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Minutes For December 8, 2005

SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING, HELD THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2005 AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER GROUND FLOOR HEARING ROOM, LOCATED AT 675 TEXAS STREET IN THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD

Commission Members Present: Leong, Alvarez, Hermsmeyer, Riddle & Laevastu

Commission Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Norris, Davis & Ingram

1. Chairman Hermsmeyer called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.
2. Roll Call. A quorum was confirmed.
3. Approval of Minutes: On call of Chair Hermsmeyer, Commissioner Laevastu moved to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2005 regular Meeting with a change in item #6 that Harry Englebright will talk about the countywide master plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riddle and approved by a unanimous vote as follows: Riddle/yes, Alvarez/yes, Hermsmeyer/yes, Leong/yes & Laevastu/yes.
4. Approval of Agenda: On call of Chair Hermsmeyer, Commissioner Alvarez moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Laevastu and approved by unanimous vote as follows: Riddle/yes, Alvarez/yes, Hermsmeyer/yes, Leong/yes & Laevastu/yes.
5. Chair Announcements: The Chair had no announcements.
6. Commissioner and Staff Comments: Staff Norris briefly explains two handouts; one on the BRBNA meeting and Commissioner Laevastu attended the previous Saturday and the other on a private/public partnership conference attended at Asilomar in November.
7. Public Comments. None.
8. Hear an update from the Committee for the Fish & Wildlife Fund Review and make recommendations to the committee on the procedure(s) to manage and allocate two special distributions of mitigations, fines and penalties of the Kinder Morgan settlement:

Committee members and Parks and County Counsel staff advise the Commission that plea agreement monies have been received by the County and that two separate funds have been set up. Committee members noted that they are still gathering information and will need time to compose rating criteria and guidelines for new prospective projects, but shared that they have reviewed with the Commission.

One fund is for \$480,000.00 and has three stipulations: 1st - It must be spent on projects within the Suisun Marsh. It must be spent on projects that involve fish, wildlife and habitat enhancement. 3rd- Projects must be government sponsored or driven.

The Second fund is for \$494,974.00 and can be used countywide (including, excluding or exclusive to the Suisun projects that follow the Fish and Game 13100 code criteria.

County Counsel and Parks staff advise the Commission that two recommendations are being requested of the Commission on the two funds on each method of disbursement. Norris confirmed that the use of the \$408,000.00 comply "for payment of restitution, due to the impossibility of identifying direct damages to the County of Solano, to be provided in the form of supplemental environmental projects for fish, wildlife and habitat enhancement in the Suisun Marsh in the County of Solano, to be approved by the Fish and Wildlife Commission of the County of Solano". He also confirmed that the \$408,000.00 must comply with Fish and Game Code Sections 13100-13104.

A lengthy discussion followed between Parks and County Counsel staff, Commissioners and the public concerning the two funds may be spent and what the recommendations to the Board of Supervisors might include. Members of the public provided comments and suggestions included Dimitrios Georges, Dave McConnell, Steve Chappell, Jim Ball, Jerry and Monique Liguori. Commissioners thanked Steve Ingram for helping them understand the legal requirements concerning the two funds.

Commissioner Alvarez makes a motion that the \$480,000.00 fund be used for Solano County Parks or cooperative projects within the Suisun Marsh area that will enhance public access and awareness of the Marsh, and allows for the use of funds for leverage of funding projects within the Marsh. Commissioner Leong seconded the motion. After some discussion a roll call vote is made as follows: Riddle / No, Laevastu / No, Alvarez / Yes, Hermsmeyer / Yes & Leong / Yes. The motion passes.

Commissioner Hermsmeyer makes a motion to use the \$494,974.00 funds for projects on a countywide basis, in projects within the Suisun Marsh area, to be set aside on an equitable basis in the portions of ; 1/3 for Solano County projects, 1/3 for cooperative partnership projects that may include the Solano County Parks and 1/3 for other approved non-profits; and that the Commission may reallocate these funding portions for worthwhile projects depending on the needs of the community. Commissioner Alvarez seconds the motion. A roll call vote is made as follows: Riddle / Yes, Alvarez / Yes, Hermsmeyer / Yes, Leong / Yes & Laevastu / Yes. With a unanimous vote the motion passes.

The Commissioners proceeded to discuss the importance of the two funds accommodating timeline considerations and individual project needs on the basis of seasonal, endowment and multi-year objectives. They also acknowledged that the committee can undertake to advise the Commission on rating the merits of projects for allocations or grant awards.

9. Recommendations by the Commission to the Board on awards of the current Fish & Wildlife Fund FY; 2005-2006. Commissioners decide to vote on each request separately. The votes and awards are as follows;

Lake Solano County Park Fish Stocking (\$1,980.00 requested). Riddle / Yes \$1,500.00, Alvarez / Yes \$1,980.00, Hermsmeyer / Yes \$1,980.00, Leong / Yes \$1,980.00, Laevastu / No. The majority of \$1,980.00 is the award.

Sandy Beach County Park Arundo Removal (\$2,220.00 requested). Riddle / Yes \$1,000.00, Alvarez / Yes \$2,220.00, Hermsmeyer / Yes \$2,220.00, Leong / Yes \$1,500.00, Laevastu / Yes \$2,220.00. The majority of \$2,220.00 is the award.

Suisun Marsh Natural History Assoc. Project Wildlife (\$3,000.00 requested) Commissioner Leong recused himself because he is an active member. Riddle / Yes \$1,500.00, Alvarez / Yes \$3,000.00, Hermsmeyer / Yes \$1,500.00, Laevastu / Yes \$3,000.00. Hermsmeyer motions to fund at \$2,500.00, is seconded by Commissioner Leong. By roll call vote- Commissioner Riddle / No, Alvarez / Yes, Hermsmeyer / Yes, Laevastu / Yes. The motion is carried. The award is for \$2,500.00.

Solano Resource Conservation District Songbird Program (Requested \$2,500.00) Commissioner Riddle recused himself because he is an active member.

this consideration because he is an active member. Alvarez /Yes \$2,500.00, Hermsmeyer / Yes \$1,250.00, Leong 000.00, Laevastu / Yes \$1,000.00. Through a consensus a sum of \$1, 000.00 is awarded.

Solano Resource Conservation District Native Plant Program (Requested \$11,250.00) Commissioner Riddle recuse from this consideration because he is an active member. Alvarez / Yes \$3,425.00, Hermsmeyer / Yes \$3, 425.00, \$3,425.00, Laevastu / Yes \$3,425.00. The award is for \$3, 425.00.

10. Future Agenda Items:

- A. Staff report on ADA policy for campsite reservations.
- B. Hear report on Mare Island Regional Park
- C. Consider new park sites.
- D. Consider new funding sources for County Parks.
- E. Selection of Officers.
- F. Recommendation to prohibit or restrict alcoholic beverages in the Parks.
- G. Joint Parks Planning with Yolo County.
- H. Mount Vaca property; next steps for public hearings for recreational reuse.
- I. Naming policy for parks and appropriate memorial at Sandy Beach Park.

The Commission confirmed the next regular meeting of January 12, 2006 at 5:30 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37PM.

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