

**Friends of the Elephant Seal
Board of Directors Meeting
January 21, 2015**

Board Members Present: Dave Bauer, Bette Bardeen, Kathy Hurrele, Abby Adams, Bob Grosse, Bill Goodger, Polly Tatton

Guests: Lisa Remington (State Parks), Judy Thompson (School group), Kathy Dowding, Marcella Boteilho, Dawn Fiegel

Dave Bauer called the meeting to order 1:01pm.

Motion: To accept December Board Meeting minutes. Passed unanimously

Motion: To accept Abby Adams and Bob Grosse as new board members. Passed unanimously

State Parks Report - Lisa Remington:

1. FES financed highway signage has been installed by state parks directing north and south bound traffic to the ESeals bluff parking lot, as well as directional signage at Hearst Castle directing to eSeals parking lot.
2. Discussion: State Parks is interested in "How are visitors finding the e seal bluff?" and "What's working to bring people to see the seals?" State Parks is developing non verbal signage for use when seals are present on state park beaches.
3. State park docent group, *Ambassadors to the Elephant Seal* began at Hearst state park beach, with 2 person teams from 11:00-2:00 all weekends and holidays from Jan-Mar. The 20 new docents, primarily from Cal Poly or discovery center volunteers, were supplied with identifying clothing by FES. The feedback was that visitors overwhelmingly want to do the right thing. Visitors were encouraged to continue to the bluff and speak with docents there for more detailed Eseal info. 54 staffed shifts have been covered. Discussion continued to consider folding these local volunteers into the FES docent training program for year round resource.
4. Local folks, anecdotally reported as well as direct observation have been harassing seals on park beaches, because harassment will move the seals and let the local keep their beach. How to address the public on this issue is open to suggestion and discussion.
5. Biologist email reports sand within 3 feet (six inches as observed) of fence top. CalTrans cancelled any follow up removal due to presence of pups. State Parks and FES recommend removal ASAP so long as no animals are present. The barrier is needed to prevent animals on the highway.

Lisa's committee meets monthly, to discuss detailed emergency, short term progressive action among cooperating agencies: BLM, Ocean discovery, NOAA, FES.

School Group Report - Judy Thompson:

Summary: This year more total children have visited but from a few less schools. Currently inviting 4th and 5th graders, compared to 3rd, 4th and 5th last year.

1. Appreciate that teachers usually prepare the students with some basic information prior to the field trip.
2. Thanks to FES for purchase of new sharks and schools program materials.
3. Recommend having bluff sales table away from the school group area.

New legislation Report - Bette Bardeen:

1. Fair employment legislation update extends protection against harassment to volunteers. While FES is too small to be covered by this legislation, states (and state park docents) are covered.
2. New provision and FES Operational Guidelines passed out in print. Statute includes more categories than our current policy. Recommend action to update Guidelines and remind all current docents from Dave. Bette to update language in Guidelines

Motion: Recommend the board update Operational Guidelines to align with current legal definitions. Passed unanimously

Treasurers Report – Bill Goodger:

1. Vanguard securities will only accommodate a single access point person, Bill Goodger. He has online account access including transfer capabilities and will share reports with the Board.
2. Project account keeps restricted donations separate.
3. Total Assets \$216,000.

Finance committee meets monthly.

Fence report - Lisa (State Parks), Mark Anderson (CCC), Bill Goodger (FES):

1. \$18,000 funds available. FES will front the materials cost and order procedure to ensure timely action.
2. State may have a budget for maintenance.
3. State can install marker numbering along boardwalks at same time. FES to order materials.

Docent Dinner April 18th: the presenters will be Craig Brown, last year's intern, reporting on the male survey during the molting season. Kayla Wolfer and Shawn Hannah, the current interns, will report on the male survey currently being conducted during the breeding season. The poster is being done by Craig for the Sanctuary currents 2015 symposium being held in Monterey April 25, 2015. Discussion encouraged the invitation of our 2 new interns to the dinner and encourage a poster session on their internship project.

President's Report – Dave Bauer:

1. The San Simeon/Cambria Tour Alliance granted and approved funding for the highway directional signage, as requested by FES. An additional \$12,000 request is being considered for the coastal trail.
2. State Parks decisions will be slow or largely deferred until a new director is named.
3. Trail Project and appropriate use of FES restricted funds meeting next Tuesday.
4. The storage for 100,000 newsletters, esal toys, and beverages will temporarily be at Dave's home. Storage space is at a premium in Cambria; any leads on availability should be pursued.
5. Working our way through the male study project and season count from the boardwalk.

Office Report – Marcella/Kathy/Dawn:

1. New office staff is transitioning smoothly.
2. We recommend the formation of a "Table committee" with Bob Grosse as Board liaison and chair. The committee will develop general guidelines, procedures, and training specifically for the table crew.
3. For the Feb 7th Appreciation Dinner, Board members were asked to help with setup/cleanup.
4. Docent Schedule currently has 80 active docents to cover 279 shifts per month. Recommend a goal of 120 active docents to cover all shifts.

5. Newsletter will add training committee article. Committee highlights will vary each month based on committee action.

Training Committee Report – Polly Tatton:

1. New docent wrap-up went smooth. Overall, new docents were happy with the fall training.
2. Spring docent training set for March 14th, 2015.

Meeting closed for EXECUTIVE SESSION at 1:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Dawn Fiegel