asked how the need for an Annual Work Plan came about and felt that the Annual Work Plan be a plan of greater detail than line items represented within the budget. Discussion ensued and the motion was later retracted by Chairman Johnson.

The Annual work Plan will be placed on the agenda and taken up at the next meeting.

Establishment of a Sphere of influence for County Service Area 120:

Mr. Millington explained that the formation of CSA 120 in July of 2009 allowed for the establishment of a sphere of interest for the newly formed District (CSA 120). Mr. Millington indicated that a sphere can be either co-terminus with the boundaries of a District or encompass a greater area for future expansion of services into other areas. Mr. Millington showed a map that represent the existing boundary of CSA 120 and a highlighted area that is being considered for the CSA 120 sphere area. Mr. Millington indicated that the sphere currently under consideration included portions of the Lytle Creek and other areas near Upland. Mr. Millington and Mr. Johnson answered questions regarding expansion of the sphere area.

Mr. Millington explained the philosophy behind establishment the sphere and that the area identified for establishment took into consideration wildlife corridors, sensitive habitats, potential mitigation conveyances, and biological resources. In response to a question regarding the implications to development, Mr. Millington stated that CSA 120 would have no affect. Mr. Millington explained how CSA 120 has no control or regulatory authority over planning, zoning, or development projects.

Michael Flores mentioned that the sphere may create a potential conflict with the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District. Chairman Johnson indicated that as Board Member for both CSA 120 and the IERCDC he didn't believe that the larger sphere would be an issue.

Mr. Millington spoke about how establishment of the sphere could establish a single managing entity for habitat mitigation within the boundaries of CSA 120.

Chairman Johnson mentioned that establishment of a sphere would require an application to LAFCO and that the costs associated with such an application would be around \$25,000.

Board Comment: No comments from the board.

A comment was received from Steve Farrell regarding expansion of the NEP Board of Directors from five to seven members as indicated in documents submitted to LAFCO. Mr. Farrell expressed concern over the make up of the Board of Directors. Chairman Johnson said that he would carry back concerns to Supervisor Biane.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM

Next Scheduled Meeting set for:

October 21, 2010, at 2:30 p.m.
Rancho Cucamonga Courthouse
Supervisor Biane's Conference Room
8575 Haven Avenue Suite 110
Rancho Cucamonga, California