

**FRIENDS OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
JUNE 19, 2013**

**Present:** Brandt Kehoe, Christel Chesney, Dave Bauer, Tim Postiff, Donovan Marley, Sharkey Warrick and Bill Goodger

**Also Present:** Marcella Boteilho, Bill Johnson, Jim Boucher (BLM), Carole Adams (Piedras Blancas Light Station), Barry VanderKelen (San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation), Ellen Stoner, Joan Crowder, Lisa Remington and Brooke Gutierrez (State Parks).

**JIM BOUCHER:** Jim discussed the Piedras Blancas Light Station goals for the “Outstanding Natural Area” surrounding the light station. In 2001 BLM took over the light station as the Coast Guard was pulling out which left the light station as excess government property. State and National Parks did not want to run the property and so BLM took it over. BLM then initiated structured visitation open to the public (public guided tours 6 days a week), restoration of the light station and grounds and continued site specific research. In 2008 Congress designated it as an “Outstanding Natural Area” which encompassed 19.5 acres. State Parks had acquired land adjacent to the area and out to highway 1 through a land trust. In 2011 the “area” became 209 acres via a land grant and cooperative agreement with State Parks. Jim informed the Board that the current goals of State Parks and BLM are 1) non-native plant removal and protection of sensitive species and cultural sites, 2) continuation/inclusion of the California Coastal Trail (Oregon to Mexico) to act as an interpretive trail through the “area”. He has applied for a \$120,000 grant to start the trail from VP 4 north 2 ¼ miles and hopes to begin this next Fall in hopes of completion in 6 months. Trail will mostly be decomposed granite, wetlands will be bridged. Plans are also in the works for Cal Trans to re-align Highway 1.

**OFFICE REPORT:** Marcella reported that she will meet with the accountants next week in order to create an Independent Financial Analysis in order to comply with our cooperating association agreement with State Parks. Marcella also informed the Board that Michele Roest has been hired to manage the San Simeon Chamber/Visitor Center. Electricians have been there this week to install a touch screen device (also why FES lost internet connection last week) to handle visitor questions when a volunteer is not present in the office.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Brandt requested comments on the revamped web site which will (hopefully) accommodate smart phone and tablet users. Login to [www.elephantseal.org/index2.htm](http://www.elephantseal.org/index2.htm). Tim suggested that it is still a little difficulty with navigation/drop down menus, etc. Brandt also mentioned that it is also time to update some of the site content. Sharkey mentioned that he, Brandt, Barry, Donovan and Bill Goodger met to discuss how FES could control the funding of the endowment as regards to State Parks and our agreement with them. They agreed that our agreement with State Parks may need to be amended.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Bill reported that there are “no surprises”. Expenses and income are in line with current budget. Checking account balance is \$12,169.00 and Savings account balance \$64,309.00 12,169.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** Donovan reported that there are 305 members this year. Acquisitions are down to 30-31% but this is normal for this time of the year. Donovan reported that his report now

includes the endowment with an arbitrary goal of \$10,000 between now and the end of 2013. \$2,000 has already been donated and there has been an additional \$2,000 donated since he made his report. He also said that an additional pledge in the amount of \$1,500 has been made and is due within the next 4-6 weeks. There is an additional pledge from a foundation back East in the amount of \$1,900 pledged to pay for upcoming speakers for in-service docent training events (due September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013).

**TRAINING REPORT:** Dave Bauer reported that the training committee feels it is necessary to modify the pre-docent acceptance interview process. They are also struggling with the continuing education program, i.e. how to re-educate docents that don't "keep up" with the new information gathered in order to keep them up to date and consistent with newer information. He also asked the Board how important they feel it is to have the County Supervisor (Bruce Gibson) issue certificates to newly graduated docents. Board unanimously responded that it is very important despite the difficulties in scheduling.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Ellen reported that Steve Haddock, PhD from Monterey Bay Research Institute will be the speaker at the July docent get together and the topic will be jellyfish. She also reported that Susanna Blackwell, PhD, Greenridge Sciences, Inc. will be the speaker at the November 16<sup>th</sup> event and the topic will be Elephant Seal sounds and sleep apnea.

Bill Johnson announced that the next Financial Committee meeting will be on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Board meeting concluded with the finalization and signing of the Endowment Fund Agreement between Friends of the Elephant Seal and the SLO County Community Foundation.

Respectfully submitted by Megg McNamee

Next Board meeting will be on July 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.