

Board Meeting Minutes of March 25th, 2015



Meeting held at vice President's home

Called to order at 6:30 pm by Volker Hoehne

Officers Present:

President: Volker Hoehne

Vice President: Marc Henning

Secretary: John Leek

Treasurer: Joel Tracey

Director: Scott Anderson

Director: Cary Humphries

1. President Hoehne noted the webmaster has plans to produce a new website to be SDDIVECOUNCIL.com. It may eventually replace the www.sddivers.com.
2. Facebook member Elke Specker has offered to help shoot video about and for the Council of Divers.
3. The 3Rs schedule has been reviewed and approved by the Board project leaders and the 3Rs instructors. Now Marc will send letters to the dive clubs to find out which ones will take individual sites. Volker reported the Freedivers intended to donate money for equipment needed for 3Rs 2015. They would like a list of needs.
4. The insurance covering 3Rs instructors runs out 8/15 and the insurance company does not wish to underwrite group diving policies any more.
5. That insurance was a legacy policy by the San Diego Dive Club that covered 3Rs instructors through their being members. As a result we submitted our application for a City grant citing that policy, but the fact it did not have Council of Divers in the name caused the City Attorney to reject the grant proposal until we could show a policy naming the Council of Divers up front. Scott is researching the carrier changing the name on the policy, with San Diego Dive Club (which paid part of the cost) named secondarily. Marc had submitted the application and some receipts and will continue to find out what the City Attorney will accept.
6. At the last La Jolla Parks and Beaches Committee meeting Zach Plopper submitted a final MPA sign configuration with minor text changes. The Committee agreed to the changes, but did not agree to a last minute proposed change in text about divers and sea lions in the MPA's. The signs will show sponsorship by City of San Diego, California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, San Diego County MPA Community Collaborative, and Ocean Protection Council.
7. Volker stated he and Zach on behalf of the Council and the MPA Coalition had penned a letter to Lorena Gonzales urging the "wobblet" measure, allowing more latitude in MPA enforcement. A violation could be written up as a misdemeanor or an infraction, allowing peace officers to issue an infraction citation and so be less inclined to do nothing in the face of low level violations.
8. It was noted that a condition of the seasonal closure of Children's Pool, the City was to consider ways to clean the sand and water in the area for the benefit of both species. We support the La Jolla Parks and Beaches Committee in calling for the condition to be met starting May 16. We do not intend to sponsor a beach cleanup on May 16, because that would remove the City roll, but we will document the condition of the beach so the extent of the problem can be seen.
9. Marc advised that the Blue Ocean Dive Club was sponsoring a rescue certification refresher course and he would be leading Council participation. The proceeds are to go to the sea lion rescue program of the Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Orange County. A video was shown of the Vice Chair of PMMC presenting at the Coastal Commission in favor of the proposed hard closure of Children's Pool, running down NOAA and slandering divers to get his point across. Volker proposed he would approach the Blue Ocean Dive Club to convey the misgivings of some of the Board members about PMMC. He may still do that, though the next morning the event and Council support was announced before that could have happened.
10. Volker noted the Council is participating in an educational event at Scripps Aquarium with the Freedivers for a fish ID course to be staged prior to opening hours.
11. Treasurer Tracey reported a balance of \$384 in checking and \$500.63 in savings, with a separation

- between operating funds and 3R's funds continuing. It was requested there be a PayPal account for the Council of Divers so donations over the internet could go straight into the CoD bank account.
12. It was also requested that a membership reminder go out to both "delinquent" previous members and any divers we can contact that have never been members before. John Leek has the historic documents and will work with Marc Henning to produce the text.
 13. Marc Henning has produced a booklet of all the common 3Rs sites and it is proposed these be printed up for giving out at 3Rs in return for a suggested donation.
 14. A number of Council projects were proposed in the 1/5/2015 general meeting and some were pending Board approval and designation of some person to serve as project lead on any of them. Some were also impractical and have to be tabled.
 15. The minutes of the 1/5/15 general meeting were approved by the Board.
 16. The next meeting will be announced and will be a general meeting to include the public.
 17. President Hoehne noted he will not be running for office next year. In fact, all the Board members will be up for re-election this Fall.

This list of 1/5/15 diver member items to review was submitted by Volker before the meeting.

1. Council should collaborate with WildCoast, MPA watch, the MPA Collaborative, etc. to monitor the effectiveness and practices in the MPAs as is. No enforcement role. Noted that the new South La Jolla MPA is the one that can yield meaningful comparative results. YES
2. Petition for clarifications to divers and City enforcement as to how to transit reserves with fishing gear and catch without penalty. YES
3. Invite speaker Zack Poplar from WildCoast to next CoD meeting to propose MPA monitoring participation before MPA's come up for review in 2017. YES.
4. Support the California Fish and Game Warden's Association with other conservation organizations requesting Code modification to allow an infraction citation in MPA's. Right now, even inadvertent violations including removing a sea shell or disturbing something in a tide pool carry misdemeanor status. The discretionary infraction is called the Woblette. YES.
5. Participate in Fish ID event at Scripps for consumptive divers with San Diego Freedivers. YES.
6. Generate support for City acquiescence to a federal suit against San Diego to require an ADA ramp with the new CP Lifeguard Tower to the beach. The ramp should only be closed when the entire beach is closed. The Council has always supported handicapped diving (DiveHeart) Vice President Henning and Treasurer Tracey to provide lead support. YES.
7. Gavin of the Freedivers will look into using Instagram to effect better public connection by Net and the San Diego Council of Divers Facebook page will be continued. These were handled by president Hoehne.
8. Revert to Monthly meetings. The Council had dropped regularly scheduled meetings for poor participation to seek better ways to effect diver participation. Only recently had Club/Council joint meetings been done, but physical club meetings are also waning. An alternative of well publicized scheduled quarterly Public Meetings, with agendas, was accepted on a trial basis. **Yes**
9. Collaborate with San Diego Freedivers to help them host a 2015 Nationals. YES
10. Support the lawsuit by Friends of the Children's Pool to rescind beach closure because the City and Coastal Commission violated State and Federal laws. Press for the City to accept and settle, and make its former Shared Use policy work within existing laws. Though the City has often accepted accusations of diver disturbances of seals, it has never accepted input from us for solutions. YES. (Not to include becoming a participant in the suit)
11. The Council shall plan a Beach Cleanup at our adopted South Casa Beach and upper areas, on Jan 25. Vice President Marc Henning in charge. The stairs should be open by then. South Casa beach **was then** is currently open to the public, by bluff trails "at your own risk". YES.
12. A proposal that a free 6 month membership be offered to any divers newly certified in 2014 and later was accepted as a simple question to the President. **No**

Minutes submitted 4/2/2015

John Leek, Secretary