

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Conservation Working Group
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 1998

Conservation Working Group (CWG) members in attendance were: Rachel Saunders, Chair (Center for Marine Conservation); Jack Wickham (Sierra Club-Ventana Chapter); Vicki Nichols (Save Our Shores); Daphne White (Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History); Donna Meyers (Coastal Watershed Council); Milos Radakovich (BAY NET); Steve Shimek (Friends of the Sea Otter); Rick Starr (CA Sea Grant); and Bill Douros, Joanne Flanders and Aaron King (Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary).

I. CWG Administration

A. The January 20, 1998 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

B. General Announcements:

· The next CWG meeting is scheduled for March 17, 1998, 9:30 a.m. - noon, at the Moss Landing Harbor District Office.

· The postponed February 6, 1998 Advisory Council meeting has been tentatively rescheduled for March 13, 1998 at the Highlands Inn.

· Other important dates:

Technical Advisory Committee for Oil Spills - March 20, 1998

Vessel traffic meeting - March 19, 1998

SOS Fundraising Cocktail Party - March 21, 1998

Sea Otter Recovery Team meeting - March 15-18, 1998

II. MBNMS Office Report

Joanne Flanders submitted the MBNMS office report. See Attachment A.

· MBNMS is accepting applications for an alternate to one of the At-Large seats. Requests for applications must be received by February 23, 1998 and applications must be postmarked by March 9, 1998.

III. Discussion with new MBNMS Superintendent, Bill Douros

Bill Douros provided CWG members with an overview of his educational and professional experience and background. Rachel Saunders reviewed the CWG's 1995 role statement and presented a history of the CWG and its vote to create the MBNMS.

CWG members in attendance took a few minutes to provide Bill with a presentation on their backgrounds and their organizations:

Donna Meyers - Coastal Watershed Council - Described their programs, the watersheds they are involved with, and their funding.

Vicki Nichols - Save Our Shores - Since 1980, SOS has been involved with

numerous aspects of the MBNMS. The Sanctuary Stewards program plans to expand to the north coast of the MBNMS. SOS has developed a new Bilingual Program to provide outreach to the Hispanic community. Other SOS programs include: Oil Pad kit giveaway program, general education outreach program, Santa Cruz County Business Sanctuary Seal program.

Daphne White - PG Museum of Natural History - A past MBNMS employee who originally represented the League of Women Voters on the CWG.

Rick Starr - UC Sea Grant Extension Program - The Sea Grant Program undertakes education, research, outreach and public service. Its role is to bring research based information into the public policy arena.

Steve Shimek - Friends of the Sea Otter - As the new FSO Scientific Director, Steve's background is in marine biology and sea otters, but he also has a background in fundraising and non-profits. He is presently in gear up mode. Steve discussed his present scientific philosophies regarding sea otters in the scientific and management arenas. Two major issues for him right now are vessel traffic and the discussed delisting process.

Jack Wickham -Sierra Club (Ventana Chapter) - Jack summarized the letter he wrote (See Attachment B) and expressed his belief that the MBNMS needs to look at long-scale concerns such as global climate change. Jack has a background as a meteorologist and physical oceanographer. He expressed continued concern about the lack of interest in topics such as the ATOC project and the effects of man-made noise (i.e. there was a very poor turnout to a recent presentation on ATOC).

Milos Radakovich - BAY NET - Milos has been involved in marine education for twenty years. Milos discussed his philosophy to merry people to their environment. This was one of the concepts behind the creation of BAY NET.

Bill Douros discussed his understanding of how the MBNMS fits into the Federal Government and how the Advisory Council and working groups interact with each other to create MBNMS policy. Bill recognized that this was the model and made it clear that he understands that this may not necessarily be the way things really work.

Bill explained that a lesson he gained from his work with the oil industry was to ask the question, "What value is added?" In this respect, Bill intends to always ask himself this question whenever he makes a decision on MBNMS budget, policy and direction. Bill would also like to have the MBNMS be thought of as a focal point for people to get information about the local coastal environment.

IV. Next Agenda Items

- Report on Sea Otter Recovery Team meeting - March 15-18, 1998
- Enforcement/Permits update

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron King and Lisa de Marignac