

TATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
September 9, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order by Chair Lloyd Dixon at 10:12 a.m. The meeting was held inside the Community Center at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, 4100 South La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90056.

I. Roll Call

Members Present:

Julie Alvis (teleconference) Karen Finn (teleconference) Ronilee Clark (teleconference) Vice Chair Allan Boodnick, Chair Lloyd Dixon, Robert Jones, Russ Guiney, Sara Amir, and Patricia O'Toole.

Members Absent:

Bobbie Parks, Allan Kingston, Starlett Quarles, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Joan Cardellino, Patrick Reynolds, Greg Scott, and Barbara Romero.

Staff Present:

David McNeill, Gail Krippner, Gloria Dangerfield. Absent: Rosana Miramontes.

II. Public Comments

Eleanor Osgood, Culver City resident, stated she is becoming more interested in being informed and being active in the Baldwin Hills activities. She loves the new State Parks and her main interests are habitat protection, wildlife, and birds. She is very active with habitat restoration at the Scenic Overlook; her main reason for attending today's meeting because during scheduled brush clearance/maintenance a contractor mowed down the restoration work volunteers spent months working on. Fire and brush management practices needs to be coordinated more effectively.

Mr. McNeill responded she should speak with Andre Jones, who is in charge of maintenance. Mr. McNeill offered to follow up to help improve coordination in the future.

Richard Waters voiced his concerns about the hard work and hours spent by the volunteers who worked on planting the native plants, only to have the whole thing wiped out. In the future, these things cannot happen; as it demoralizes all of the volunteers' effort. He suggested the fire people get together with State Parks' people to figure out how to avoid it in the future.

Gloria Woehler made a presentation on pampas grass, which is an invasive species, and how it affects the environment. She commented that pampas grass is very flammable and that she has observed an abundance of it growing in the Baldwin Hills especially near the oil field and something should be done.

III. Oath of Office

The Oath of Office was administered to Karen Finn, designee for State Department of Finance, by David McNeill, Executive Officer.

IV. Approval of Minutes (August)

There being no quorum, approval of August minutes was carried over to the next board meeting.

V. Consideration of a Resolution Amending the Performance Period for Agreement #BHC07003 between the BHC and Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative for Enhancements at La Cienega Entrance to Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area – Gail Krippner, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Ms. Krippner stated the resolution is to extend the performance period of the La Cienega bridge enhancement project twelve months due to some delays in the design and permitting process. Member Finn and Member O'Toole made suggestions that some of the language be changed to Memo Item 3, second bullet, on Page two. Mr. McNeill responded that the item would be reviewed and the recommended changes implemented.

VI. Consideration of a Joint Resolution with the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority Authorizing a Disbursement of Funds from the Authority Account # S8D/27951 for Seasonal Brush Clearance and Fire Management Contingencies at Stocker Corridor Trail and Parkway – David McNeill, Executive Officer

The resolution is for brush clearance contingency funds for the thirty-two acre California State Parks property along the Stocker Corridor. State Parks is currently negotiating with County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation to add the Stocker Corridor Trail to the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area management agreement making the County responsible for upkeep and liabilities. The County plans to use their Fire Camp 13 volunteers to handle ongoing brush clearance as long as the County's fire season does not overwhelm them with unforeseen emergencies. The resolution recommends that \$50,000 from the Authority Account be set aside for contingency brush clearance needs along the trail and upslope areas.

The Chair questioned what would be the length of the term for which the money would be utilized. Mr. McNeill stated it would be the term outlined in the operating agreement between California State Parks and County of Department of Parks and Recreation. Member Alvis asked what the cost would be to clear the brush annually. Mr. McNeill, responded he had spoken with Hayden Sohm(County Parks) and Andre Jones (California State Parks) and the annual fire/brush clearance has been between \$7,000 –\$15,000 with most recent bids under \$7,000.

VII. Executive Officer Report – David McNeill

Mr. McNeill went over the capital outlay projects status for September, as outlined in his report and hoped to have Karly Katona from Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas's office speak on the status of the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (BHRCA) acquisition of the school site during closed session.

Other items covered in his written report included:

- LANI (La Cienega Bridge project)
- Wayfinding perimeter signage completion
- Engagement of DTSC Environmental monitoring for the Eastern Ridgeline project
- CEO Eastern Ridgeline expansion project
- Alignment of the new trail in the Eastern Ridgeline from the five-point intersection for P2P
- Prop 84 award contracts

VIII. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

There were no reports. Member Boodnick recommended initiating an ad hoc committee consisting of the Executive Director, the Chair, Vice Chair, and a board member to meet and discuss board attendance. The committee was formed consisting of Executive Director David McNeill, Chair Lloyd Dixon, and Vice Chair Allan Boodnick.

IX. Board Announcements

Member Boodnick acknowledged the Chair was on KPCC radio (89.3) with Pat Morrison as well as Ruth Coleman, Director for California State Parks. The Chair announced his segment on the radio show was for a series Ms. Morrison was doing on the anniversary of 9/11 and his company's project was one that dealt with how victims of terrorist acts are compensated. Member Boodnick announced Culver City has released a public health advisory about West Nile Virus. He asked that the report be attached to the meeting minutes (see Attachment A).

Mr. McNeill announced he would be participating in the County Wide Fitness Challenge on Saturday, leading walks around Janice's Green Valley inside Kenneth State Recreation Area. He deferred to Shawn McAdory, Park Superintendent II for Kenneth State Recreation Area. Mr. McAdory stated it's their "Take A Hike" program and passed out flyers with the details. The event will be from 7:30 a.m. until noon, with different activities throughout the day.

At 11:12 a.m. the Chair announced that the regular portion of the meeting would adjourn for the closed session.

The regular portion of the meeting reconvened at 11:28 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business brought before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Approved:

Lloyd Dixon
Chairman