

CITY OF DEL MAR

LAGOON COMMITTEE MINUTES

VIA TELECONFERENCE ONLY

FEBRUARY 16, 2022, 5:00 P.M.

Council Liaisons: Mayor Dwight Worden; Council Member Dan Quirk

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

Committee 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

At 5:04 the meeting was called to order. Present were Clem, Julie, Geoff, Robert, Donna, Udo, Jill, Carol and Dwight (Bill, Ellen and Dan were absent) Bill and Ellen joined at 5:21pm.

2) ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

3) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None – no one from the public is present

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR December 15, 2021

Donna moves to approve. Udo seconds and all approve without changes.

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

Dwight let us know about the goals workshop that the city council will have next month. At the workshop they will look at what the needs are from the various departments and committees and the resources they have available. Then they will prioritize and come up with a plan of what they will be able to get done next year. Dwight will be the advocate for the committee at the meeting.

6) NEW BUSINESS:

A. Review, Discuss and Vote on Draft Work Plan

The committee started to review the draft work plan that was put together by the sub-group comprised of Dwight, Jill, Ellen and Geoff.

Karen asked about the Los Penasquitos Lagoon responsibility raised in our last meeting. Jill answered that only when something is brought to the attention of the Lagoon Committee to do something about, or comment on, would we would get involved. Otherwise, we would not have active on-going involvement.

Carol asked about how we will make our goals work. I.e., how do we monitor the health of the Lagoon? Jill said through sand reports we receive and said we need to get more reports on water quality. Dwight has reached out to Coast Keepers and they have been brainstorming how to get data. We have been told that Steve's group (Steve Schroeter is tasked with data monitoring for the Lagoon) looks at the oxygen levels and they (the oxygen levels) are fine but the data is spotty.

Jill noted that the specifics on the resources and how tasks will be completed can be handled by the sub-committees. She also asked Clem if he had access to the data and if he got reports through the City. He was not sure and said he would follow-up and advise.

Dwight noted that So Cal Edison (SCE) is the one who has to get the reports done and has an agreement with Steve Schroeter who produces them and for some reason we stopped getting them. The committee discussed further on this and decided to table it until the sub-committee is formed and can work on it.

Jill led us through the detailed work plan and we discussed potential sub-committees and some goals and work tasks. The committee then discussed members and leads for each of the sub-committees.

1. Education / Events – combine these two sub-committees (Robert, Jill, Donna, Bill – Robert to lead)
2. Trails – walk and give feedback, review and comment if needed on the CEQUA report for River Park Program Phase3 (would need Council to approve an additional meeting to do this.) (Geoff will lead, Karen, Bill, Julie)
3. Water quality/sand replenishment reports – action item for sub-committee to follow up with Council Liaison and City staff to track down available water quality reports. The annual report will be due for May (Karen, Ellen, Bill, Carol - lead).
4. Restoration – working with partners, JPA, Wildcoast, Surfrider Foundation, Community at Large – doing hands on work. Triangle lot owned by NCTD – there is a plan on the table and this could be part of Restoration. Fairgrounds Plan adjacent to the wetlands – Restoration as well. (Jill, Geoff, Udo, Robert - Jill to lead)
5. Sea level Rise Sub-committee – make recommendations to Sustainability Committee at City Council. Sea Level Rise sub-committee to review and provide comments on the living levy plan. This could also be part of restoration sub-committee as well but will be separate for now (Carol, Udo, Karen – lead).

6. Blue Carbon sub-committee (Ellen, Carol, Bill, Udo – Udo will lead) – collaborate and participate with others doing Blue Carbon work. Also work on Blue Carbon credits for the city. This committee would also interface with the Sustainability Committee at the city.
7. Penasquitos Lagoon – Julie to lead.

Dwight noted that everyone might want to provide input on the Watermark project as it impacts the Lagoon – it is in the last 30 - day comment period and then it will go to the City and Coastal Committee (CC). If there is a CC appeal the CC wants a review of the guidance there might be something for the committee to do.

The committee voted to approve amendments to the draft work plan and have it presented to the City Council. The motion is made by Udo and seconded by Ellen. All are in favor. Work plan is approved. Dwight will take it to the City Council for the goal setting.

Ellen asked if we should have a liaison with the Surfrider Foundation – Udo could serve in that role. Jill asked if we should appoint a formal liaison. It was agreed to be part of the work plan.

Ellen asked if we would be allowed by Council to start monthly meetings if we wanted them? Dwight asked the city about it informally and was told no but Ellen suggested we ask for it formally.

If we meet monthly then what happens in sub-committees? The committee had a discussion around how this would work. Dwight suggested that we add this to the work plan for council to approve. It will be part of that approval.

- B. Review and Reconfigure Sub-Committees and Agency Representatives (JPA and CAC)
The committee discussed each of the committees and volunteers and leads for each. The committee agreed that sub-committees will meet in the next two to three weeks to get organized and sub-committees will meet at least monthly.

Dwight can continue to do the report out for the JPA. Jill and Julie will rotate for the CAC.

C. Election of Chair

Carol put forth a motion for Jill Gartman to be our new Chair and Udo seconded it. The vote is unanimous. For the Vice Chair – Jill asked for any who are interested to reach out to her.

7) REPORTS FROM OTHER AGENCIES:

A. Joint Powers Authority (Carol, Dwight)

None

B. Citizens Advisory Committee (Carol, Bill)

Carol stated that the CAC meeting was interesting as there were a lot of new members. They will have an orientation for new CAC members so reach out to Crystal with the JPA to be a part of it.

SDGE - The work has started along the road – they will start to work on the posts in the lagoon cutting them off at water level. Big discussion about electric bikes on the trails in the River Valley.

There are three classes of electric bikes and there are abuses on the trails. There were advocates for the bikes and against the bikes. Carol wanted to discuss with the committee and have Jill / Julie take back the committee's vote. The committee discussed the impacts and if we have a role to play here. Dwight stated that the City really follows the state rules. He offered to get some info on the City's work to date and put on the agenda for the next meeting.

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

Presentation at City Council by Shanna Exec Director of the Riverpark and Kim Smith from SANDAG on the W-19 project. Work is now underway. Question came up on how the blue carbon plants could be integrated in the restoration work they do. Dwight agreed to take it up with Kim and Shanna.

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

None

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

None

8) SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

None

B. Education (Jill, Robert)

None

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

None

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

With the recent rain the trail is eroding along the trail by the maintenance area (Riverpark Phase 1) with some new slides.

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

None

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

They did not dredge due to the oil spill and do not plan to do so until the next year because of the timing for the nesting of the local birds. They will continue to watch water levels to ensure that the water continues to flow and take action if necessary.

G. Website (Julie)

No update at this time – it will be removed going forward

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

- A. Wildcoast update – Jill let the committee know that she had an exchange with the Executive Director Serge Dedina, and they have a lot of exciting work they are getting ready to do in the field and would like to share it with us. We discussed calling a special meeting to be held in the field or take fewer people so we do not have a quorum. Dwight will check on the feasibility based on potential staff time needs. We then watched a video put together by Wildcoast about the work they do and why.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEOXtt_Anic

It is a PR video designed to get the word out. The committee discussed ideas about how to get it out through the city (Del Mar TV, City Council Meeting, etc.)

B. Watermark update

None

C. La Atalaya update

None

D. Phase 3 update

None

10) ADJOURNMENT

Julie adjourned the meeting at 6:43