

**DON PEDRO RECREATION AGENCY
BOARD OF CONTROL - DON PEDRO PROJECT
MINUTES August 14, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER: 10:00 a.m. Don Pedro Recreation Agency

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Frantz – Turlock Irrigation District (TID)
Paul Campbell – Modesto Irrigation District (MID)
Mike Williams – City & County of San Francisco (CCSF)

OTHERS PRESENT: Tou Her – Turlock Irrigation District (TID)
John Davids – Modesto Irrigation District (MID)
Chris Collett – DPRA, Division Manager, Campground Operations
Keith Lynar – Private Houseboat Owner
Joe & Phyllis Farenkamm – Private Houseboat Owners
Bob & Susie Lynar – Private Houseboat Owners
Ross & Linda Swett – Private Houseboat Owners

MINUTES

The Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA) Board of Control approved the minutes of the July 10, 2015, Board of Control meeting as written. Michael Frantz abstained since he had not attended the July meeting.

MONTHLY FISCAL REPORT

Compared to June, 2014, all categories of revenue were down for the month of June, 2015. Projected revenue for the month of June was \$435,710 and actual revenue was \$199,326. Agency Director Russell pointed out that the actual revenue in June 2014, totaled \$251,782, and the Moccasin launch ramp and all five lanes of the Fleming Meadows launch ramp were in operation. In comparison, the Moccasin launch ramp was closed and only 2 lanes at the Fleming Meadows launch ramp were operational in June, 2015. June's revenue combined with sponsor contributions totaled \$405,821. Projected expenses for the month of June were \$305,004 and actual expenses were \$230,209. Expenses were reduced due to cutbacks made to seasonal staffing as campground areas were closed. Actual revenue, year-to-date, was \$862,722. Total revenue, including sponsor contributions, was \$1,681,808. Actual expenses year-to-date was \$1,268,586, leaving a balance of \$413,222 of expenses over revenue. Capital expenses for the month of June totaled \$1,737 and were associated with the lake operations buoy line management and the sign replacement projects. Year to date, \$32,847 in Capital funding has been spent.

2016 RECREATION AGENCY BUDGET

Agency Director Russell presented an overview of the draft 2016 O&M and Capital budgets to the Board. Director Russell explained that the 2016 budget has been based on a conservative approach with one two-lane launch ramp in operation (lake level between 600' – 711'), intermittent campsite closures, 33% seasonal employee labor reduction for camp ops and 27% for maintenance ops, and additional labor expenses due to a possible 3% cola increase and 5% step increase adjustments. Director Russell added that the 2016 lake elevation projections may require an amendment to the budget if water level conditions change either way. The Board was asked to review the detailed material with action to be requested at the September meeting.

In lieu of waiting to widen the Fleming Launch Ramp as a 2016 Capital project, Board Chairman Frantz suggested that it would be logical to pour concrete to widen the Fleming Meadows launch ramp to the water's edge before rainfall begins. Mr. Frantz would like DPRA to look into proceeding with the project this fall if there is sufficient time remaining to complete the project. Board Member Williams agreed that it would be a good idea to proceed while we have the opportunity. Launch ramp lighting was also discussed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There were 794 new reservations made in July. This is 247 less than were made in July, 2014. Year to date, a total of 3,678 reservations have been made in 2015 compared to 4,627 reservations that were made during the same period in 2014. This is currently 21% less than the number of reservations made through July, 2014. The greatest factor affecting the reservation

numbers is likely the launch ramp availability. All three launch ramps were open through May and half of June in 2014 compared to the summer of 2015 where only Fleming Meadows ramp has been open with two lanes available.

Campground Division Manager, Chris Collett, presented a report in response to a request from the Board at the July Board of Control meeting. Board Member Campbell asked DPRA to look into ways to increase visitor usage at Don Pedro Lake through marketing and promotions. Mr. Collett contacted several marketing consultants who have specifically worked with the RV Park and camping industry and detailed each of their credentials. Discussion took place and it was decided that DPRA invite a couple of the consultants to give presentations at upcoming Board of Control meetings. Board Member Campbell also instructed Mr. Collett to contact some of their references.

Mr. Collett presented information in response to a request from the Board at the July Board of Control meeting regarding “Fast Pass” or Preferred launching/parking. Due to Chairman Frantz not attending the July Board of Control meeting, Board Member Campbell explained the intent of the “Fast Pass”. After some discussion it was decided that this would not be a good fit for Don Pedro Lake.

A Forest Service Ranger reported that the low water rafting take-out in Moccasin Bay is great but upstream where the river has cut through the silt, there are, steep walls of silt that are sloughing off into the river. Therefore, DPRA is not encouraging use of this area.

DPRA staff has worked very hard to clear the old highway 49 roadway of debris to reach the water near the mouth of Moccasin Bay. This will allow emergency vehicle access to meet up with boats in emergency situations. It also provides the ability of non-motorized boaters to utilize the upper end of the reservoir. Staff has also been clearing the Fleming Meadows launch ramp of debris and placing base rock in eroded areas to improve access to courtesy dock gangways as the water goes down.

Several incidences of theft have taken place at the Lake Don Pedro Marina (LDPM) café, several small boats in slips, the Trading Post, DPRA vessels, and several houseboats in various mooring areas through July and August. There was also an attempted theft of a vessel on a trailer parked in the Fleming Meadows parking lot. An arrest has been made in Oakdale where some of the stolen property has been recovered.

The condition of the decking at the Lake Don Pedro Marina’s private houseboat dock has continued to discolor and has now become sticky. Marina management has been working with the manufacturer to seek a long term solution to the problem.

LDPM has confirmed that staff continues to clean off the private houseboat facility on a weekly basis. LDPM staff has also confirmed that their courtesy boat is available for use during operating hours through their rental office.

DPRA staff, LDPM staff, and private houseboat owners from the private houseboat marina are working together today to clean up the shoreline in the marina cove.

Several interesting relics are surfacing as the lake continues to drop. DPRA staff removed a steel frame paddle boat that had emerged at the back of Mexican Gulch. Staff also removed an old power boat complete with motor that emerged in Woods Creek.

MATTERS TO THE GOOD

Private houseboat owner, Susie Lynar, spoke to the Board regarding a one-time waiver requested by Moccasin Point Marina at the February, 2014, Board of Control meeting. Ms. Lynar stated that the Board approved the waiver as long as the marina provided an additional pump-out and other services to be determined as reasonable by the Director and input from the public. Ms. Lynar would like to know when the plan will be implemented. Director Russell added that all three of the pump-outs are functional including the additional barge pump-out station. Ms. Lynar stated that the barge pump-out is never made available and its current location is impossible for a houseboat to access. Discussion took place regarding pump-out availability, location, and accessibility. Board Chairman Frantz stated that the Board will report back next month.

ADJOURNMENT

Due to no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Russell

Secretary to Board of Control

Copies to: Mr. Williams
 Messrs. Frantz, Hashimoto, Macedo, Her
 Messrs. Campbell, Davids, VanHoy