

City of Newport Beach

Coastal/Bay Water Quality Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: May 10, 2012
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: Fire Conference Room

DRAFT

1. Welcome/Self Introductions

Committee Members present:

Chairwoman/Mayor Nancy Gardner
Michael Henn, Council Member
Tom Houston
Jim Miller
Randy Seton
Dennis Baker
Roberta Jorgensen
George Robertson
Janet Rappaport

Guests present:

Dennis Kelly, Orange Coast College
Kayla Causey, Cal State Fullerton
Jim Mosher
Dan Purcell
Monica Mazur
John and Nancy Skinner

Staff present:

John Kappeler, Water Quality Manager
Shari Rooks, Public Works Specialist
Michele Clemente, Marine Education Supervisor

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

The minutes from the April 12, 2012, meeting were approved.

3. Old Business

(a) Bay and Ocean Bacteriological Test Results

Monica Mazur reviewed recent water quality test results within Newport Bay and along the ocean shoreline.

- The Newport Dunes diversion was activated 5-6 weeks ago

4. New Business

(a) Dennis Kelly, from OCC Coastal Dolphin Survey Project and **Kayla Causey**, from Cal State Fullerton gave a presentation on the Coastal Dolphin Survey Project. (See attached PowerPoint Presentations.)

- Up until 3 weeks ago common dolphins were not known to enter Newport Bay, but that has changed. They normally travel in large numbers from food source to food source and stay about 1 mile off the coast.
- Up until just recently the dolphins we see in the bay are the bottlenose dolphins.

- Blue whales have recently returned off our coast because there is an abundance of food for them. One feeding for a blue whale is approximately 15-20,000 krill.
- Risso's dolphins are also being seen again. They are 15-17 feet in length. They were not here 25 years ago. They used to chase the pilot whales seen off our coast. Pilot whales have gone away and we don't know where they've gone or why they've never come back.
- Photo ID enables "watchers" to track local coastal bottlenose dolphins using dorsal fin photo records.
- Coastal bottlenose dolphins can live 40-50 years. They are susceptible to the same diseases we are and diseases can pass between species.
- Of the 24 coastal dolphins that have washed ashore over the years, 12 underwent complete necropsy and the results were surprising – all twelve had phenomenal levels of DDT and PCB in their tissues. At the time these necropsies were performed DDT had been banned for over 10 years.
- Crystal Cove is one of the documented "birthing spots" along our coast.
- In 2004 two dolphins spent 3.5 months in Newport Bay – first time ever documented.
- In 2005 dolphins were again coming in the bay almost daily – spending hours in the bay – believed to be chasing bait fish into the harbor.
- Shore observations of how many; where seen; time of day; direction; tide state; description of behaviors. Approximately 5 pods per day observed entering the harbor.
- They are in the process of getting permits to follow by boat to better accomplish the photo documentation and make more detailed observations.
- **Kayla Causey** provided her email address and phone number to those interested in contacting her regarding sightings: kcausey@fullerton.edu or 714-869-8379.
- **Dennis Baker** suggested the outrigger crews out of Newport Aquatic Center might be a good source of dolphin observation if armed with waterproof cameras when they are out rowing. Asked if there would be grant money for cameras.
- Dolphins were taught two-way communication in Hawaii – they can respond to yes or no questions.
- **Jack Skinner** asked about two males he saw that appeared to be herding a female in attempt to mate. **Kayla** confirmed the behavior as that of "bachelor bands."

ACTION: **Dennis Baker** offered to work closely with Dennis Kelly to involve the outrigger crews and surf ski enthusiasts in the dolphin survey.

Dennis Kelly to send a dolphin behavioral book to **Randy Seton**

- (b) **John Kappeler**, Water Quality Manager, presented an update on the OCTA's Water Quality Grant Program. (See attached PowerPoint presentation).
- Measure M grant funds of \$300 Million from the half cent sales tax will be available to cities over the next 30 years.
 - Cities can apply for up to five \$100,000 grants over the next seven years. The mission is to clean up trash and roadway debris. Things like catch basin screens & filters; CDS units and marina skimmers would qualify.
 - Newport is getting one skimmer and John has applied for a grant to get six more.
 - Last year we applied for five CDS units and were awarded two. They will be placed on the two lines leading to the bioswale at Newport Boulevard and will arguably catch all the trash before it hits the bioswale.

- This year we applied for five grants again and if awarded we hope to put a CDS unit at Balboa Coves, Pelican Point just upstream of the diversion, the Dunes and Dover. The fifth application will be for 6 marina trash skimmers.
- **John Kappeler** asked the committee members to scout out possible locations for skimmer deployment. All that is required is a dock space and power.
- **Dennis Baker** asked about getting clearance from Fish & Game to deploy sort of rake machine or other type of vessel to catch and clean debris.
- **Randy Seton** said a commercial grade Hamilton Rake would cost \$180K.
- Costa Mesa put in an application to screen every catch basin in the 400-acre area that empties into the Newport bioswale.

ACTION: **Dennis Baker** asked for data on what is removed from Delhi Channel to use as ammunition for writing our grants.

5. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

- **Mike Henn** said the Tidelands Management Committee is looking at the Tidelands Infrastructure Master Plan and one of the items on the list is detailed design and engineering dealing with the seawalls on Balboa Island.
- **Tom Houston** asked if it some sort of lock system at the entrance to the jetty had been considered as a possible solution to flooding.
- **Jack Skinner** was pleased to hear that the Regional Board said there was so much sand working itself down the creek that they will take action with the Irvine Company to remove the sediment.

ACTION: **John Kappeler** to invite IRWD to report on their NTS systems.

6. Topics for Future Agendas

- (a) Bacteriological Dry-Weather Runoff Gutter Study (Phase III)
- (b) Prop 84 ASBS Grant Program
- (c) Big Canyon Project
- (d) Rhine Channel Project Wrap Up
- (e) Newport Bay Sediment TMDL Update
- (f) Balboa Island Seawall Update
- (g) Copper Contamination in Marinas
- (h) Runoff Reduction Program -- ET Controller Project Update
- (i) Senate Bill -- SB 1447
- (j) IRWD report on NTS Systems

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was set for June 14, 2012, at 3 PM in the Fire Conference Room.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Chairwoman / Nancy Gardner