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Minutes For July 12, 2007

SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD THURSDAY, July 12, 2007 AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER - FIRST HEARING ROOM,
LOCATED AT 675 TEXAS STREET FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Commission Members Present: Hermsmeyer, Riddle, & Laevastu

Commission Member Excused: Alvarez and Leong were excused

Staff Present: Sykes, Tanner-Linne,

1. Chair Hermsmeyer called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM. A quorum was confirmed.
2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the June 27, 2007 special meeting could not be approved due to a Commissioner from the June 27, 2007 meeting not being present. Commissioner Laevastu had a question on the minutes from the June 27th meeting. Under section 6 H, she was not sure Commissioner Alvarez's question had been answered if the Kinder Morgan funds could be used for Belden's Landing. Staff Sykes confirmed that County Counsel affirmed at the June 27 meeting that they could.
3. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved. Commissioner Laevastu made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Riddle seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.
4. Chair Announcements and Actions

Chair Hermsmeyer stated we should clarify the difference between the "public comments" item on the agenda, and a comment on another agenda item. If you have a comment on the agenda item #8 (Kinder Morgan), it should be under item #8.
5. Commissioner and Staff Comments.

Commissioner Laevastu would like to see Lynch Canyon as an item on a future agenda.
Chair Hermsmeyer asked if a head count was going on. Staff Sykes stated that count for the opening 3 days was 775 people, and that in the 6 weeks following that, another 775 had attended. Commissioner Laevastu said she would like to know if interpretive walks or activities will be going on. She wanted Lynch Canyon to be a success.
6. Parks Division Staff Reports
 - A. Update on the Monticello Dam 50th Anniversary Celebration

Board of Supervisor approved a waiver for day use fees at Lake Solano on that day and Risk Management liability insurance amount for the vendors also.

B. Update on County Parks Staffing and Review of Park Law Enforcement

Staff Sykes stated there were some staffing changes taking place with the ranger staff. At present we have three positions. We will have a new park ranger on staff effective July 30, 2007 to fill one position. We will be recruiting ranger, as well as a ranger supervisor position to fill the position left vacant when Duane Davis retires within a few

Staff Sykes said it was an ongoing discussion regarding the Park's law enforcement policy. He has discussed this with other park agencies and there are several scenarios which other agencies use in their parks.

Commissioner Laevastu asked do the law enforcement duties affect the rangers pay. If you take away the law enforcement duties from then will change their pay scale. Staff Sykes stated a comprehensive reclassification study was going present. Commissioner Laevastu stated she was inquiring because it would affect their retirement.

Commissioner Riddle stated a lot of peace officers received a premium on their pay. Also the logistics of where parks are at. They are really scattered and the Sheriff's response to some of these areas is lengthy.

Chair Hermsmeyer asked if the hiring list was kept for a year. Staff Sykes said yes.

7. Recommendations for Commission Action

A. Approve and Authorize Distribution of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Award FY 2007/2008 Grant Application

Chair Hermsmeyer said he was looking at the grant application. One of the tools that were added to the application was missing.

Commissioner Laevastu said she thought another form was missing. There was a form that the committee used to evaluate the project. It showed the bench marks for the points for each area.

Commissioner Riddle said there was a form that was sent out with the application and the public could see the criteria they were judged. It was beneficial for the public to have this form to see what criteria are being used to judge the

Commissioner Laevastu stated she did not think the area where the Applicable Code Section was to be filled out was. The way it was formatted most people did not fill out this section of the application. The other item is on number 3 add to this section having them describe how this project furthers propagation of Fish and wildlife. What code the project applies to.

Chair Hermsmeyer stated we would be using this application for the Kinder-Morgan funds also. So should we look at the universality of this document? So we can use this same document for that process as well.

Staff Sykes stated if there are specific changes of the criteria or point changes the commission would like to change them, he is glad to do this.

Commissioner Riddle stated the application changes are on the first page to reformat the section regarding the applicable code section expand on this. Place the evaluation/scoring sheet with it and item #3 provide how the project propagates Fish & Wildlife code.

Chair Hermsmeyer stated he would like the applicants to make their presentation on September 13, 2007 meeting.

Staff Sykes asked if we could change the November meeting to either the first or the week after the 15th.

Commissioner Riddle asked to have the meeting November 1, 2007 at 5:30.

Commissioner Laevastu asked if three people could be on the evaluation committee to evaluate the application. Someone that would not be unduly influenced by staff.

Chair Hermsmeyer asked if Commissioner Laevastu would be able to be on the committee to evaluate the application.

Commissioner Laevastu said she would.

Commissioner Riddle stated so the committee will be staff, Dimitrios George as the outside expert and Commissioner Laevastu.

Jerry Emanuelson asked about the matching revenues and what is match revenues. It is not easy to get matching

Commissioner Riddle stated maybe they should revise what matching funds are. If they are matching revenue or

The commission requested Staff Sykes to modify the application to include the appendix and ratings used in last y application, to note the revised deadline dates, and to clarify for the applicant where they are asked to fill out the section, and then to distribute the application. Commissioner Riddle made a motion to approve the application with changes and Commissioner Laevastu second the motion. It was approved. The applications will be presented to the Commission September 13, 2007, reviewed, and then the Commission will make a recommendation on November

B. Review the Commission Recommendations of December 8, 2005 on the Use of Kinder Morgan Funds.

Chair Hermsmeyer read the agreement of the Kinder-Morgan funds and how they can be used.

Staff stated the commission should review their December 2005 recommendations and decide if they would like to their recommendations or whether it reflected their current thinking.

Commissioner Laevastu agreed it was good they were looking at their decision regarding the funds. She would like look at the process of using the money and other options. She had other ideas of how the money should be spent She did not want them to make a decision not knowing all their options tonight with two of the commissioners mi

Chair Hermsmeyer stated John Taylor was going to take this to the Board and the County Administrator had a pro in the current form. Some comments were made that the Board would not be happy with this.

Commissioner Laevastu asked if this is still the guidance the commission would like the funds to be spent.

Commissioner Riddle stated that back to December 8th, 2005, this gave him concern. We have this 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 proposal to spend the funds for the code is not a problem, but to say to spend 1/3 of the funds on Solano County projects is a problem for me. The geographic location for the funds is not a problem. Each project should be evaluated their benefits. If you throw 1/3 of \$490,000 to the County, the County then has a large chunk of the Kinder Morgan do with as they please for parks.

Commissioner Riddle: I am not sure if this is the way to do this. If you say 1/3 of the funds for the County for park 1/3 for cooperative partnerships projects for another chunk of it, now the County gets a large amount of the Kinder funds to play with. We have to watch where it goes. The commission needs to watch out to protect the public interest just hand it over to the Parks.

Commissioner Laevastu stated she agreed with Commissioner Riddle. She stated her other concern spending \$40 Belden's Landing that does not have anything to do with the habitat. There are other opportunities for the funds to for the habitat.

Commissioner Riddle asked if they needed to change the commission decisions that we made in December 2005 to commission's feelings now. Commissioner Laevastu said yes, she thought they did need to change their decision.

Chair Hermsmeyer: The commission could amend the wording to read that \$494,974 fund be used for projects on wide basis, including projects within the Suisun Marsh. Chair Hermsmeyer stated, if Commissioner Riddle's issue is designation of 1/3rd that we could simply amend that paragraph to say the commission recommends these funds for Solano County Parks, Cooperative Partnerships projects, non-park applicants and other projects that meet the requirement of the Fish & Game Code. Chair Hermsmeyer stated he had made the motion at the December 2005 wanted to get some method of criteria they could use to make some decisions. We would like a little more directio

Board on this.

Commissioner Riddle made a motion to change the Park & Recreation Commission recommendations by removing allocations. Commissioner Laevastu seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Based on the motion, the recommendations from December 2005 would now read as follows (with deletions show strikethrough, and additions with underline):

The \$480,000 fund should be used for Solano County Parks or cooperative partnership projects within the Suisun that will enhance public access and awareness of the marsh, and allows for matching funds for leveraging of fund within the Marsh.

Use the \$494,947 funds for projects on a county-wide basis, including projects within the Suisun Marsh area, to be on an equitable basis in the portions of 1/3 for Solano County Parks, 1/3 for cooperative partnership projects, that include the Solano County Parks, and 1/3 for other applicants or non-profits, non-park applicants, and other projects that meet the requirements of Fish and Game Code 13103, and that the Commission may reallocate these funding portions for worthwhile projects depending on merit.

8. Public Comments

Erin Gable of the Senator Torlakson's office and Linda Fiack of the Delta Protection Commission spoke of the use of funds for the Great Delta Trail project. Steve Chappell of the Suisun Resource Conservation District presented a proposal for the funds in Suisun Marsh. Jerry Emmualsen of the Suisun Natural History Association spoke of a project proposal they own in the Suisun Marsh.

9. Committee Reports

Chair Hermsmeyer requested a Park & Recreation Commission committee be formed to develop criteria for an objective evaluation process for the Kinder Morgan funds. Chair Hermsmeyer requested that staff contact all commissioners by a certain date for a special meeting to assign the committee.

Commissioner Laevastu stated she thought the committee should be chosen when the entire commission was present.

10. Confirm next special meeting of August 2 , 2007 at 5:30 pm, and Adjourn

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