

**Friends of the Elephant Seal
Board of Directors Meeting
March 18, 2015**

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

Also Present: Brandt Kehoe, Judy Thompson, Kathy Dowding, Marcella Boteilho

Dave Bauer called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the February 18 Board minutes.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to name Abby Adams as Secretary of the Board.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Goodger

1. The Endowment Balances summary of \$40,576.68 is a return of 4.76% net of fees and the Vanguard investment of \$40,154.53 is a return of .4% in the last quarter in a very volatile market.
2. In reviewing the March Profit and Loss Budget Statement, Bill noted that the income is up about \$11,000 compared to March due to a combination of an increase in memberships, contributions, and merchandise sold. At the same time expenses increased about \$2500 in the same time period. However, a better way to view where we are related to budget is to consider March as $\frac{1}{4}$ of the year and assume income and expenses are reasonably the same each month (which is a broad assumption that will be more valid as the year goes on). We could then multiply amounts of specific items such as merchandise sold $\$16,298 \times 4 = \$65,192$. This is a little higher than the \$60,000 budgeted but with bigger months behind us during the breeding season, we may level off to our target budgeted amount. Or we could just project totals i.e, current income $\$42,564 \times 4 = \$170,256$ which is a little lower than the \$174,200 projected by the budget. We may end doing projections of either combinations of specific items and/or just gross amounts. Bill's suggestion is to do a first projected income and expense report in April when the first quarter is completed and then do this each quarter through the year to make a crude estimate as to how close we are staying to our budget, realizing that the budget is just a guide to income generation and how we spend that income.

President's Report: Dave Bauer

1. Dave met with the San Luis Obispo County Planning Department to review the North Beach Trail. The permitting will take about a year. SLO County fees will be waived. Information and support of the local service groups will be critical. Acting District Superintendent Brooke Gutierrez will assign a project manager to the trail project. Dave will work with Lisa Remington CA. State Parks Supervising Ranger, about proper signage.
2. Dave met with the Tourist Alliance group. The Hearst gala fundraising dinner went very well. The guests particularly enjoyed the momentos from FES and the lighthouse.
3. The New Docent Training on March 14 included 2 trainees, 9 senior docents, and the 8 docents on the training committee (so about 20% of our cadre). The training was well received by all.
4. For the two open board member positions, Bette Bardeen, Bill Goodger, and a third

docent will recommend names to the board with the goal of the new board members starting by July.

5. Dave recently counted 50 super weaners on the bluff, a higher number than usual. With the winter king tides and reports of many infants washed out to sea, might there have been more foster mothers, thus more super weaners?

Office Report

1. Marcella will meet soon with the new accountant.
2. March 20 will be the first of Dave's monthly meetings with the 3 office staff members.

School Group Report: Judy Thompson

1. Since January there have been 23 school groups/1557 students. These numbers include 6 schools/463 students that FES has funded. A few more school groups are scheduled in April and May. Bill Goodger and Donovan have also led two university class visits.
2. On March 30 at Bette Bardeen's home, there will be a school group brainstorming meeting.

Old Business

1. **Fence and Boardwalk #'s-- Bill Goodger:** Bill and Mike Anderson (CCC) have purchased all the materials for the fence replacement project in VP-3 and VP-4 and CCC has arranged storage of materials, porta potties, and removal of dead brush for use in controlling erosion with State Parks. The project timeline has been extended through September. The work should begin Monday, March 23, and finish hopefully by Friday April 3rd. Kathy will notify docents of the exact construction period.
2. **Internship Update: Bill Goodger--**Bill continues to work closely with the 3 university interns on the male seal count results and is helping them refine their presentations for the April 18 docent dinner. The interns will also join Bill at the Cal Poly Pier Open House on May 16 from 9:00-12:00 am. Last year over 1000 people attended this marine biology-focused event.

New Business

1. FES Website: Bette Bardeen

Brandt Kehoe and Bette shared the history of the FES website. Brandt designed the website many years ago and has maintained it. The school group committee recently suggested adding materials for students and teachers. It may be time to update and re-design the website. Ryder Ross from Ross Web Consulting volunteered to do this project (donation). Brandt will help determine which consultant we might contract with to do the website, and volunteered to continue to maintain the website once it is re-designed.

2. Drone Discussion

The board members expressed concern about NOAA's plans to use drones for gray whale counting and monitoring. Dave will talk to P.J. Webb who is on the NOAA Advisory Council for clarification.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed that if NOAA is planning to use drones that we will write a formal letter expressing our concerns with this decision.

3. Docent schedule and sub process: Kathy Dowding

- Kathy continues to be concerned about the lack of coverage of some docent shifts. In the discussion board members noted that now that the busy birthing and mating season is done, that there are less visitors, so that a few sessions with only two docents will be OK.

- Kathy also noted that the sub process may not be working well. Are docents calling subs and are the subs available when called? The Board members suggested that she request more sub volunteers in the next docent newsletter.

4. Docent Newsletter: Kathy Dowding

- In the April Docent newsletter, if there is room, the board suggested including information about the current sea lion crisis.
- Recently a docent requested that Kathy include information in the docent newsletter about a walk in Montana de Oro. The board suggested that the docent newsletter be limited to information directly related to the subjects we interpret and that other information be posted on the docent bulletin board in the office.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm, followed by an executive session.

Respectfully submitted,
Abby Adams, FES Board Secretary