

DON PEDRO RECREATION AGENCY
BOARD OF CONTROL - DON PEDRO PROJECT
MINUTES July 11, 2014

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

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Frantz – Turlock Irrigation District
Mike Williams – City & County of San Francisco
Roger VanHoy – Modesto Irrigation District

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob & Susie Lynar – Private Houseboat Owners
Ross & Linda Swett – Private Houseboat Owners
Mickey McInelly – Private Houseboat Owner
Larry Combs – Private Houseboat Owner
Keith Lynar – Private Houseboat Owner
Joe & Phyllis Farenkamm – Private Houseboat Owners
Agatha & Larry Swanson – Private Houseboat Owners
Joe Vojvoda – Private Houseboat Owner

MINUTES

The Don Pedro Board of Control moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 13, 2014, as written.

MONTHLY FISCAL REPORT

Actual revenue for the month of May, 2014, was \$233,154 and actual revenue including sponsor contributions was \$277,656. Projected revenue for May was \$332,720. Actual revenue year to date was \$739,479 and actual revenue year to date including sponsor contributions was \$881,756. Compared to May, 2013, all revenue categories were down with the exception of personal watercraft annual permits, houseboat fees, miscellaneous revenue and WiFi fees. Actual expenses for May were \$284,058 and the projected May expense was \$263,404. Capital expenses for the month of May totaled \$10,143 and were attributed to lake regulatory management, sign replacement project, electronics, and the transformer replacement project.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The updated lake elevation projections were reviewed. The Blue Oaks launch ramp was closed the last week of June due to water level. The Moccasin Point launch ramp was closed down today and DPRA staff is currently working on preparing the alternate launch ramp which should be ready in about one week. The Fleming Meadows launch ramp is expected to reduce from 5 lanes of launching to 2 lanes at the end of July or the first of August.

There were 1,074 campsite reservations made in June, 2014. This is 380 less than were made in June, 2013. The total reservations, year to date, are less than last years' total through the month of June by 1,489. This is likely attributed to lower lake elevation. DPRA staff has been actively working on getting the word out that Don Pedro Lake currently has water for recreation activity. The back sections of the Blue Oaks campground will be opened for camping for the remaining weekends in July due to Fleming Meadows tent camping areas being completely reserved for those weekends.

Director Russell reviewed the Fourth of July Weekend Facility Use Comparison. The combined revenue for all three campgrounds was down approximately 37%. The difference of revenue collected between the 2013 Fourth of July holiday weekend and 2014 Fourth of July holiday weekend amount is very close to the amount that was budgeted for the 2014 fireworks show. Campground occupancy at all three campgrounds was at 100% full. Overflow camping in the D and E areas at Moccasin Point was also utilized and had 15% occupancy.

Over the Fourth of July weekend, DPRA staff responded to 4 medical assists, 1 theft, 1 vessel accident, and 1 arrest. The arrest was carried out by Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department on an inebriated subject who had fallen down and injured himself and then refused medical treatment. He was transported to the hospital and then to jail. A power failure occurred at Blue Oaks campground when a fuse was tripped. A Modesto Irrigation District troubleshooter made the repair within hours of the failure and there was no impact on DPRA's ability to provide water to the campground. Traffic was kept moving at the entrance stations. The swimming lagoon was very busy all three days of the weekend and overflow parking was utilized for that facility.

The campground visitor texting system debuted for the first time on a Fourth of July weekend. A total of nine contacts were received over the weekend. All but one text were responded to at the time they were received and the one received after staff was off shift was addressed by the morning patrol ranger.

DPRA staff is preparing an unimproved boat launch site on the old highway 49 at Moccasin Point. Staff will also assess options for future low water launch development at the east end of the lake as the declining water level reveals more shoreline. Staff is currently collecting debris that is surfacing in various locations around the lake. This project will continue as lake level drops.

The remaining section of the Moccasin Point Marina structure was moved to the west end of the reservoir this week.

DPRA staff is working on preparation of the 2015 DPRA budget. A draft budget will be presented to the Board of Control at the August meeting.

CalTrans will be doing major repairs on the Hwy 120/49 bridge that crosses Don Pedro Lake beginning in November 2015. Work is expected to last until Spring of 2016. Tuolumne County and CalTrans are working on the details that may include road closure and possible detours on County roads including Jacksonville Road and Bonds Flat Road.

MATTERS TO THE GOOD

Private houseboat owner, Bob Lynar, asked if staff will be looking at Harney Lane as a possible future low water boat launch site. Director Russell stated that Harney Lane will be part of the review.

Private houseboat owner, Phyllis Farenkamm, asked if there has been any feedback from campers not having cell service.

Board Member, Roger VanHoy, asked how DPRA is sharing the information regarding the visitor texting system. Director Russell stated that the information is posted in all of the restrooms and that staff is also sharing the information with campers. Board Chairman Frantz added that the system allows for non-confrontational reporting.

Private houseboat owner, Ross Swett, complained about excessive noise coming from the campgrounds and added that since the lake level is dropping, houseboaters are unable to get cell service to report issues. Mr. Swett would like DPRA to look into somehow improving cell service on the lake. Mr. Swett also requested Board Chairman Frantz to clarify the sequence of events regarding what transpired with Forever Resorts and an exit strategy. Mr. Frantz read an email response to another houseboat owner regarding the same question asked at the June Board of Control meeting and then further summarized the sequence of events. Mr. Swett then asked if there has been any changes made to the Concession Lease Agreement (CLA) and he also wanted to know what percentage rate Forever Resorts is now paying. Chairman Frantz stated that there have been no changes to the CLA. Director Russell added that there was never a “lowest water” percentage rate included in the CLA, but staff is currently developing a matrix to identify what services MPM is still providing and setting up a recommendation that would be applicable for that location.

Private houseboat owner, Larry Combs, requested that access to the private houseboat marina be addressed. He would like to see the area where the asphalt meets the dirt be smoothed out. Board Chairman Frantz asked Director Russell to look into it.

Private houseboat owner, Joe Vojvoda, complained that the ramp to the private houseboat marina was left in a dangerous position recently and would like someone to make sure that it is maintained more frequently.

Private houseboat owner, Ross Swett, reported that people who are not slip renters at the private houseboat marina are using the facility for loading and unloading and leaving garbage. Would like “private dock” to be enforced.

Audience members shared concerns that the Marina hours of operation were not long enough. They believe that the Marina is losing money and not accommodating their customers by closing too early.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of adding cell phone towers or repeaters.

ADJOURNMENT

Due to no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Russell
Secretary to Board of Control

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