

DON PEDRO RECREATION AGENCY
BOARD OF CONTROL - DON PEDRO PROJECT
MINUTES March 13, 2015

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Board Chairman Frantz announced that he would be leaving the meeting at 11:30 a.m. to catch a flight.

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: John Davids – Modesto Irrigation District
Dave Jigour – DPRA, Division Manager, Lake Operations
Chris Collett – DPRA, Division Manager, Campground Operations
Bob & Susie Lynar – Private Houseboat Owners
Ross & Linda Swett – Private Houseboat Owners
Heather Victoria – Private Houseboat Owner
Keith Lynar – Private Houseboat Owner
Joe & Phyllis Farenkamm – Private Houseboat Owners

MINUTES

The Don Pedro Board of Control approved the minutes of the January 9, 2015, Board of Control meeting as written.

MONTHLY FISCAL REPORT

Agency Director Russell informed the Board that the January Financial Statement was not yet available, but the January and February statements should be available for review at the April Board of Control meeting. Actual revenue for the month of December, 2014, was \$66,874. Compared to December, 2013, all categories of revenue were up for the month of December with the exception of annual vehicle permits, tent campsites, concessionaire fees, and miscellaneous revenues. Projected revenue for December was \$81,180. Actual revenue including sponsor contributions, plus one third of the supplemental contributions that were approved at the October, 2014, Board of Control meeting, totaled \$238,417. Actual expenses for December were \$169,957 and the projected December expense was \$166,360. Actual revenue, year to date, was \$1,671,669 and actual revenue year to date including sponsor contributions was \$2,523,271. This includes the supplemental contributions approved at the October, 2014, Board of Control meeting. Year to date expenses were \$2,655,921, leaving a balance of \$132,650 of expenses over revenue through December which was covered by Operating Account funds. Capital expenses for the month of December totaled \$26,814 and were associated with campsite renovation, vegetation management, signs, water system upgrades, ADA upgrades, restroom interior renovation work, vehicle replacement, and electronics/communications projects. The total 2014 capital expenses were \$126,966.

LOW WATER BOAT LAUNCH ALTERNATIVES – Information Item

Lake Operations Division Manager, Dave Jigour, explained to the Board that DPRA staff and a TID Civil Engineer conducted a reconnaissance trip to three potential east shore low water launch locations. The locations included were Harney Lane, Kanaka Creek and Highway 120. Feasibility of the three sites was assessed based on an engineering, construction, operations and maintenance perspective. He summarized the preliminary costs for Harney Lane improvements at \$770,000, and the Kanaka Creek improvements at \$642,000. Due to the extensive work needed at the Highway 120 location, no cost estimate was prepared. Mr. Jigour also presented information regarding the feasibility of widening the Fleming Meadows boat launch ramp by 30 feet at a cost of \$5,800 for each 20' increment.

Campground Operations Division Manager, Chris Collett, shared historical lake level and visitor day use statistics in order to assess what option or options might be the most practical for DPRA. He summarized that at Moccasin Point there is a reduction in use when the ramp is out of the water. While this occurred 10% of the time in the last 40 years, in the last five years it has occurred 12.5% of the time. At Fleming Meadows, the ramp has been reduced to two lanes 7.1% of the past 40 years but 11.5% of the past five years. The narrowing of the ramp causes long wait times for launching and increased operational needs for launch assist. Mr. Collett also reviewed possible funding options which included sponsoring agency contributions and state grants.

Board member Campbell stated that he enjoyed the presentation but did express that he would have liked to have seen information on whether spending any money on launch ramp improvements will actually increase DPRA revenue. Mr.

Campbell went on to say that he would be hard pressed to justify spending any funds on new launching facilities without a significant financial benefit. Mr. Campbell also added that the Fleming Meadows launch ramp improvement presented may be possible due to its lower cost, but would like DPRA Director Russell to present further information at the next Board of Control meeting that addresses questions specific to requirements to fulfill the Agency's Charter, what can be done to increase or keep visitation at an appropriate level in regards to fees and what is needed to enhance services availability. Further discussion took place regarding concessionaire services and contract obligations.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DPRA staff is planning for 2015 low water conditions at levels that have not been seen since 1977. Discussions will take place with the Concessionaire regarding additional low water mooring locations. DPRA staff will also discuss the possible impacts on visitor use and facilities, water conservation requirements, seasonal staff requirements and public media management. Agency Director Russell reviewed the most recent TID Water Planning Department lake level projections and added that they may be off by a couple of feet due to lack of precipitation in the first part of March. Projections will be more reliable once the irrigation season and quantities are set at the end of March.

DPRA staff is currently reviewing potential impacts in the recreation area due to Lake Don Pedro Community Services District (LDPCSD) water emergency. Drinking water for the community comes from Lake McClure which is currently at 8.4% of capacity. The water supply serves 2,500 customers and that supply is projected to be lost completely by August. This emergency is the top priority for State assistance at this point.

There were 219 new reservations made in January, which is 97 less than were made in January 2014. A total of 276 new reservations were made in February, which is 4 more than were made in February, 2014. Year to date, 495 new reservations have been made compared to 588 for the same time period in 2014.

All but two houseboat permits have been renewed for 2015. The two associated vessels have been red-tagged, and non-compliance fines have been added to their renewal process. Both permits have until April 4th to bring their permit into compliance or permit revocations will occur.

DPRA staff has been checking all vessels stored or moored within the Recreation Area for annual vessel permit compliance. Staff has contacted 20 boat owners for being out of compliance.

Two houseboats moored side by side along the shoreline near Jenkins Hill caught fire the night of January 21, 2015. Both boats were completely destroyed. DPRA staff responded that night and the following day to monitor salvage and cleanup operations.

DPRA staff has been spraying herbicide along the road edges, and on the campsite and tent pads. Mowing has also begun for the season.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) modifications in the Recreation Area are in progress. Staff has poured a new concrete pathway to improve access to one of the Fleming Meadows "H" area shower restrooms. Modifications are also being completed at the Visitor Center.

The houseboat permit that was revoked late last year has now been offered to the second person on the waiting list after the first person did not respond within the 30 day response period as required by the Rules. The second person has an April 1st deadline to respond.

DPRA regular staff is back to full allocation. James Bergerson began work on February 16th as a Ranger I. He comes to DPRA with relevant experience from his time in the Navy and from working at DPRA as a seasonal Night Patrol Ranger. Jacob Yardy began work on March 1st as a Ranger I. He comes to DPRA with relevant experience from seasons of work as a U.S. Forest Service recreation technician.

The Don Pedro Powerhouse project work that began last Fall will be continuing this Fall. DPRA use of the warehouse yard will be consolidated to make room for the work that will be done. The entrance to the Visitor Center will also see some changes to allow truck traffic hauling large loads to safely maneuver down the road to the warehouse. Fleming Meadows will also be utilized as the location to store and transfer equipment to the reservoir as needed for the work project.

MATTERS TO THE GOOD

Private houseboat owner, Susie Lynar, handed out copies of advertising that she printed from a website showing advertising

ideas. She thought something similar should be done in the DPRA website to include things to do and places to visit while staying at Moccasin Point.

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

On motion of Campbell, seconded by Williams, the Board adjourned to Closed Session at 12:00 p.m.

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN

No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Due to no further business, the Board adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Russell

Secretary to Board of Control

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