

**DON PEDRO RECREATION AGENCY  
BOARD OF CONTROL - DON PEDRO PROJECT  
MINUTES July 10, 2015**

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: John Davids – Modesto Irrigation District  
John & Marcia Boer – Private Houseboat Owners  
Keith Lynar – Private Houseboat Owner  
Joe, Phyllis & Allie Farenkamm – Private Houseboat Owners  
Bob Lynar – Private Houseboat Owner  
Ross & Linda Swett – Private Houseboat Owners

**MINUTES**

The Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA) Board of Control approved the minutes of the May 15, 2015, Board of Control meeting as written. Tou Her abstained since he had not attended the May meeting.

**MONTHLY FISCAL REPORT**

Compared to April, 2014, all categories of revenue were down for the month of April 2015, with the exception of day use boat, lakeshore camping, houseboat fees, concessionaire fees, and WiFi fees. Projected revenue for the month of April was \$232,384 and actual revenue was \$126,232. Agency Director Russell pointed out that the Moccasin Point Marina (MPM) was still in full operation in April of 2014 and has had limited operation during the whole year in 2015. April's revenue combined with sponsor contributions totaled \$236,362. Projected expenses for the month of April were \$232,384 and actual expenses were \$214,342. Capital expenses for the month of April totaled \$18,756 and were associated with the water tank inspection and cleaning project, and an outboard motor replacement. Compared to May, 2014, all categories of revenue were down for the month of May 2015, with the exception of houseboat fees and concessionaire fees. Projected revenue for the month of May was \$406,672 and actual revenue was \$166,133. May's revenue combined with sponsor contributions totaled \$358,861. Projected expenses for the month of May were \$334,052 and actual expenses were \$278,695. Actual revenue, year to date, totaled \$663,396, and actual revenue year to date including sponsor contributions totaled \$1,275,987. Actual expenses, year to date, totaled \$1,038,376 leaving a balance of \$237,611. Capital expenses for the month of May totaled \$887, and were associated with the sign replacement project and lake regulatory management. Year to date capital expenses totaled \$33,203. In answer to a question asked at a previous meeting by Board Member Campbell, Agency Director Russell stated that 80% of expenses in May were directly related to labor and if the General & Administrative (G&A) costs are included, it accounts for 89% of the month's expenses.

Board Member Campbell asked Agency Director Russell if DPRA normally runs at a deficit. Russell explained that prior to 2008, DPRA operated at or above expenses while the sponsors have always picked up the Capital portion of the expenses. Ms. Russell added that even though the economy has somewhat turned around, we are now facing drought conditions with a low lake level. Mr. Campbell asked when DPRA would be looking at fees again. Board Member, Mike Williams, added that raising fees is not going to put a dent in the current deficit, especially during the drought.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Agency Director Russell explained that a recent decision by the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) to add to their water bank will result in Don Pedro Lake's end of year elevation being higher than previous projections. The previous projection showed Don Pedro Lake reaching a low of 635' -640' elevation, but the current projection shows Don Pedro Lake reaching a low of 663' - 665' elevation at the end of October.

2,884 campsite reservations have been made through June 2015, compared to 3,586 for the same time period in 2014. This is approximately 19% fewer reservations than were made through June of last year. The reservation number difference between 2014 and 2015 correlates with the lack of launch ramps at Blue Oaks and Moccasin Point in 2015.

Director Russell reviewed the Memorial Day Weekend Facility Use Comparison. Combined revenue for all three campgrounds was down from 2014 by 37%, vehicle day use was down by 36%, boat day use was down by 44%, personal watercraft day use was down by 52% and lakeshore camping was down by 32%. Campground occupancy at Fleming Meadows was at 100%, Blue Oaks was 65% full, and Moccasin Point campsites were 48% full. Cooler temperatures on the weekend limited the water activity at the swimming lagoon. There were very few incidents over the holiday weekend but DPRA staff did respond to one minor medical assist and one hit and run with minor vehicle damage in the parking lot. DPRA staff also provided assistance with traffic control at the launch ramp and shuttling boaters to and from their vehicles.

The Blue Oaks entrance station was subject to a break-in on the morning of May 26<sup>th</sup>. The door was damaged beyond repair and a portable 2-way radio was stolen. The Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department is handling the investigation.

The DPRA Lake Operations staff recently relocated the 5 mph buoy line from the mouth of Moccasin Bay to a location between the mouth of Moccasin Bay and the Jacksonville Bridge. Signage was also added to the floating restroom on the 5 mph line that warns boaters of shallow water upstream from that point.

Director Russell reviewed the Fourth of July Weekend Facility Use Comparison. Combined revenue for all three campgrounds was down from 2014 by 28%, vehicle day use was down by 27%, boat day use was down by 47%, personal watercraft day use was down by 40% and lakeshore camping was down by 66%. Campground occupancy at Fleming Meadows was at 100%, Blue Oaks was 86% full, and Moccasin Point campsites were 38% full. Blue Oaks campers and some Moccasin Point campers utilized the Fleming Meadows launch ramp, increasing use at that facility which is limited to two lanes. Many staff hours were focused on entrance station traffic control, launch ramp direction, and shuttle service to help minimize the congestion. The swimming lagoon saw significant use due to temperatures in the upper 90's and low 100's. There were several incidents that occurred over the holiday weekend. DPRA staff responded to a drowning near Fleming Meadows, a missing 6 yr. old child at the swimming lagoon, six medical assists who self-transported, two medical assists that were transported by ground ambulance, one vandalism, and one fireworks violation.

The DPRA staff are still cleaning up from the holiday weekend business on land and on water. Lake bottom clean up continues as new areas are exposed with the receding water level.

Staff is working on the 2016 budget. The initial draft O&M and Capital budget will be reviewed at the August Board of Control meeting.

The Fleming Meadows launch ramp and Moccasin Point low water access are receiving frequent attention now that the water is below the lowest point experienced in 2014.

A Ranger I vacancy occurred in June. Recruitment is underway to fill the position.

DPRA has been approached by a local disc golf group with interest in establishing disc golf course at Moccasin Point Recreation Area. Staff will meet with the group president to discuss further.

DPRA has received interest from recreational Tuolumne River rafters to utilize the Moccasin Bay water access for retrieval of their equipment. DPRA will attempt to accommodate.

Board Member Campbell stated that due to the significant reduction to revenue and visitor days, he asked DPRA to look into hiring a firm to promote Don Pedro Lake. Mr. Campbell also asked DPRA to investigate the idea of generating more revenue by selling "preferred parking", "preferred day use locations", and "expedited boat launching" similar to a "fast pass". Agency Director Russell will research and follow up with information at the August Board of Control meeting.

### **MATTERS TO THE GOOD**

Private houseboat owner, Phyllis Farenkamm, expressed her appreciation for the Rangers that provided assistance at the launch ramp with traffic control and shuttle service to their vehicles. Ms. Farenkamm added that the Forever Resorts staff were also very helpful.

Private houseboat owner, Bob Lynar, stated that he has seen many cows on the shoreline and he would like to know if there is a grazing permit that allows this type of access. Discussion took place regarding cattle on the shoreline and revenue for grazing permits.

Private houseboat owner, Ross Swett, stated that DPRA staff did a good job controlling the traffic at the entrance station and on the launch ramp. Mr. Swett also added that he believes that the dock moored out beyond the launch ramp is a hazard. Mr. Swett then asked the Board to consider having DPRA run the marina operation like it is being done at Lake McClure.

Private houseboat owner, Keith Lynar, stated that several houseboat owners feel that Forever Resorts staff should attend the Board meetings to answer questions and supply information to those in attendance. Mr. Lynar handed out copies of articles from a local newspaper regarding a new marina owner/operator at New Melones Lake who he says has customer service and satisfaction in mind. Keith Lynar also stated that LDPM closed down before dark on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, leaving customers without the ability to purchase gas and ice. He would like to know why Forever Resorts doesn't do more to serve their customers.

Private houseboat owner, John Boer, asked when the next mooring rate increase is scheduled. He would also like the Board to know that the private houseboat dock is filthy and is not being maintained. He also stated that the marina does not provide shuttle service after 3 p.m.

Private houseboat owner, Bob Lynar, stated that many dock fascia boards at the main marina are sticking out and are a hazard.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Due to no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Russell  
Secretary to Board of Control

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