

Montrose Settlements Restoration Program Trustee Council
Summary
November 14, 2006 Trustee Council Meeting
Long Beach, California

The following primary and alternate Montrose Trustee Council ("Council") members were present:

Jen Boyce	NOAA	Suzanne Goode	CDPR
Patty Velez	CDFG	Kate Faulkner	NPS
Julie Yamamoto	CDFG	Jim Haas	USFWS
Jennifer Lucchesi	CSLC		

Also attending:

Greg Baker	MSRP Staff	Chris Plaisted	NOAA/GCNR
Dave Witting	MSRP Staff		
Annie Little	MSRP Staff		
Milena Viljoen	MSRP Staff		

General Business

Approval of past meeting summaries

No comments were received. The Trustees approved for the record the previously prepared meeting summaries distributed prior to the meeting.

Summary from Cost Doc Meeting on Nov.13

- Guidelines are being updated
- Recommend that TC representatives review each other's packages rather than cost committee members
- NPS ← → CDFG; CSLC ← → CDPR; NOAA ← → FWS
- Process: Agency → Program Manager → Cotton and Co → Reviewing Agency TC rep → Program Manager brings reviewed cost packages to full TC for concurrence → Case Files
- TC approves of this new approach for reviewing packages

Cotton and Co.

- Continue to utilize their services for certifying packages
- Greg should direct Cotton to include a summary cover sheet on packages summarizing the issues identified and resolved during their review so TC reviewers don't duplicate

Budget Tracking and Projection System

- Utilize Excel spreadsheet/workbook format
- Based on CDFG Steve Hampton's format
- Greg Baker will be lead for keeping table up-to-date; will start from 2003 budget year
- Need to summarize/memorialize actual expenditures from past costs retrospectively; Greg to work on CY 2003 for starters since we have all cost docs from that year

Account Balances

Status of Settlement Accounts as of October 2006 (Draft):

Court Registry Account balance: \$19,896,760

NOAA past costs (pending withdrawal): \$12,000,000
Proposed transfer to DOI NRDA: \$ 800,000

Remaining after proposed transfers: \$7,096,760
Accrued interest owed NOAA: \$655,549
Principle still owed to NOAA: \$6,500,000

With interest being earned, this transfer will leave more than sufficient funds in the CRIS to pay NOAA principle and interest when due.

DOI NRDAR (as of August) \$38,128,600
TOTAL after \$800K transfer (not including additional interest): \$38,928,600

Resolution 06-9 on transfers of funds from Court Register Account was handed out to TC for signature.

Investments: Jim Haas will send follow-up e-mail to TC about 6-month T bill and interest rates.

Status of Cost Packages

NOAA: all submitted and certified, 2005 package needs TC review
FWS: need 2004 and 2005 packages submitted. Pre-2004 completed, being certified
NPS: all submitted; 2005 being certified
CDFG: all submitted; 2005 being certified
CSLC: all submitted, 2005 being certified
CDPR: do not plan on submitting for old costs, 2004 & 2005 turned into Greg Baker at the meeting

Resolution on payment of past costs to NOAA

NOAA put together 7 different cost packages for past restoration costs. Net amount claimed (costs minus advance funds received) is \$1,129,620.88. Jim Haas is completing review of packages. Resolution was handed out to TC for review. Once Jim is finished, a final resolution (06-10) will be circulated for signature. Greg Baker to add paragraph itemizing the past resolutions which approved past work (including those that authorized work but funds were not actually provided).

New TC MOU Signatures

Signatures from CDPR, FWS, CDFG have thus far been received.
Objective for signatures is Dec. 31, 2006.

Wetlands Restoration Actions

Recap of previous discussions. Not all TC members were on conference call. Greg Baker circulated resolution 06-11 approving selection of both Bolsa Chica dredging (up to \$1.5M) event and Huntington Beach wetlands restoration (up to \$2M). Actual increments of funding are to be provided either in annual MSRP budgets or subsequent resolutions. The goal is to identify and include an amount in 2007 MSRP budget that is needed for Huntington Beach wetlands project for 2007. This initial amount would start off the Cooperative Agreement. The Trustees agreed to increase wetlands spending from \$3M to \$3.5M. Trustees signed resolution 06-11 once language was added regarding reporting requirements.

Dave passed on from his phone discussions with the Coastal Conservancy that they will likely be able to secure matching funds for the entire Huntington Beach wetlands complex.

Fishing Outreach and Education Actions

A total of \$30,000 was approved for funding, \$15,000 for Cabrillo Marine Aquarium and \$15,000 for L.A. Conservation Corps (Sealab). NOAA will be lead for Cooperative Agreements with entities. Trustees signed resolution 06-12 approving selection of these projects after language was added regarding reporting requirements.

Status of MPAs

NOAA is still compiling proposals onto on-line format. A total of 10 proposals were received. Several proposals address gathering baseline data for areas that will likely be addressed in the future MLPA process. We discussed a potential issue that some applicants do not propose work on Channel Islands MPAs, but in other Southern California locations. We need to determine whether the RFA and the Restoration Plan clearly limit funding to projects dealing with the Channel Islands MPAs.

Dave Witting has also been in discussion with NOAA Sanctuary about enforcement. There exists a mechanism, where NOAA Sanctuary may pass funds on to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation via existing Cooperative Agreement. The Foundation can then use these funds to reimburse the agency for paying overtime to wardens. Dave is trying to clarify what fees are involved. After getting more information on this mechanism to bolster enforcement the MSRP staff will bring to the Council a specific proposal for funding.

The goal is to get the Cooperative Agreement applications into NOAA in January 2007. The Trustee Council scheduled a conference call for December 19, 2006 at 1 pm, to follow-up on this and other items from this TC meeting.

2007 Budget and Work Plan

The following points were discussed on each of the budget categories.

Trustee Council- No comments.

MSRP Office- No comments.

Fish Restoration

- Will obtain annual increment needed and include Huntington Beach Wetlands money in 2007 budget before signature.
- Greg has drafted SOW to send to URS for cost proposal for reef design @ Cabrillo Pier; Working to get cost proposal and circulate it so we can get this into budget before signature.
- MPA projects budget may be changed from \$400K to \$500K if the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation approach for funding enforcement pans out.

Seabird Restoration

- The TC agreed to convene a call later to discuss NEPA compliance for the San Nicolas project.

Bald Eagles

- Discuss the proposed funding further after Bald Eagle Technical Meeting on Nov. 15.

Outreach

Milena provided an overview of the outreach budget retrospectively and prospectively to provide a sense of what proportion of our overall budget we're devoting to outreach, and to provide context for individual projects such as the eagle cam. We distinguish outreach as restoration (e.g. fishing education, signage to reduce seabird disturbance) from outreach as public involvement. Current estimate shows outreach as public involvement running at about 3-4% of overall expenditures; Council was comfortable with that proportion.

EagleCam-

- Revised proposal is much better than the initial one discussed at last meeting. No initial expenditure, \$35K/yr
- MSRP provides program direction
- Include in yearly budget
- Kate asked that we include NPS costs, some labor, and boat time.

Council approved of outreach budget including the eagle cam funding.

Next Meeting/Conference Calls

Next Conference Call will be Dec. 19, 1 pm. On that call, objectives are to:

- Discuss recommendations for MPA awards from MSRP staff and make decision on funding
- Discuss recommendation for funding reef design contract
- Discuss other changes in budget since November 14th meeting
- Approve 2007 budget

Next TC meetings:

March 15, 2007 tentative (call or in person tbd)

May 22-23, 2007 Santa Cruz Island