

Board Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2015

**Meeting held at Marc Henning's Residence
Called to order at 7:00 pm by Volker Hoehne**

Officers Present:

President: Volker Hoehne

Vice President: Marc Henning

Interim Secretary: Liz Tuttle

Treasurer: Joel Tracey

Interim Webmaster: Chad Jackson

Delegate John Leek of San Diego Sea Dogs

Delegate Craig McDowell of Blue Ocean Dive Club



1) Treasurer's Report

a. Current account balances:

Checking \$671.89 (\$420 is 3Rs donations/\$251.89 is general fund)

Savings \$500.59 (maintaining required balance of \$500)

- b. Joel and Liz will review the "current paid membership list" to verify who is current on dues and which members need to renew. This will also confirm with dive clubs have enough paid members for delegate representation.
- c. Procedures to be followed with the City of San Diego's \$10,000 grant for the 3Rs program were also discussed. The grant requires that program expenses be paid up front by the Council then receipts for expenses be submitted to the City for reimbursement.
- d. Along these lines, Joel requires proof of his officer status with the Council in order to obtain an invoice from Miramar Storage. Volker signed the minutes of the last meeting and gave a copy to Joel as evidence Joel is indeed the Treasurer for the Council and is therefore responsible for overseeing accounts payable.
- e. Marc agreed to review grant documentation to determine the actual length of the grant and its requirements for renewing, if any.
- f. In addition, Volker reminded the Council that the San Diego Freedivers intend to donate their proceeds from their upcoming spearfishing competition at the end of August to purchase items on the Council's 3Rs wish list.

2) 3Rs Insurance

- a. Options for obtaining insurance for next season and keeping costs low:
1. Marc continues to research insurance companies that might insure an organization like the Council, but has nearly exhausted his list. Still has a few remaining he wants to contact.
 2. As discussed previously, those 3Rs Instructors who are dive professionals may choose to cover themselves with their own professional liability coverage by naming the Council additional insured on their personal policy. At a minimum, the cost to the 3Rs Instructor who is a divemaster is approximately \$350 and one who is a dive instructor is approximately \$650 or higher. The Council may consider reimbursement to the instructors for this expense as an incentive.

3. Another option may be to have PADI designate the Council a recreational dive facility and then liability insurance could possibly be obtained through their provider, Vincencia Buckley. Cost would most likely be similar to what was previously being paid for insurance by the San Diego Dive Club.
4. Joel proposed the possibility of 3Rs Instructors becoming certified as NAUI Snorkel Instructors. He has spoken with Lonnie Sharp of San Diego Divers who is the local NAUI rep regarding this. Lonnie is in the process of inquiring with NAUI as to what this process entails. This would allow 3Rs Instructors to become professionals which in turn could allow them to purchase insurance on their own. Joel estimated that out-of-pocket expenses for those who want to become Snorkel Instructors would be approximately \$300. Some level of reimbursement by the Council to those who wanted to undertake this certification was again proposed.
- b. Chad raised the issue that maybe the Council should look into what type of insurance coverage the kayak concessions operate under. He agreed to investigate the matter, as well as research the verbiage of these operators' liability waivers.
- c. It was proposed that maybe the proper City of San Diego Councilperson should be invited to the 3Rs event at Sunset Cliffs to promote good relations between the two Councils and encourage the continuation of the 3Rs grant so that the Council would have funds for insurance coverage.
- d. Volker set a deadline of the close of August as the date by which the selected insurance coverage option be solidified.

3) 3Rs Wish List

- a. Marc and Volker discussed that the equipment wish list had been presented to the SD Freedivers, but Marc wanted to emphasize that safety equipment was the Council's number one priority. Joel stated the number one item should be the trauma pack (AED & O₂ Kits).
- b. Volker presented the design for the jackets the Freedivers wish to present to the current 3Rs Instructors as gifts. The logo design was approved by the Council, but it was requested by Marc & Joel that the color of the jackets be navy blue. With this color choice they would be more likely to wear the jacket at other functions thereby promoting the Council brand more often.
- c. If it is the Freedivers' wish to have apparel with the approved logo be worn at 3Rs events as a means of staff identification, it was agreed by all members present that it would be more practical to have silk-screened red rashguards with the approved logo be worn by instructors & safety swimmers rather than jackets. These rashguards would remain the property of the Council to be used by volunteers at all future 3Rs events.

4) Children's Pool Beach Access

- a. Marc suggested that the Council post on its website the Council's recommendations for divers using Children's Pool. He will draft this statement and present it to the Council for review and approval.

5) La Jolla Cove

- a. No pertinent news at this time. Sea lion presence on the Cove's beach appears to be down at this time. Most likely due to heavy human activity because of the summer season.

6) MPA's

- a. Volker reported he is working with Fish & Game to revise the wording documentation to include that the collection or disturbance of shells in a designated MPA is indeed considered "take".
- b. Volker also reported that the "wobbler" has become law, allowing Fish & Game officers the authority to determine at their discretion whether or not an infraction should be cited as an MPA violation.
- c. Volker brought to the Council's attention that local San Diego Non-Profit Organizations are uniting to present Fish & Game with a letter stating their belief that recreational area signage should be consistent with the letter of the law. Volker believes that the NPO's will be contacting the Council in the near future to join in their efforts.

7) Website & Council Email

- a. Marc proposed that the Council obtain a general "gmail" address for Council correspondence with members and the public rather than continuing the practice of officers using their personal email address for communications. Chad volunteered to investigate this and set it up.
- b. It was moved and seconded, then unanimously approved, that Chad become the Council's new Interim Webmaster for the remainder of the year. Volker said he would contact current Webmaster Justin about this matter.

The next San Diego Council of Divers Board meeting will be held on September 17, 2015 at 6:30pm at Marc Henning's residence.

The next open San Diego Council of Divers general meeting proposed to be scheduled in October. Time and place to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Liz Tuttle

Meeting Minutes Summary submittal for posting on SDCoD website:

A Board Meeting was held by Council officers on August 4, 2015. The primary topics of discussion included 3Rs insurance coverage for next season, a 3Rs equipment wish list, Children's Pool access, La Jolla Cove, MPA's, and the Council's email address.

The City of San Diego has generously provided the Council with a grant for the Rocks, Rips and Reefs program. Expenses incurred by the Council and its members for the 3Rs program may be submitted by the Council to the City for reimbursement. These expenses may include insurance coverage for this program. Options for sourcing insurance coverage for 3Rs instructors were discussed during this meeting. It was decided that a resolution to this matter should be determined by the end of August.

The San Diego Freedivers have generously offered to donate the proceeds from their spearfishing tournament to purchase needed equipment for the 3Rs program. A list of equipment has been submitted to this club, with safety equipment being noted as the highest priority item.

During the meeting it was suggested that the Council post on its website the Council's recommendations for divers using Children's Pool. A statement will be drafted and presented to the Council for review and approval.

At La Jolla Cove, sea lion presence on the beach seems to be lessening. It is believed that this is due to heavy human traffic during the summer season.

During the board meeting it was announced that a "wobbler" brought before California lawmakers was enacted into law, allowing Fish & Game officers to act upon their own discretion when determining whether or not an infraction should be cited as an MPA violation.

Finally, it was proposed during the meeting that the Council should obtain a general email address as its own entity rather than continue with the practice of using officers' personal email addresses for public-to-Council communications. A council member was designated to put this into effect.

The next Board Meeting will be held on September 17th. A public Council meeting will be held in October. Date to be determined.