

**DON PEDRO RECREATION AGENCY
BOARD OF CONTROL - DON PEDRO PROJECT
MINUTES September 11, 2015**

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Tou Her – Turlock Irrigation District (TID)
Chris Collett – DPRA, Division Manager, Campground Operations
Dave Jigour – DPRA, Division Manager, Lake Operations
Keith Lynar – Private Houseboat Owner

MINUTES

The Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA) Board of Control approved the minutes of the August 14, 2015, Board of Control meeting as written.

Board Chairman Frantz asked for a motion to amend the Agenda due to the cancellation of the Closed Session, Agenda Item # 9. On motion of Board Member Williams and seconded by Mr. Davids, Agenda Item #9 was cancelled.

MONTHLY FISCAL REPORT

Compared to July, 2014, all categories of revenue were down for the month of July, 2015, with the exception of annual vehicle, vessel, and personal watercraft permits, lakeshore camping, miscellaneous revenue, and Wifi Revenue. Projected revenue for the month of July was \$493,816 and actual revenue was \$248,717. July's revenue combined with sponsor contributions totaled \$482,744. Projected expenses for the month of July were \$348,576 and actual expenses were \$276,006. Actual revenue, year-to-date, was \$1,111,439. Total revenue, including sponsor contributions, was \$2,164,552. Actual expenses, year-to-date, was \$1,544,592, leaving a balance of \$619,960 of revenue over expenses. Capital expenses for the month of July totaled \$5,647 and were associated with the lake operations buoy line management, outboard motor and the sign replacement projects. Year to date, \$40,587 in Capital funding has been spent.

CAMPGROUND INDUSTRY MARKETING PRESENTATION

DPRA Campground Operations Division Manager, Chris Collett introduced Jeff Crider of Crider Public Relations, Incorporated. Per the Board's request at the August Board of Control meeting, Mr. Crider was invited to speak in regards to how his firm can assist DPRA with public relations and advertising. Mr. Crider briefly reviewed his professional background and then went on to explain how familiar he is with the campground industry. Mr. Crider stated that most of the media coverage that he found when he searched for Don Pedro Lake focused on water issues and he didn't see stories having to do with recreation. He recommends that the quickest thing to do at this point is to put together a press release focusing on the Moccasin Point Campground highlighting its easy access to the "gold rush" areas and Yosemite National Park. Mr. Crider added that if the El Nino forecasts are correct and the lake level begins to improve that we invite the media to come up and report about the wildflowers and the waterfalls that benefit from the rainfall. Overall, Mr. Crider recommends a multifaceted effort that includes press releases to newspapers and magazines, updates to the website, improved signage, formation of strategic alliances, social media outreach, contact with campers to be interviewed, and to capitalize on the amenities that already exist.

2015 DPRA CAPITAL BUDGET ADDITION

DPRA Campground Operations Division Manager, Chris Collett, presented an analysis and recommendation to add concrete surface to the Fleming Meadows launch ramp from 680' elevation to 711' elevation as an addition to the 2015 Capital budget. Mr. Collett explained that this project is currently included as a budgeted line item in the 2016 Capital Work Plan that was presented to the Board at the August Board of Control meeting. At that time, Board Chairman Frantz requested that staff review the feasibility of performing the project prior to the end of 2015 since current lake elevations would allow for it to take place. DPRA staff has reviewed the operating account balances, the projected revenues, and analyzed the anticipated expenses

for the remainder of the 2015 budget year and projects that there will be adequate funding in the operating account to allow for the \$75,000 expenditure. DPRA staff has also concluded that there is sufficient time to plan and execute the project before the end of the 2015 calendar year.

Discussion took place regarding California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, and timing for the start and completion of the project.

The Board unanimously approved the 2015 Capital Budget Addition. Director Russell will present the item to the TID Board for approval and Mr. Davids will make a presentation to the MID Board for approval.

2016 RECREATION AGENCY BUDGET

Agency Director Russell presented the draft 2016 O&M and Capital budgets to the Board for approval, beginning with a summary of the information that was presented in detail at the August 14th Board of Control meeting. The 2016 O&M Budget has been based on a conservative approach with one two-lane launch ramp in operation (lake level between 600' – 711'), intermittent campsite closures based on demand, no fireworks show, 33% seasonal employee labor reduction for campground operations division and 27% for maintenance operations division, and additional labor expenses due to a possible 3% COLA increase and 5% step increase adjustments. The 2016 Capital Budget included all items as presented at the August 14, 2015 Board of Control meeting with the exception of the Fleming Meadows Launch Ramp project for elevation 711' to 680'. It was removed for consideration of completion in 2015. A \$75,000 roadwork project was added to the Capital Budget in its place. Director Russell also reminded the Board that lake elevation projections in April, 2016, may require an amendment to the 2016 DPRA budget if projections vary from the planned 600' – 711' conditions.

After some discussion, the Board unanimously approved the \$2,979,084 2016 O&M Budget as presented at the August Board of Control meeting and \$378,000 2016 Capital Budget as presented today, including \$1,848,307 in contributions from DPRA's sponsoring agencies to make up the gap between the budgeted expenses and the projected 2016 revenue.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There were 387 new reservations made in August, 2015. This is 27 less than were made in August, 2014. Year to date, a total of 4,065 reservations have been made in 2015 compared to 5,041 reservations that were made during the same period in 2014. This is currently 19% less than the number of reservations made through August, 2014.

Labor Day weekend use at both Moccasin Point and Blue Oaks was down compared to Labor Day weekend, 2014. Fleming Meadows usage was up compared to the same time period in 2014. Ranger staff responded to three minor medical assists, one missing person, and vandalism in the form of graffiti to a shower restroom at Fleming Meadows.

The DPRA "Free Fishing Day" offering free vehicle day use for anglers, was held in conjunction with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) free fishing day on Saturday, September 5th. Twenty vehicle day use fees were waived with the opportunity to fish for the day without needing a California fishing license.

Two suspects have been arrested for possession of stolen property belonging to several small boats moored on the Lake Don Pedro Marina (LDPM) and some houseboats moored on buoys. The thefts occurred between July and August. DPRA has received reports from some boat owners informing us that they had been contacted by the Sheriff's office to identify their stolen property.

DPRA's Water Conservation effort has been meeting and exceeding the mandated 25% reduction for July and August. Staff has reported a 25% reduction through the Fleming Meadows water treatment plant, a 40% reduction through the Blue Oaks water treatment plant, and residents on Riley Ridge are showing a 30-40% reduction of water use.

Lake Don Pedro Marina staff removed six panels of decking from the private houseboat marina and has shipped them to the dock manufacturer to determine a solution for the discoloration/staining and texture problem. The manufacturer has determined a fix and is now sending to LDPM, the materials needed to remedy the problem.

Lake Operations Division Manager, Dave Jigour, addressed a complaint received at the August Board of Control meeting regarding the waiver of the Moccasin Point Marina Concession Lease Agreement granted in February 2014. The complainant claims that the marina is not meeting the requirements of the waiver which required an additional pump-out station to be made consistently available and or accessible to houseboaters. The complainant stated that houseboaters have been denied pump-out

appointments, the pump-out barge has not been moored in its required location and is inaccessible, and the fairway space to the pump-out is insufficient and unsafe. Mr. Jigour investigated the complaint and found that the waiver does not specify a location for the pump-out barge. He reported that LDPM staff generally schedule pump-out appointments first at station #3, then station #2 and when those are full they schedule pump-outs at the barge location. Mr. Jigour reviewed the pump-out logs and determined that the barge was only used twice this summer. Board Chairperson Frantz asked if there is a chance that a houseboater may not be accommodated when a popular appointment time is already taken on pump station #3. Mr. Jigour replied that the pump-out logs revealed that more than one houseboat pump-out was performed at specific pump-out times on several occasions. Mr. Jigour stated that DPRA staff monitor the VHF radio and commonly hear houseboaters scheduling appointments without incidence. Mr. Jigour also explained that the marina staff makes frequent adjustments to their mooring cables so that the fairway space is as wide and safe as possible under the low water conditions but they cannot always maintain as wide a space as would be desired.

Drought related mortality of pine trees in the southern and central Sierra Nevada is being caused by the pine bark beetle. Several stands of pine trees in the Stanislaus National Forest have been affected, including areas around Groveland and upstream of Wards Ferry. DPRA staff is anticipating a potential for additional debris impact in the reservoir due to these trees, in addition to Rim Fire debris, especially when coupled with potential El Nino weather events.

Upstream from the entrance to Moccasin Bay, a small amount of debris has accumulated and the water depth rapidly shifts to one foot or less in some areas. Lake Operation staff will be deploying debris boom #1 in order to keep debris from moving into what is left of Moccasin Bay and to keep boaters from running aground in the shallow water.

MATTERS TO THE GOOD

Board Member Williams stated that the Fleming Meadows swimming lagoon has shown to be extremely popular and he asked if DPRA has thought about installing a second lagoon possibly in the Blue Oaks campground. Some discussion took place regarding water park type features. Mr. Williams suggested that a survey might provide information as to what the demand is for this type of use. Discussion also took place regarding the popularity of paddle boards, kayaks, and canoes.

MOTIONS PASSED

On motion of Davids, seconded by Williams, the following motion was adopted:

2015-09-01 The Board voted unanimously to approve the 2015 DPRA Capital Budget Addition.

On motion of Williams, seconded by Davids, the following motion was adopted:

2015-09-02 The Board voted unanimously to approve the 2016 DPRA Budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Due to no further business, the Board adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Russell
Secretary to Board of Control

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