



## **DRAFT Meeting Notes**

**Dunes Collaborative**

**Thursday January 15, 2009**

9:00 am to Noon

Dunes Center

1055 Guadalupe Street, Guadalupe, CA 93434

Co-Chairs: Bob Hill [bobh@special-places.org](mailto:bobh@special-places.org) and

Rey Monge [RMONG@parks.ca.gov](mailto:RMONG@parks.ca.gov)

**Attendees:** Rey Monge, Bob Hill, Larry Vierheilig, Christina Bird Holenda, Daniel Bohlman, , Mario Castellanos, Dan McElhinney, Richard Galindo, Monica Hunter

**Facilitator:** John Jostes

### **1. Review of Meeting Notes from December 18, 2008 Collaborative Meeting:**

The group reviewed the draft meeting notes and agreed that they provided an accurate representation of the discussion topics, commitments and next steps. John Jostes reviewed the various next steps from the previous meeting to determine the amount of progress that had been made since the group last met.

### **2. Update on Upcoming Task Force Meetings**

Daniel Bohlman reported that the Restoration Task Force would be holding its annual retreat during the first week of February. He noted that the exact date would be chosen to maximize attendance by key task force members, particularly scientists. He indicated that the retreat would focus on fifth year trends and data review.

Rey indicated that the annual meeting of the Visitor Services Task Force was awaiting resolution of the discussions between Jamie King and Melissa Boggs regarding the funding of undercoating of the recently acquired trailer.

#### Next Steps:

1. Daniel Bohlman will finalize the Restoration Task Force Retreat date and notify interested parties
2. Mario Castellanos will provide Rey Monge with an electronic contact list for Visitor Services Task Force members and Rey will finalize the date of the task force meeting and subsequently notify interested parties.
3. Following these meetings each respective Task Force chair will forward their updated needs list to Mario and Dan for distribution to Collaborative members, the Restoration Subcommittee and the group's facilitator.

### **3. New Item: Request from Guadalupe City Fire Captain Richard Galindo regarding Surf Rescue Program Support**

Captain Richard Galindo presented a letter to the Collaborative outlining the department's recent response to surf rescue efforts involving fishermen near Mussel Rock. He noted that visitors who visit the intertidal areas, particularly in the vicinity of Mussel Rock are not always aware of the dangers posed by an incoming tide. He also indicated the relatively long response times when it comes to mutual aid from Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, and the water rescue team from Goleta. He requested that the Collaborative provide the Fire department with financial and/or written support in its efforts to acquire a vehicle and trailer that can haul 2 jet skis being donated from another source.

The Collaborative voiced their support of the department's efforts and the importance of their role as first responders to beach visitors who require their assistance, but noted that funds were difficult to come by, considering that currently, the 2009 projects had been placed on hold. Rey Monge offered to follow up with Captain Galindo regarding surplus vehicles and other property the ODSVRA typically needs to dispose of on an annual basis. Glenn Greenwald offered to coordinate with him and follow up regarding the storage of his Polaris Ranger vehicle in hopes of finding a more proximate secure area with unlimited access for rescues.

Next Steps:

1. Rey Monge to contact Captain Galindo to discuss mutual aid issues and the potential for the Department to acquire surplus property from the ODSVRA or the CA Dept. of General Services.
2. Glenn Greenwald to contact Captain Galindo regarding the opportunity to store the Service's Polaris Ranger vehicle at or near the Fire Station for more convenient access.

**4. 2009 Projects Discussion**

Mario Castellanos began the discussion with a note that the Dunes Center was wrapping up the administration of all 2008 projects and all long term projects were anticipated to be completed at the end of the week. For 2009, the Invasive Species removal project was authorized through the end of February, 2009.

Mario then outlined the proposed Research Library Maintenance and Accessibility project proposed by the Dunes Center. He indicated that previously, approximately \$ 22,000 was allocated, but that this proposal sought to roll over approximately \$6,700 of that amount to the 2009 funding year. There was considerable discussion of the project and the package of projects which had critical timing issues, and that the Collaborative sought to move forward.

In the end, the Collaborative made the following consensus determination:

1. That the highest priority projects for 2009 be listed as follows (in priority order):
  - a. Invasive Species removal, a variable cost proposal depending upon the amount of available funds;
  - b. Trailer undercoating, a fixed-cost proposal submitted by CNLM
  - c. Collaborative Administration, a fixed rate proposal that also included some additional monies over and above the 10% estimate
  - d. Library Maintenance and Accessibility, a fixed-cost proposal subject to the refinements noted in item 3 below.

In addition, any excess or additional monies available for expenditures during 2009 be spent on the Invasive Species Removal project because of the need to make noticeable progress not only on invasives removal, but also on the restoration of habitat as well.

2. That the expenditures of endowment funds be allocated in such amounts so as not to result in the invasion of principal.
3. That the Dunes Center Library project be refined to:
  - a. Show a detailed breakdown of volunteer hours as an in kind match,
  - b. That the Dunes Center work with the Wildlife Refuge to maximize the use of existing GIS resources and ArcInfo software, and,
  - c. That information currently being stored with Larry Verheilg be transferred to the library as soon as practical.

In addition to these matters, members of the Collaborative agreed to augment each of their proposals to indicate what, if any, efforts had been made to attract “hard money” from other funding entities.

Next Steps:

1. Collaborative members to finalize their respective proposals and transmit to the Restoration Subcommittee via a cover letter summarizing the consensus points noted above.

**5. Annual Retreat Scheduling and Preparation**

John Jostes announced that the annual Collaborative Retreat had been scheduled for Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort as a day-long event. He requested that individual Collaborative members forward their suggestions to him regarding specific topics. He also noted that it would be important for the Restoration Subcommittee to schedule and complete their meeting/conference call with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation regarding endowment investment strategies. He also requested that the chairs of the two task forces provide their input into the Retreat by forwarding their respective needs lists from each of their meetings in February.

Next Steps:

1. John Jostes to distribute via e-mail a request for retreat topics and follow-up with individual members regarding their ideas.
2. Draft Retreat Agenda to be provided for discussion at the next Collaborative meeting.

**6. Information Items and Updates**

**a. Presentation regarding the Coast and Ocean Regional Roundtable**

Monica Hunter, working with the Planning and Conservation League Foundation and the Central Coast Watershed Program outlined many of the activities being undertaken by the Ocean Protection Council, noting that the agency is engaged in expanding the marine and coastal linkages to address habitat conservation, water quality and marine resources. She provided an overview of the Coast and Ocean Regional Roundtable whose objective it is to define what it means to be a coastal county when the State of California is redefining its approach to resources. She acknowledged Kathie Matsuyama’s participation in last year’s conference and expressed her hope that the Collaborative could have representation in the conference being scheduled for the coming year sometime in May.

**b. Volunteer Outreach**

Dan McElhinney briefly summarized upcoming volunteer events, including a scheduled Earth Day celebration in the Dunes.

**c. Science and Research Subcommittee**

Daniel Bohlman and John Jostes provided an overview of the most recent conference call of the Science and Research Subcommittee. On the call, participants brainstormed about the details of setting up a research station for visiting scientists and researchers doing work in the dunes system. The approach would utilize short stays in the homes of individuals or free camping at local and state parks.

Christina Bird-Holenda noted that David Lucas, one of the authors of Sierra Nevada Natural History was planning on developing a natural history edition on the

Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. She indicated that she would follow up and attempt to set up a meeting with him during his next visit to the area.

**4. Next Collaborative Meeting: February 12, 2009, 9:00 am – 12 noon.**