



Meeting Notes

Dunes Collaborative

Thursday, January 14th, 2010

9:00 am to Noon

Dunes Center

1055 Guadalupe Street, Guadalupe, CA 93434

Co-Chairs: Bob Hill bobh@lcslo.org and

Rey Monge rmong@parks.ca.gov

1. Introductions/Opening Remarks,

Attendance:

Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center

Mario Castellanos

Dan McElhinney

Cailin O'Meara

Christina Holenda

Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County

Bob Hill

Daniel Bohlman

California State Parks, Oceano Dunes District

Rey Monge

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Office

Connie Rutherford

Colleen Mehlburg

California Coastal Conservancy

Rachel Couch

2. Review of Meeting Notes from December 10th, 2009 Dunes Collaborative Meeting

Action Item: Meeting Notes Approved.

3. DuneQuest 2010 Planning Update

Dan McElhinney and Mario Castellanos provided an update on the planning for DuneQuest 2010. DuneQuest is a symposium that focuses on interpretive training for docents and staff that are dealing with the public. 2010 will focus on outreach and docent education regarding science, history (human and natural), regarding the Guadalupe-Nipomo and Morro Bay dunes complexes with an emphasis on Dunes Collaborative projects and partners.

Action Item: Dan McElhinney will add Daniel Bohlman to the email list for DuneQuest.

4. Dunes Collaborative Meeting Seminars and Discussions for 2010

The group discussed the format for Dunes Collaborative meetings in 2010 and there was a shared feeling that these meetings should have a component that utilizes the expertise of the Collaborative to provide educational and shared learning opportunities.

Action Item: Dunes Collaborative members will contact potential speakers and invite them to attend monthly Collaborative meetings as guest speakers.

5. Rare Plant Discussion

Connie Rutherford and Colleen Mehlburg were in attendance at this meeting to reconnect with the Dunes Collaborative partners and to discuss the work that has been done recently in the Dunes Complex. Ms. Rutherford and Ms. Mehlburg are working out of the Ventura USFWS Office and this part of the USFWS doesn't focus just on Refuges.

Ms. Rutherford's program recently received \$65,000.00 dollars for work on marsh sandwort and Gambels watercress due to their current risk for extinction in the wild. This program focuses on recovery in three geographic locations, Orange County, the Central Coast, and Santa Cruz County. Recently, there was an outplanting on the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge at six different locations. That outplanting was done in October of 2008 and final results are not in as of this meeting.

Of the six dunes sites, five (dug out for cattle) sites had standing water and one did not. Even if these plants do not thrive, this project will provide very valuable data for the recovery effort. The major threats to these species are land conversion to agriculture use, alteration of remaining habitats, and competition from other plant species. Common Watercress is hybridizing with Gambel's and it is difficult to find fresh water areas without the common watercress.

The USFWS is working on a grant for \$70,000.00 for rare plant work and they are currently looking more seriously at the Nipomo lupine and consider the Land Conservancy's Black Lake site as a potential planting site for Nipomo lupine.

A recovery plan for Nipomo lupine would enhance access to funding for the recovery effort.

Ms. Rutherford expressed interest in reconvening the Rare Plant Task Force.

Action Item: Collaborative Co-chairs to follow-up regarding Rare Plant Task Force.

6. 2010 Dunes Collaborative Retreat

The group briefly discussed the need for a 2010 Dunes Collaborative retreat. Bob Hill suggested contacting John Jostes, Melissa Boggs and Elena Egger regarding the retreat.

7. Other Information, Announcements, and Updates

- a. The Restoration Task Force has a February meeting for their annual retreat. That meeting will be held Thursday, February 18th, 2010 from 9am-4pm at Department of Fish and Game offices in San Luis Obispo, CA. A map, directions and agenda are available from the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County or the Dunes Center.
- b. The Dunes Center announced that they received a \$12,500.00 for their Education and Outreach Program.
- c. Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve, Jamie King is no longer working as the Preserve Manager and as of the meeting date, Head Ranger Tina Snijdewind is now the local lead. **Update:** as of February 1st, 2010, Santa Barbara County Parks Department has taken over management of Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve.
- d. Colleen Mehlburg stated that the USFWS is working on schoolyard gardens with a native plant focus linked to "Project Bud Burst" and stated that the Dunes Center could be a potentially good collaborator in this area.
- e. The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County recently planted 6,600 plants at Dana Adobe site and 1,200 plants at Black Lake.

8. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 11th, 2009 from 9am-12pm at the Dunes Center.