



**CITY OF DEL MAR
LAGOON COMMITTEE AGENDA
VIA TELECONFERENCE ONLY
FEBRUARY 16, 2022, 5:00 P.M.**

Civility Works: The Del Mar Code of Civil Discourse: Together we will promote inclusion; listen to understand; show respect; be clear and fair; and focus on the issue.

In the interest of public health, and consistent with the provisions of Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361) and related resolutions adopted by the Del Mar City Council, the City of Del Mar is temporarily taking actions to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic by holding Lagoon Committee Meetings electronically or by teleconference. This is not an in-person meeting.

Members of the public may watch the meeting by logging on to the City's website at: <https://delmar.12milesout.com/video/live-virtual>. Members of the public may participate in the meeting by submitting a public comment via email to cityclerk@delmar.ca.us or by speaking live using the Zoom link and/or dial-in information provided below. The deadline to submit written comments is 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting and the subject line of your email should clearly state the agenda item you are commenting on. Those wishing to comment live should join the Zoom meeting when the item(s) they wish to speak on is announced.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82324949595?pwd=Y1hESWVvd3hQSjBGdnJrOFhBWUpTdz09>

Phone: (669) 900-6833

Meeting ID: 823 2494 9595

Council Liaisons: Mayor Dwight Worden; Council Member Dan Quirk

City Staff: Clem Brown, Environmental Sustainability/Special Projects Manager

Members: Ellen Breen; Robert Chase; Geoff Criqui; Jill Gartman, Vice-Chair; Julie Kawasaki, Chair; Carol Kerridge; Karen Lare, Secretary; Bill Michalsky; Donna Shaw; Udo Wahn

1) CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

2) ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

3) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Non-action item): Members of the public may participate in the meeting by submitting a public comment via email to cityclerk@delmar.ca.us, by 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting, which will be distributed to committee members. State law precludes the Committee from acting on any topic which is not an action item on the posted agenda. Those wishing to comment on any matter not on the agenda may join the meeting at 5:00 PM using the Zoom link and dial-in information above.

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR December 15, 2021

5) CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: (Dan, Dwight)

6) NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Review, Discuss and Vote on Draft Work Plan
- B. Review and Reconfigure Sub-Committees and Agency representatives (JPA and CAC)
- C. Election of Chair

7) REPORTS FROM OTHER AGENCIES:

- A. Joint Powers Authority (Carol, Dwight)
- B. Citizens Advisory Committee (Carol, Bill)
- C. W-19 Restoration Project (Bill, Carol)
- D. NCTD & City of Del Mar (Railroad & Hwy 101 Bridges) (Dan, Bill)
- E. SANDAG/ Railroad Track Re-location (Karen, Bill, Julie)

8) SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Events (Lagoon Day) (Carol, Bill, Robert, Julie, Udo)
- B. Education (Jill, Robert)
- C. Blue Carbon (Ellen, Carol, Bill, Geoff, Udo)
- D. Trails (Trails Maintenance Status/Crest Canyon Extension) (Geoff, Karen, Bill)
- E. Penasquitos Lagoon (Karen, Ellen, Julie, Robert)
- F. Review Water Quality/Sand Replenishment Reports (Jill, Bill, Ellen, Carol)
- G. Website (Julie)

9) OTHER BUSINESS (Non-action item): Discussion items not on agenda/items for next agenda.

- A. WildCoast update
- B. Watermark update
- C. La Atalaya update
- D. Phase 3 update

10) ADJOURNMENT

CITY OF DEL MAR
SAN DIEGUITO LAGOON COMMITTEE MINUTES
VIA TELECONFERENCE ONLY

DECEMBER 15, 2021, 3:00 P.M.

Council Liaisons: Dwight Worden and Dan Quirk

City Staff: Clem Brown

Members: Ellen Breen; Robert Chase; Geoff Criqui; Ann Feeney; Jill Gartman, Vice Chair; Julie Kawasaki, Chair; Carol Kerridge; Karen Lare, Secretary; Bill Michalsky; Donna Shaw; Udo Wahn

Julie called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm

1) CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Absent – Bill Michalsky

Dan joined at approximately 3:20pm

Guest - JJ Paetow – Crest Canyon Ranger

2) ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

See presentation under New Business section

3) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR September 15, 2021

Carol motioned to approve and Donna seconded – unanimous approval

We moved then to presentations so that our guest speaker did not have to wait until the end of the meeting.

8) NEW BUSINESS:

A. Update from Ranger J.J. Paetow re: Crest Canyon

J.J. Paetow is the Ranger for Crest Canyon and in 2019 he was the first to see all the damage from the drainage issues. They started in early 2019 but went mostly unnoticed until Thanksgiving 2019 when 5 more sink holes opened up in the canyon.

Total cost of the canyon restoration is about \$13mm. This includes the cost for the pipe and all of the construction and re-planting of the area. They are currently doing plant management and have to get to a 90 to 95% success rate. The new trail has had a lot of erosion issues. They recently replaced the stairs at the top and he has a volunteer (Eagle Scout) who wants to do the bottom stairs to make it more accessible. For every Torrey Pine Tree that came out two went in. They are working to make it beautiful

and restored. They are creating the master plan for the canyon right now and are almost done with it. When finished it will be the Crest Canyon Natural Resource Management Plan. Put together by the City of San Diego and the Natural Resource Management & Open Space Management Teams (under Parks and Recreation). It will be the poster child for the ones they do going forward with similar types of projects.

The guide will have info about each species and also about why they are there – plants and wildlife (there are 3-5 species that are only in the Crest Canyon and Carmel Mountain area). The Canyon is doing well right now we have a huge variety of species (Short leaf Dudleya- only ½ inch fully grown) some protected. We had a few and now we have thousands. There are only two populations left in the world right now (Crest Canyon and Carmel Mountain). It is hard to keep alive as they are so small and are fragile. One of the areas is behind one of the houses in Crest Canyon.

The guide also lays out all of the trails in the canyon and also where the weasel's, barn owls, great horned owls and other animal species can be found. Along with insects and lizards, etc.

Udo hiked the canyon today and said it looks pretty good given the rain. Not too much erosion. Discussion about potential new trails and access.

Karen asked about the alluvial fan in the lagoon from the erosion and JJ said there is no plan to do anything about it as water is still going through the area and there are a lot of the species actually on the alluvial fan (fiddler crabs are loving it).

Dwight asked about fire management in Crest Canyon. JJ said that he knows it is an issue for insurance but that Crest Canyon is actually a very safe canyon as the location of the canyon is a long way from any major fuel sources and the lagoon could be used to access water to help put it out. He would feel 100% safe having his house on the canyon rim.

They are putting up new maps at the entrances and he painted one of the sign boards recently but it still needs some work (looking for an Eagle Scout to help repair it) as the termites love it! The top one looks good with the new paint job.

5) CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: (Dan, Dwight)

Dwight – the subcommittee (from the Efficiencies Committee) comprised of Tracy and Dwight – completed and presented their work on revisions to the Committee System. Portions have been approved and adopted and some items were held over for additional discussion and implementation at a later date.

We are on a quarterly meeting schedule and set for a 5:00pm meeting on February 16th 2022. City Staff set the schedule for this committee to meet on a quarterly basis. We are empowered to meet as sub-committees monthly (between meetings) and we can have special meetings if needed. City staff will be reaching out to all committee members to be sure that they are still interested in participating.

For those Committees who did not meet during covid, the members terms will be extended. They do plan to cap all of the committees at nine members going forward. Carol's term is up at this time so the vacancy she leaves will not be filled and this will help to reduce our committee numbers.

Dan – the council discussed the two parcels of land that were purchased by the River Valley Conservancy to help with the new trail. The city is working on the timeline for trail completion which looks to be out to 2023 (Dan is trying to see if we can get it done fall of 2022).

Ellen asked about a potential plan to get back to monthly meetings. Dwight responded that there is no plan at this time to do so but we can put it on our agenda for our next meeting and if we all agree we can ask the City Council to allow our meeting cycle to go to monthly.

Ellen asked about why only nine committee members? No real issue except that has been the norm in the past.

Donna asked if our meetings can stay remote and Dwight said that the council would adopt a motion to stay remote along with the approvals from the governor on this matter. When the council starts meeting in person we will need to as well.

6) REPORTS FROM OTHER AGENCIES:

A. Joint Powers Authority (Carol, Dwight)

Carol updated us that, since September, there has been a lot going on at the Lagoon (she thinks we should meet monthly to keep up with it all).

- Clem gave a report at the recent meeting about the City's response to the oil spill in Huntington Beach but the Lagoon Committee was not notified of this opportunity and was not sent the presentation.
- Shawna gave a gap report on the Coast to Crest Trail and there are 21 miles out of 71 miles remaining to be filled. She stated that the Osuna gap segment is being worked on now.
- The Lagoon restoration project has been delayed by one month.
- There was a River Fest program discussed and Carol asked if we could work with the Conservancy to join forces and hopefully be a part of the program. Unfortunately, Carol was told that they were too busy now to integrate with us and maybe next spring there would be time.
- Trish Boaz is retiring from the Conservancy.

There is planning going on in regards to the lagoon as well. The river path work is on schedule, according to Dwight. He also said So Cal Edison, who was to dredge the river mouth, has postponed the work until at least January because of the tar balls from the recent oil spill.

Dwight said that Cal Dept of Fish and Wildlife is getting a lot of money from the infrastructure bill to fund activities. They manage a part of the Lagoon. Carol asked if it would help with water testing (money for it)? Dwight did not know but suggested that we put together a request for it and other things if we feel that would be good to have.

The Surf Cup portion of the trail has been restored with members and volunteers so it is now in good shape. They (Surf Cup Sports) are resolving the issues that have been there for some time. The trail goes from El Camino to Whispering Palms. This work was required to be completed by Surf Cup but they

were behind in completing it. Carol noted that the trail crossing at Old El Camino Road (where people have to go up and over) is becoming more dangerous.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee (Carol, Bill)

Carol said that they have had two meetings cancelled and at the November meeting they did not have a quorum. At the meeting it was brought up that they need an alternate for each organization so a meeting without a quorum does not happen again. This committee is made up of delegates from each agency that impacts the river valley and they have Monthly Meetings.

C. W-19 Restoration Project (Bill, Carol)

The work was supposed to start in January 2022.

W-19 is 60 acres in size. Shawna Anderson, the head of the JPA, will present at the January 10th City Council Meeting as to the status and timeline of the restoration work. Dan also noted that there was an update on the removal of the poles across the Lagoon at the last City Council Meeting. Some of them are being removed and other are being cut down (Dec 13th meeting).

Jill asked if anything had changed since the EIR on that project. It was clarified that they will cut down the poles in the lagoon versus taking them out so as to not disrupt the ecosystem.

D. NCTD & City of Del Mar (Railroad & Hwy 101 Bridges) (Dan, Bill)

No update

E. SANDAG/ Railroad Track Re-location (Karen, Bill, Julie)

It was noted that there has been a lot going on with SANDAG and most of it is in the media.

Dwight stated that the big SANDAG plan has been approved and they are using the date of 2035 to get the train off of the bluff. This means design and environmental work will be done by 2025. The plan does not say which way they will go it just says they will go.

7) SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Events (Lagoon Day) (Carol, Bill, Robert, Julie, Udo)

No updates

B. Education (Brad, Jill, Robert)

(Brad should be removed from this sub-committee)

Jill updated us that she and Robert have not met but she had some ideas. She thought that we could have the bird presentation that was done at the Ranger Station Opening by Dr. Phil Pryde who is the local expert. Carol stated that has asked him to do that for the spring. Would this be an education event for members of the Lagoon Committee and the public? Or would we do one for the Lagoon Committee and a separate one for the public?

Donna suggested we could do both in separate meetings. Call a special meeting in the field. Dwight thought that maybe a different person for one if we were going to have children along.

Jill asked for direction from the Committee. Dwight offered to spend some time with her to discuss potential options. Julie suggested that we could do speakers at the library for Education events as we have in the past.

C. Blue Carbon (Ellen, Carol, Bill, Geoff, Udo)

Ellen stated that the sub-committee does not have a big agenda and that they have talked about getting core samples done. Carol noted that she had attended a meeting discussing Blue Carbon and they (Wild Coast) are already working with the River Valley and we are out of the loop on this.

Dwight updated us that Wild Coast received a grant for about \$1M to work on blue carbon projects split between San Dieguito Lagoon and one of the other lagoons (Batiqitos). They plan to work to get good solid data on the blue carbon in the lagoon and then make suggestions on how to manage it that could be applied to all lagoons. The restoration is also in progress around the Brigantine basin and the Y area by the rail road tracks and the public works yard. They are just waiting for permission to enter this last area (the Y area). Wild Coast is doing clean up and sampling and restoration. Wild Coast did open an office in Del Mar off Jimmy Durante.

Jill gave a further update (she is on the board for Wild Coast) that they (Wild Coast) plan to do a grand opening for the new office at some point. Zach Plopper has left the organization and has become the Environmental Director for the Surfrider Foundation. Angela has taken on Zach's position. She will come to our next meeting.

Ellen suggested that this group needs to be better connected to the other Blue Carbon groups. It was suggested that this might be done though shuffling the sub-committee members. We could also add it to the report out list for our regular meetings. There is a good local group that meets on Blue Carbon and we need to be sure we get connected to them.

D. Trails (Trails Maintenance Status/Crest Canyon Extension) (Geoff, Karen, Bill)

No update

E. Penasquitos (Karen, Ellen, Julie, Robert)

Julie has the info on the contact for this group and will follow-up

F. Review Water Quality/Sand Replenishment Reports (Jill, Bill, Ellen, Carol)

No updates recently. Just heard that the dredging got postponed. No new date is scheduled yet. The city has applied for a \$150k grant for sand replenishment on the beaches. The application was just approved by the City Council so it will be several months before we hear anything about whether or not the city gets the grant and timing for the work.

G. Website (Julie)

The website is up and beautiful but we still need to work out how to manage it for the long-term. There is work needed to run the site. Shawna is working on getting the domain secured and Julie will be working to see who can take this on. Julie believes that the domain is www.sandiegutiolagoon.com..

B. Landscaping on private property around the Lagoon.

Carol and Jill updated the group on where the concerns were. Dwight stated that we could recommend what to plant and not plant but it is very difficult to try to enforce any rules on this. We do have some guides but not specifically on this topic. The conservancy already has a guide about this topic. Leona would be the person to contact on this. Dwight suggested maybe we could use the utility billing process and do a mailing this way and then Jill thought maybe it could be a speaker at the library.

C. Advisory Committee updates and Subcommittee planning

Julie suggested we get the meetings going for the sub committees. She suggested we set a lead for each one and have some accountability. Jill said she would take a lead on the Education Committee

Geoff suggested that each committee have a plan and action items for what they will do and have more accountability. This way we can allocate people to the committees that need resources.

Julie suggested that each committee should come up with its plan and report out at the next meeting. Jill wondered if the Lagoon Committee should charge the sub-committee with tasks.

There is a new charter for the Lagoon Committee that will be distributed. It was suggested that we could also update it if we wanted to.

Dwight read the Charter to the Committee. The largest change is the addition of the Penasquitos Lagoon to the Committee's charter.

D. Work Plan Subcommittee

Dwight volunteered to be on the sub-committee to draft the tentative work plan for sub-committees and Jill also volunteered. Ellen also agreed to join and Geoff raised his hand. The four will meet to develop a plan.

E. Thank you to Carol Kerridge for her service

Julie thanked Carol for her time and effort to support the Lagoon and the Lagoon Committee. Carol also said a few words about her time on the committee and about her concerns for the Lagoon and water quality.

9) OTHER BUSINESS (Non-action item): Discussion items not on agenda/items for next agenda.

A. WildCoast update

B. Watermark update – final 30-day review by the city staff and planning director approval, then appeal period to the Coastal Commission and then, if approved, building permits

C. La Atalaya update

D. Phase 3 update

E. Shawna Anderson to speak at City Council Meeting in January

10) ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:48. Next Meeting Date February 16th at 5:00pm

DRAFT 2/7/22

**City of Del Mar
LAGOON COMMITTEE**

Mission & Work Program

The Lagoon Committee (Committee) is charged with monitoring the preservation and enhancement of the portions of the San Dieguito and Penasquitos Lagoons located in the City of Del Mar, and also any actions outside the City of Del Mar that impact the lagoon systems within the City of Del Mar. The Committee participates on both local and regional levels. Regionally, the Committee monitors the on-going programs of the San Dieguito River Valley Joint Powers Authority (JPA), including but not limited to the lagoon restoration plan, and monitors development that may have an effect on the San Dieguito or Penasquitos Lagoons. Locally, the Committee monitors reports on the health of the lagoons, investigates additional public access opportunities, and encourages educational and informational programs to uncover the lagoons' little-known points of interest. The Committee also monitors and comments, when appropriate, on developments limited to impacts on the lagoons.

2022-23 Work Plan

General Summary

Monitor the health of the lagoon and condition of surrounding trails and report concerns through proper city channels. Participate in environmental reviews that will impact San Dieguito Lagoon and specifically the Phase 3 trail extension in 2022 (requires additional committee meeting or two). Provide input during the initial planning stage of modifications or improvements to the lagoon, surrounding trails and wetlands. Collaborate with the Sustainability Advisory Committee on Sea Level Rise impacts to the lagoon and the potential for the City to receive Blue Carbon Credits. Raise awareness about the San Dieguito Lagoon and trails through education, field work, and outreach.

Budget and Additional Staffing Needs

\$500 to underwrite educational programs, invasive plant brochures, and events in 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Additional meeting or two will be necessary for the committee to participate in the trails environmental review process or any other environmental reviews impacting the lagoon. Funding to hold one televised committee meeting where the contractors who monitor the health of the lagoon present to the committee as well as the Del Mar Community.

Action Items (subject to change)

Sub-committee adjustments in February 2022. Agenda action item to discuss and potentially create new sub-committees including but not limited to the following: Sea Level Rise (SLR) and expansion of Blue Carbon to Restoration, which will continue to include Blue Carbon matters. Also assign a lead for every sub-committee that will be responsible for scheduling meetings and reporting at quarterly committee meetings. Action item to also dismantle website sub-committee, and combine Events & Education (requires some people dropping from each sub-committee). Also, vote on sub-committee for Los Penasquitos Lagoon decreased to 1 person with expansion as needed.

Assign new committee member(s) to attend JPA and Citizen Advisory Committee Meetings for the San Dieguito River Valley meetings and report at quarterly committee meetings. February 2022

Raise awareness of the San Dieguito Lagoon by holding two educational sessions annually. Responsible Sub-Committee: Education & Events

“What’s Hot and What’s Not - Learn how to protect Del Mar’s canyons and lagoons from invasive plant species” - Held at Del Mar Library or via ZOOM 2022 Q2. Possible co-sponsor DMF and/or DMGC

“Birds of San Dieguito Lagoon” - 2022 Q4 Walking tour with limited capacity or Zoom presentation.

“Best Kept Secrets of San Dieguito Lagoon” 2023 Walking Tour

“History of San Dieguito Lagoon and San Dieguito River Valley” 2023 Library Presentation

Conduct monthly maintenance inspections of River Path Trail from railroad tracks to Grand Avenue Pier and submit monthly report to committee chair and city staff that includes recommendations of corrective action, if needed. Responsible Sub-Committee: Trails

Review water quality and lagoon dredging reports as published and report concerns to city. Responsible Sub-Committee: Water Quality & Sand Reports

Investigate partnering with JPA, Conservancy and/or WILDCOAST to offer field work such as planting and invasive plant removal to the Del Mar community. Goal one event in 2022. Responsible Sub-Committee: Restoration

Participate in the review for design of North County Transit District (NCTD) Lot as Gateway to River Path Trails and submit recommendation to city council. Consider creating sub-committee if this project moves forward and participate in CEQA environmental review. Timing TBD Responsible Sub-Committee: Chair and Vice-Chair or Restoration

Review predicted impacts to the San Dieguito Lagoon from Sea Level Rise (SLR) and collaborate with the Sustainability Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the City Council of preferred adaptive strategies. Responsible Sub-Committee: SLR

Participate in WILDCOAST's Blue Carbon Collaborative and receive and review the findings of the Blue Carbon Study in the San Dieguito Lagoon. Blue Carbon Study anticipated in June 2022. Collaborative is on-going. Responsible Sub-Committee: Restoration

Collaborate with Sustainability Advisory Committee on Blue Carbon Credits for City. Responsible Sub-Committee: Restoration

Review and provide comments on upcoming proposal for living levy during early planning stages. Responsible Sub-Committee: Restoration

Review and if needed comment on the CEQA Environmental Report for the River Path Extension to Crest Canyon. Responsible Sub-Committee: Trails *Note: Additional committee meeting(s) will be needed to participate in CEQA review and submit to city council.*

If opportunity arises, provide guidance on the design of the Watermark Project with regard to its impact on the Lagoon. Timing TBD Responsible Sub-Committee: Restoration?

Follow the progress and provide recommendations to the Fairground's plans for the parking lot adjacent to the wetlands as they comply with the Coastal Commission's mandate. Timing TBD Responsible Sub-Committee: Restoration