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MEMBERS PRESENT: Maria Brown (Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary)
Ralph Camiccia (Bolinás)
Rudi Ferris (Bolinás Rod and Boat Club)
Kristen Ward (Golden Gate National Recreation Area) *Arrived 9:02 a.m.*
Gwen Heistand (Audubon Canyon Ranch)
Jeff Loomans (Stinson Beach)
Mischon Martin (Marin County Parks/Open Space District)
Joe Mueller (College of Marin) *Arrived 9:04 a.m.*
Kiren Niederberger (Seadrift)
Lynne Stenzel (Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ben Becker (Point Reyes National Seashore)
Alison Forrestel (Golden Gate National Recreation Area)
Ed Ueber (At-Large)

STAFF PRESENT: Max Korten, General Manager
Samantha Haimovitch, Superintendent
Veronica Pearson, Bolinas Lagoon Project Manger
Jason Olivotti, Chief Ranger
Rosemary Passantino, Communications Specialist
Michala Roan, Communications Intern

Kate Bimrose (Staff member, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary)

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Public Comment

Open time for public expression, up to three minutes per speaker, on items not on today's agenda. The Committee will hear items without return comment or discussion.

NO COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Approve Minutes for Meeting October 18, 2019 (Action Item)

Motion

Approve Minutes as submitted for October 18, 2019 meeting.

The minutes were approved as changed:

Minutes refer to “Gulf” of the Farallones in several places. The correct title of the organization is “Greater Farallones”. Maria Brown is with GFNMS, not GFA as listed in the minutes in several places.

M/S LOOMANS/STENZEL

AYES 10

NAYS 0

ABSTAIN 0

ABSENT 0

Approve Minutes for Meeting October 16, 2020 (Action Item)

Motion

Approve Minutes as submitted for October 16, 2020 meeting.

The minutes were approved as changed:

Maria Brown is with GFNMS, not GFA as listed in the minutes in several places.

M/S FERRIS/CAMACCIA

AYES 10

NAYS 0

ABSTAIN 0

ABSENT 0

Covid Update, Marin County Parks

Notes

Martin recapped MCP efforts in assisting at the County run vaccination POD's. Positive effort, big lift for County Parks staff.

State of the Lagoon Conference (action Item)

Notes from Oct 2020

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) staff member Kate Bimrose presented an update on the annual State of the Lagoon conference and requested an item on the next meeting's agenda to convene a subcommittee to plan and implement the next conference in 2021.

Motion: Propose to create a subcommittee to plan and implement the 2021 State of the Lagoon Conference. Ferris, Cammacia, Neiderberger, Loomans volunteered to work with Kate Bimrose as the subcommittee.

Discussion: Should the event be in person or on Zoom? Neiderberger felt Zoom would increase participation from the public. Loomans was concerned with potential conflict between the “Afternoon at the Lagoon” events and a larger conference. Afternoon at the Lagoons are on pause, so no conflict.

Bimrose requested suggestions for topics. Camaccia suggested “responsible use of Bolinas Lagoon” as a topic/theme, Brown agreed. Ferris – agreed that responsible use is very important and should be brought up at every meeting. Mueller would like a topic on the College of Marin Bolinas Field Station and future plans. Camaccia would like an update from Audobon Canyon Ranch and Point Blue. Brown would like updates on Bolinas Wye Project, Kent Island, Green Crabs, and other projects. No date floated but the preferred date would be in the summer before the next BLAC regular meeting. Bimrose to set up meeting with the subcommittee.

M/S BROWN/LOOMANS

AYES 10

NAYS 0

ABSTAIN 0

ABSENT 0

Establish subcommittee to compose letter to CDFW (action item)

Notes from Oct 2020 Councilmembers Ferris (Rod and Boat Club) and Camaccia (Town of Bolinas) provided an update on recent activity and issues negatively impacting the lagoon during the COVID pandemic. Specific issues mentioned were increased use of water-craft and kayaks, poor clamming and fishing practices exacerbated by YouTube videos, increased speed limit infractions by water craft, and increased surf and beach use, and generally increased visitation, causing parking issues, increased trash and human waste, and street drain pollution. The Council requested that an Action item be brought to the next meeting, preferably a Special Meeting, to convene a subcommittee who would be tasked with composing a letter to California Department of Fish and Wildlife strongly advocating for increased patrols and enforcement of codes.

Discussion: The previous notes from the October 2020 meeting came about as a result of extended use of the Lagoon, especially clamming practices which have grown due to YouTube videos posted showing locations in the lagoon and demonstrating clamming techniques (which do not follow Best Management Practices). Councilmember Ferris also has concerns that commercial use is happening and increasing and thinks that CDFW and County should increase enforcement. Councilmember Camaccia brought up Duxbury Reef as another area of increased use. It is noted that County Parks staff has no jurisdiction to enforce. Councilmember Brown agrees with this and notes that her Agency also has no ability to enforce, suggests education and requesting CDFW warden to increase patrols during low tides. Councilmember Ward (NPS) notes that there may be presentations on overharvesting available soon. Councilmember Nierderberger notes that education of campers is important. Councilmember Mueller mentions increased signage, and Councilmember Brown says that CDFW has funding available for signage. This might be something to request in the letter. Also using County Sheriff as backup when wardens not available.

CDFW hotline to report poaching: 1-888-334-2258 (Cal Tip)

Suggestion that a motion for the next meeting be to reach out to County SO regarding camping issues.

Motion: to convene an ad hoc group to write a letter to CDFW asking for increased enforcement at Bolinas Lagoon and Duxbury Reef. Topics for regulatory clarification and info: Fishing,

Clamming, invertebrate collection, camping. Ad hoc committee to include Loomans, Stenzel, Ferris, Camaccia.

M/S BROWN/MUELLER
AYES 10
NAYS 0
ABSTAIN 0
ABSENT 0

Agency Reports

Notes

MARIN COUNTY PARKS: Martin/Pearson – presented the update report as written and submitted in the Agenda packet. Olivotti - Gave an update on the removal of eucalyptus along Lagoon edge at Bolinas-Olema Road. Ferris remarked on a large effort in the town and Fire Safe Bolinas to work with BPUD and Fire to remove additional eucalyptus in the area for fire danger mitigation.

GFNMS: Brown – Brought up the American Challenger shipwreck at Estero de San Antonio/Estero de Americana. The ship had run aground but there is currently no funding available for removal.

GGNRA: Ward – Stinson Beach Parking Lot repairs are more complicated than anticipated. An environmental assessment is required, pushing the timeline out further than first estimated. Aquatic ecologists are doing Red legged frog surveys.

NO OTHER AGENCY REPORTS

Council Member Comments

Notes

FERRIS (Bollinas Rod and Boat Club) – Still working on the moorings plan. Looking forward to further coordination with MCP/GFNMS. Concerned about traffic and storm drains pollution and the effect on Coho Salmon. Bollinas needs increased housing, which will bring more people/traffic/pollution. New approaches to pollution into the Lagoon should be considered. Lagoon has Striped (Pacific) mullet now.

MUELLER (College of Marin Lab) – Update on the Field Station. April 26, abatement work will begin, then demolition a couple weeks after that. Within a couple of months, the property should be an empty lot with fence for the next 18 months to 2 years. Public outreach will happen as the design for the new facility proceeds. They're developing advisory groups. The vision is a "Center of Science Equity".

LOOMANS (Stinson Beach) – Marin Community Development – new group in area for sea level rise. CDA (the County Community Development Agency) is looking at sea level rise assessment, with grant funding. Loomans on the committee, as well as Jennifer Blackman from BPUD. Kudos to Kate Bimrose for her work on Afternoon at the Lagoon series.

STENZEL (Point Blue) – Pine Gulch Creek banding project is on hold, will pick up again in fall. Point Blue will be able to host classes and groups at Pine Gulch Creek soon.

Additional Comments:

BIMROSE (GFNMS) – She had been taking notes during the rest of the meeting, noted some possible additional topics of interest for the State of the Lagoon Conference: Wildlife data and Wildfire safety.

**Next Meeting Date
(Action Item)**

Motion: Approve the date for the next BLAC meeting. Staff recommended Friday October 15, 2021 as the date for the next meeting.

The Council selected October 29, 2021 at 9 am as the preferred date. The location is to be determined, pending the availability of in person vs. Zoom platform.

M/S BROWN/CAMACCIA

AYES 10

NAYS 0

ABSTAIN 0

ABSENT 0

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.