



## **DRAFT Meeting Notes**

**Dunes Collaborative**

**Thursday April 9, 2009**

9:00 am to 11:30 am

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, Mario Castellanos, Dan McElhinney, Kanani Fox, Jenna Scimeca, Melissa Boggs, Kaila Dettman

**Facilitator:** John Jostes

### **1. Review of Meeting Notes from March 13, 2009 Collaborative Retreat:**

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 Retreat to determine the amount of progress that had been made since the group last met. Melissa Boggs underscored the importance of tracking action items and commitments made at previous meetings and retreats. She also requested clarification from the group as to who would take responsibility for drafting agendas for the monthly conference call with the Restoration Subcommittee, as well as the status of various action items from previous Collaborative Meetings. She requested that if a particular assignment, responsibility or action item had not been completed, that there be an accounting of why tasks were not completed and what would be done in the future to maximize the chances of follow-through on these items.

March 13, 2009 Retreat Notes adopted without change.

#### Action Items:

1. Mario Castellanos agreed to take responsibility for Restoration Subcommittee Conference Call Agenda development
2. Dan M. agreed to go back through the groups previous meeting notes prior to December '08 and the progress reports from various endowment-sponsored projects and bring forth a checklist of the status of previous commitments
3. John Jostes agreed to review the meeting notes that he had generated in December 08 and Jan. 09 and compile a similar checklist for these meetings.

### **2. Overview of Fund Raising Subcommittee Discussions**

Bob Hill, Mario Castellanos and John Jostes provided an overview of the face-to-face Subcommittee meeting that took place the preceding Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at Ronnie Glick's conference room in Pismo Beach. Mario noted that it was important to focus the fund raising efforts on federal funders in that they were the most likely to have available funds to disperse at this point in time. Bob indicated that he would be approaching Mary Root within the Fish and Wildlife Service to determine what possible funding opportunities might exist within FWS. Mario indicated that he would be pursuing additional migratory bird program funding opportunities uncovered during his recent visit to Washington DC. Kaila Dettman volunteered to assist with assembling grant request, particularly through the NOAA process.

There was also a discussion of the previous efforts of the Collaborative to approach the Regional Water quality Control Board (RWQCB) for grant funds. Melissa noted that some of the projects previously proposed to the RWQCB by the Collaborative may not have had a strong enough water quality nexus. And Melissa explained that it seems the RWQCB is focused on “big-picture” projects (e.g., watershed-wide projects) rather than small, site specific projects. This discussion raised the issue of whether the Collaborative should go after projects beyond those specifically and narrowly defined as either Visitor Service-related or Restoration related. While the group recognized the difficulty of obtaining funds from the RWQCB, there was a general agreement that the Collaborative should not limit itself if other funding sources might be leveraged for the benefit of resources within the dunes system. One example cited was that of the Santa Maria River Estuary Management and Enhancement Plan and the possibility of building on the work that had already been done in this area.

The group also discussed the status of various marketing components of the Collaborative’s website, as well as other related topics such as distribution lists and outreach efforts.

Action Items:

1. Mario Castellanos indicated that the Collaborative’s website would be transferred from their previous contractor to be under the Collaborative’s control and that once this transition had been completed, that he would set up a Google Calendar and provide Collaborative members with a link and password for access.
2. Mario also committed to updating the Collaborative’s website once the site had been transferred over to the Collaborative.
3. Rey Monge indicated that State Parks would forward the finalized Interpretive Map to Mario so that it could be included in the website update.
4. The decision was made to not move forward on retaining a fund raising consultant because it was felt that this effort could be completed in house.
5. Mario and Dan McElhinney committed to reviewing and paring down the current e-mail distribution list within the coming month to contain only those individuals who requested to be kept on the list.
6. John Jostes was tasked with including in the next month’s meeting agenda a discussion item related to the composition of invitees to the annual Retreat.

**3. Set Dates for Upcoming Task Force and Subcommittee Meetings**

- A. **Restoration Task Force:** Bob Hill reported that the Restoration Task Force was scheduled to meet at 3 – 5pm in the afternoon of April 16<sup>th</sup> in San Luis Obispo at the Coast National Bank conference room. There was a brief discussion of how the Restoration Task Force might reformat its needs list to show the relative priorities of the various projects, as well as to cast them in a more opportunistic light.
- B. **Visitor Services Task Force:** Rey Monge indicated that the Visitor Services task Force meeting was scheduled to be held on the morning of April 16<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that he confer with Bob or Daniel Bohlman to make sure that the scheduling of these two meetings on the same day did not pose scheduling conflicts for folks who might want to attend both.
- C. **Writing Subcommittee:** John identified the need to convene the Writing Subcommittee, but indicated that without Jamie King in attendance, he was hesitant to set a date. He indicated he would schedule the subcommittee via an e-mail invitation to participate.

#### **4. Dunes Center Presentation on Educational Outreach Activities**

Kanani Fox of the Dunes Center provided an overview PowerPoint presentation of the educational outreach efforts being conducted by the Dunes Center over the past eight months. She provided comparative information from previous years and noted that their efforts were exceeding last years outreach efforts in many instances. Her PowerPoint presentation is available by contacting Kanani via the Dunes Center.

#### **5. Other Updates and Information Items**

- Bob Hill announced that the Land Conservancy had received a \$36,000/year service contract from Conoco Phillips for invasive species removal on their property.
- Bob also noted that Mark Skinner, also with the Land Conservancy will be taking on more of a monitoring role with regard to the invasive species work in the dunes.
- Rey Monge indicated that while the Snowy Plover nesting season began on March 1, plovers themselves had not begun nesting in significant numbers yet.
- An Open House will be sponsored with the USFWS on Biegle Road on April 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm.
- The Land Conservancy will host their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with two days of music and art at the Octagon Barn.
- There will be a May 9<sup>th</sup> ribbon cutting ceremony at Oso Flaco for new improvements to the boardwalk.

**Next Collaborative Meeting: May 14, 2009, Dunes Center**