

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
FRIENDS OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL
A California Non-Profit Corporation**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Elephant Seal, a California non-profit corporation was held on January 19th, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cavalier Plaza meeting room located at 250 San Simeon.

Directors present: Ann Grossman, Ken Eberle, Bill Johnson, Barbara Rice, Jutta Jacobs, Jim Devine, recording secretary, Judy Burley.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that: The minutes from the Dec. 15th, 2004 Board Meeting are approved.

Ann Grossman will attend the Friday evening Marine Mammal Seminar at Camp Ocean Pines to discuss the FES organization. Each attendee at the seminar will join the FES membership. The Walter Robie presentation benefiting FES will be held on Jan. 22 at the Cambria Vet's Hall. Following the slide show, Dr. LeBouef will discuss the northern elephant seal. The Marine Mammal Seminar students will attend the FES event prior to the Dr. LeBouef discussion.

Jim Devine suggested the Directors discuss the 2005 budget at the next board meeting. He will provide them with a 2005 proposed budget at the February meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed that: The Directors will discuss and propose a 2005 budget for Friends of the Elephant Seal.

The board discussed creating a Grant Committee. Jutta Jacobs suggested placing a notice in the next docent letter asking for any volunteers. The directors will be looking for someone with previous experience with grant applications. Ann felt FES could begin with an individual who could search the internet and other sources for suitable grants. Jim stated a grant writer may be needed after possible grant sources are found.

The Fundraising Committee has met and the wine solicitation letters have been mailed. Ann will continue to report to the Board. Ann will contact Michele Roest to nominate FES for the SLO Environmental Award. The application for the award must be received before March 1st.

Bill Johnson and Susan McDonald have met to discuss funding for a boardwalk at the north end of VP3. The California Coastal Conservancy has funding for such projects. Susan has contacted them and stated they wish to wait until the Hearst Conservation Plan escrow closes. Bill met with Bruce Bonifas of the California Conservation Corp at VP3 to determine what amount of money will be needed for the project. Bill will spear head the permitting process.

Phil Adams and Chuck Garcia have offered to repair the signboards at VP3. FES will reimburse them for any supplies and materials needed. Judy will notify Cal Trans of the crew from FES who will do the needed work to maintain the signboard. Ann will contact Phil after Cal Trans approves the project.

A discussion continued on FES policy for seals stranded on the boardwalk. PJ Webb was at the vista point when the previous incident took place. She stated the elephant seal was aggressive. She suggested FES close down the boardwalk if this should occur in the future. A possible sequence of action might be: 1. calling the appropriate agency to get permission before any action is taken. 2. Ask the agency contacted what the appropriate action would be. The MMC checks with NOAA/NMFS before they proceed in such situations. FES should have cones available for use. Ann will write a policy procedure for the Directors to review at the next board meeting.

A closed session followed.

Judy Burley, recording secretary

Ann Grossman, President