



**COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVITALIZATION PLAN
CORE COMMITTEE MEETING
August 28, 2009, 2:30 p.m.
(Port Training Room)**



Attendees:
August Felando, Fisheries Attorney
Bruce Cummings, Port – Marine Terminal
Catherine Driscoll, Driscoll's Wharf
Christopher Morrow, Project Design Consultants
Deborah Ruddock, Coastal Conservancy
Domenic Lupo, Project Design Consultants
Henry Pontarelli, Lisa Wise Consulting
Isaac Canner, Moffatt & Nichol Blaylock

Jonathan Hardy, Senator Ducheny's Office
Kelly Falk, Port - Real Estate, Chair
Matthew Valerio, Port - Land Use Planning
Mitch Hobron, Fisherman's Working Group
Pamela Godde, Lisa Wise Consulting
Peter Flournoy, Attorney, Fishing Industry
Peter Halmay, Fisherman's Working Group
Tina Pierce, Port - Grants Office
Tom Driscoll, Driscoll's Wharf

Introductions/Updates from the Port (Kelly Falk, Chair)

This Core Committee meeting was the first official meeting since the State Coastal Conservancy issued a stop work order. Kelly emphasized how communication is crucial to bringing the fishery revitalization efforts to the community and he welcomed input from the Core Committee members. He introduced Deborah Ruddock from the California Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy).

California Coastal Conservancy Updates (Deborah Ruddock)

Deborah Ruddock reviewed the most recent Notice to Proceed and Contract Extension for Lisa Wise Consulting. Since the December 19th freeze for all Conservancy projects, the State finance department has reviewed all its bonds. The commercial fisheries revitalization project was selected to continue because it qualifies as a priority project critically important to the State's environment and economics. It is a project that impacts many, is doable in eight months to a year, and new timelines have now been established.

Deliverables are due by the end of February 2010 with one month to forty-five days to invoice after that. Approximately every two months or sooner, a bill needs to be submitted for services rendered. Every back invoice prior to the stop work order has been paid. The new project start date is now August 28, 2009.

State Bond Sale: In September 2009, there will be a State bond sale to fund existing projects which could apply also to our commercial fishery project; in which case, we could revise our existing timetable for application. Deborah emphasized that we now must show progress on achieving deliverables.

Water Bond: Also in September 2009, there may be an upcoming billion dollar water bond bill which will include \$200M for Conservancy projects, \$100M for ocean related projects, and then separately, \$150M for the Conservancy and the Department of Fish and Game for fishery projects. The Conservancy is hopeful the public will pass the water bond bill in order for monies to be available for fishery revitalization. However, public polling at this point is not favorable as the water bond bill may be changed out for less expensive water storage or peripheral canal projects. The Conservancy is seeking out alternative funding sources and hoping other projects within the water bond bill will be identified.

Deborah reassured the Core Committee that they can definitely proceed with the fishery revitalization project planning. She is going to keep in communication with the Core Committee.

Lisa Wise Consulting (Henry Pontarelli)

Henry updated the Core Committee on the Lisa Wise Consulting (LWC) contract that was extended through May 2010. The LWC budgets were revised after consulting with the Conservancy and the Port. The draft *Commercial Fisheries Revitalization Plan, Background and Existing Conditions Report (BEC)* was delivered at the last meeting in February 2009. Other updates included the following.

- The Sea Level Rise Change Analysis will now be done by Dr. Reinhold Flick, Terra Costa Consulting for \$15k upon budgeting from the Conservancy anticipated for December 2009.
- The Final BEC is targeted for September 31, 2009. LWC will have incorporated the remaining Core Committee member comments into the BEC;
- In addition, a Marketing Plan needs to be established.
- A site design master plan for Driscoll's or G-Street needs to be identified to establish target goals.

In regards to the Marketing Plan in the BEC, August Felando would like it readdressed. Initially, to identify any adjustments needed during the economic downturn; and more specifically, to identify marketing strategies and venues for commercial fishermen. Pete Halmay suggested polling consumers to see if they are open to new ways of obtaining locally caught fresh fish and supporting local sustainable fisheries.

A Community Workshop is needed to decide on alternatives for infrastructure marketing and management. Project Design Consultants has reviewed and done preliminary concepts on project infrastructure.

Discussion for Workshop Meeting:

The first Core team workshop date is Tuesday, October 13th. After discussion, the Core Committee members decided it would be best to have two separate community workshop meetings to decide on the BEC fishing revitalization alternatives. First, a community workshop meeting; and second, an informal barbecue dinner workshop on the docks for more public exposure to the entire fishing industry.

It was pointed out that often more productive discussion is accomplished at an informal dinner than at a formal meeting. Suggestions for the barbecue were made such as having informational easels standing up behind grills to encourage conversation on the revitalization alternatives. The community workshop agenda would include showing project alternatives from the Background and Existing Conditions Report as well as PDC's infrastructure alternatives. One idea to facilitate input was to possibly set up a phone line to vote for your choice. The Core Committee did decide on the following items.

- The Conservancy and Board of Port Commissioners would need to be kept informed of the next stages in the entire planning process.
- The next Core Committee meeting needs to design and plan specifically what we want to offer to the public and how we want to roll out documents and the PDC design.
- Specific Plans for the barbecue are to be determined.
- In possibly early November, the Community Workshop will be scheduled with public representatives, Core Committee members, fishermen, and other invitees to decide on plan alternatives.
- In December, choose and establish the preferred project alternative with Port endorsement.
- In January, implementation of plan will begin.

Ocean Protection Council (OPC) Fishery Challenge Grant

Kelly Falk detailed the OPC Fishery Challenge Grant. There was a collaborative effort on the part of the Driscoll's, Peter Halmay, and the Port to generate the grant proposal. The proposal was submitted on time to OPC for over \$200k in bond fund money. The OPC proposal was well done with good background information. A detailed visio chart is available for people to see how this may fit into the big picture.

The \$10k oil recovery grant proposal was submitted but was not supported by OPC at this time.

Deborah Ruddock said the water bond bill of November 2010 would be the one big source of funding for implementation of projects. In the hopes that the economy is better, the State is working on consensus for a new water board commission.

MLPA Process

Initially, August Felando asked about SanDAG's representation and Jonathan Hardy said SanDAG did submit letters.

The MLPA is creating ocean zones with fishing enforcement programs. The Pacific Fishery Management Council has a central vessel monitoring systems (VMS) for the tuna fishing industry. Unless it's handled effectively, there is a requirement of 7/24 monitoring for large vessels but it would be cost prohibitive for smaller vessels. There was concern that this VMS Federal fishery program will eventually extend to California fisheries. It may work with 200' tuna boats but with small boats it would be cost prohibitive.

Peter Flournoy says there is a new Coastguard requirement for vessel identification systems and this system is only being considered for fishing vessels 20' or more. The new Coastguard program is different than VMS as it identifies boats from the ocean floor. Apparently, however, the MLPA staff has said they are only wanting to cut zone areas at this point and not do zone enforcement.

Action Items

- LWC to incorporate remaining comments into BEC and finalize report by September 30, 2009
- Henry Pontarelli will do an e-mail survey for the best public meeting barbecue date.
- Henry Pontarelli may send the LWC budget PowerPoint presentation to everybody. There is \$500k in the budget and \$280k is left.
- Kelly Falk will be communicating via board memo to Board of Port Commissioners.
- The OPC Commercial Fisheries Challenge Grant is still in process.
- Updates on the MLPA South Coast Initiative may be given to Core Committee members from Deborah Ruddock, Jonathan Hardy, and Kelly Falk providing different perspectives as the process progresses.

Next Meeting Date

The next Core Committee meeting Design Alternative Workshop is scheduled for 12:00 October 13th, at the Port Administration Building. The workshop will convene over several hours and lunch will be provided.