

**Friends of the Dunes Board Meeting Minutes**  
September 2, 2008, Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, 7-9 pm

**Board Members:** Bill Weaver, John St. Marie, Rose Patenaude, Marjorie Fay, Michelle Forys, Nancy Ihara, Mike Seeber, Mike Wilson

**Staff:** Carol Vander Meer, Maggie Stoudnour, Cathy Larripa

**Public:** Tony LaBanca

**August Agenda**

- I. Introduction of guests present
- II. Approval of minutes
- III. Public input
- IV. Board Retreat Preparation
- V. Discuss any amendments to Overall Strategic Goals and Objectives
- VI. Review Draft Agenda and discuss logistics for September 6<sup>th</sup> retreat
- VII. Vote to approve Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District MOU and Easement Grant
- VIII. Capital Campaign Kickoff program and board role at the Dune Escape
- IX. Director Update
- X. Financial Report
- XI. Questions regarding committee reports/announcements
- XII. Upcoming events
- XIII. Upcoming agenda items

**I. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Tony LaBanca

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Nancy Ihara motioned for approval of August minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> from Mike Wilson, and all present were in favor. Minutes from August were approved.*

**III. PUBLIC INPUT**

Nancy asks if Sue Corbaley is writing a letter for MCSD; Carol will follow-up on this and report back in October.

Bill asks if the Coastal Conservancy site visit is still on for September 24<sup>th</sup>, and what plans there are for the visit. Carol responds that the trip is still on, the time is yet to be determined, Board members are invited to attend, and she will notify the Board when plans are firmed up.

**IV. BOARD RETREAT PREPARATION**

Committee Reports presenting 3 to 5 items addressing 1) Highlights of successes for the last year; 2) Major goals for the next 5 years; and 3) Significant Issues and Opportunities

Education – Nancy reports (report included in board packet). Maggie clarifies networking workshop, and Tony asks about plans to expand the Bay to Dunes program to the south as well as what role the HCNC might play in the evolution of the education program.

Restoration – Michelle reports. A question for future discussion/consideration is whether to maintain the status quo or to increase restoration activities.

Land Trust – John reports.

Human Resources – Tony reports (report included in board packet). Suggestions for future discussion/consideration include exploring alternative models for jobs/staffing, re-examining current job descriptions and the org chart.

Capital Campaign – Cathy reports (report included in board packet).

Status of:

- Board Development
- Fund Development

Carol reports. These two committees are in need of board leadership/participation, and responsibilities are currently being covered by staff.

**V. DISCUSS ANY AMENDMENTS TO OVERALL STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**ACTION ITEM: Each committee is asked to look over “big picture strategies” from the Strategic Plan, and to check in at the retreat this weekend.**

**VI. REVIEW DRAFT RETREAT AGENDA AND DISCUSS LOGISTICS**

Tony reviews agenda and accepts input:

- John notes that the retreat agenda says “Sunday” instead of “Saturday.”
- Rose suggests that maps be available for Saturday’s work.

**VII. VOTE TO APPROVE HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT MOU AND EASEMENT GRANT**

*John motioned for approval of the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District MOU and Easement Grant minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> from Mike Wilson, all present were in favor, motion passed.*

**VIII. CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICKOFF PROGRAM AND BOARD ROLE AT THE DUNE ESCAPE**

Carol shares:

- The Dune Escape will be the official kick-off for the public phase of the HCNC capital campaign and will include a multi-media presentation and the unveiling of a project model.
- A grant from the Headwaters Fund is paying for the model.
- We’re encouraged to promote the event and boost attendance.
- Comments from the board:
- It’s early in the season for a fundraising event.
- This year’s event is competing with many other local events.

**IX. DIRECTOR REPORT**

Health Insurance Selection

This is a “continuing conundrum” and will be revisited; currently one staff member is ready for insurance coverage, and two are required for group coverage. Alternatives continue to be explored.

Acquisition update

Funds from the Conservancy are firm and those from the Wildlife Conservation Board are on the way. We should close on both properties (Watson and Bachofer) in the next few days.

Building/construction Progress

There's not much to report to date.

Audubon Partnership- info prior to the retreat?

This is a topic for discussion at the retreat, but we're to think about the direction we may want to go and questions we have. What are possible scenarios and what might a proposal for a FOD/Audubon partnership look like?

**X. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Included in board packet:

- Revised 2008 Program Based Budget – Program Totals
- Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual (January through August 2008)
- Balance Sheet (as of August 31,2008)
- FOD Project Status
- Profit & Loss – Capital Campaign
- Financial Notes (September 2, 2008)

**XI. QUESTIONS REGARDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cathy announces Arts Arcata wine pour at the Garden Gate on Friday, September 12 from 6 – 9 p.m. and recruits volunteers.

**XII. UPCOMING EVENTS**

- September 6, board planning retreat
- September 13, Fundraising Dinner
- October 11<sup>th</sup>, special “pizza party” restoration

**XI. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

**Adjourn 9 pm**