

Departments Services SEARCH: [LIVING HERE](#)[VISITING HERE](#)[WORKING HERE](#)[EMERGENCIES](#)[DEPARTMENT CONT](#)[Print Version](#)[Back to Agendas & Minutes](#)

## Minutes For June 27, 2007

### SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD THURSDAY, June 27, 2007 AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER - FIRST HEARING ROOM,  
LOCATED AT 675 TEXAS STREET FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Commission Members Present: Hermsmeyer, Riddle, & Alvarez

Commission Member Excused: Laevastu and Leong were excused

Staff Present: Sykes, Tanner-Linne, & Curry

1. Chair Hermsmeyer called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM. A quorum was confirmed.
2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the May 31, 2007 meeting were approved. Commissioner Riddle made a motion the minutes be approved and Commissioner Alvarez seconded the motion.
3. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved. Commissioner Alvarez made a motion to approve the agenda and Commissioner Riddle seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.
4. Chair Announcements and Actions: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
5. Commissioner and Staff had no additional comments.
6. Discussion of Kinder Morgan Settlement and review of draft proposal by Staff and County Counsel's Office of funds, based on December 8, 2005 Commission Recommendation:
  - a. Staff Sykes stated Commissioner Laevastu had forwarded her thoughts regarding tonight's meeting and the Kinder Morgan Funds to him via email and had asked if he would present them to the commission and a copy to the secretary. This was included in the minutes of tonight's meeting.
  - b. Staff Sykes introduced Bernadette Curry, Deputy County Counsel. She gave a brief history behind the Kinder Morgan subsequent litigation. She stated the Park & Recreation Commission was to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for the use of the funds. The Board of Supervisors has approval authority over the recommendations of the Commission, regardless of language in the Settlement that may suggest otherwise.
  - c. Staff Sykes explained the County Staff proposal shared at the May 31, 2007 Commission meeting, which was in accordance with the Commission's standing recommendation of December 8, 2005.
  - d. For the use of funds totaling \$480,000 that are restricted for use within Suisun Marsh, the Commission

recommendation was that the funds be used for, "Solano County Parks or cooperative partnership projects within Marsh that enhance public access and awareness of the Marsh, and allows for matching funds for leverage of funds within the Marsh." Based on this recommendation, the Staff proposal is to use \$400,000 on public access and awareness projects at the Belden's Landing Water Access Facility, because it is the only County Parks facility in the Marsh. The Staff proposal is to use the remaining \$80,000 to award competitive grants via the existing Fish and Wildlife Fund grant program.

e. For the use of funds totaling \$494,974 that are required to be spent in accordance with Fish and Game Code 13104, the Commission recommended that the funds be used for, "Projects on a countywide basis, including projects in the Suisun Marsh area, to be set aside on an equitable basis in the portions of: 1/3 for Solano County Parks projects, 1/3 for cooperative partnership projects that may include the Solano County Parks, and 1/3 for other applicants or non-profits. That Commission may reallocate these funding portions for worthwhile projects depending on merit." Based on this recommendation, the Staff proposal is to use 1/3, or \$165,000 for environmental education projects at the County Center. The Staff proposal is to use the remaining 2/3 for County or Cooperative partnership projects, including \$30,000 for a project at the Bonifacio Fishing Pond (a cooperative partnership project with the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs), and \$299,974 for County or cooperative partnership projects, to be determined.

f. Commissioner Alvarez asked Staff Curry about the procedure the commission needed to follow, and whether the Commission recommendation had gone before the Board of Supervisors. Staff Curry stated they had not.

g. Commissioner Alvarez asked whether these proposals qualified as consistent with the prior County Counsel recommendation that the money be used for "Government agency sponsored or driven" projects. Staff Curry replied that by getting approval of the Board, all these projects would meet this obligation.

h. Commissioner Alvarez asked whether the use of the funds at Belden's Landing would comply with the requirement to use the funds for "fish, wildlife and habitat enhancement in the Suisun Marsh." Staff Sykes replied that he understood the County Counsel and the District Attorney's office did not object to the Commission's interpretation of this requirement. The December 2005 recommendation (to use the funds for "public access and awareness of the marsh").

i. Commissioner Alvarez stated he wished Staff had obtained input from the public and outside agencies in developing the Staff proposal.

j. Commissioner Riddle asked if some of the money could be used as seed money at the Nature Center and some could be used in the future and not all at one time. Staff Sykes spoke of spending money initially to develop a comprehensive environmental education program for the County parks with an appropriate theme, and then spending funds in accordance with this program in subsequent years. This could include collaboration with local museums, non-profit groups and a center at Lake Berryessa.

k. Chair Hermsmeyer stated the projects should be for fish, wildlife or the habitat. He also stated he had a plan for throwing \$400,000 into Belden's Landing just as a fix it.

l. Commissioner Riddle questioned the use of \$400,000 to impact a small area instead of developing other areas.

7. Public Comments. All present were invited to address the Commission regarding their particular interests in the Morgan Funds:

a. Erin Gabel of State Senator Torlakson's office spoke about the Senator's work creating the bill that would provide funding for the Delta Trail. The Delta Trail bill had been signed into law. A plan has been developed to link the trail out the Delta. She spoke regarding the backing of the project and funds already approved by the state. She told the Commission about Proposition 84 which is a water protection bill where there would be matching funds available for regional trails.

b. Commissioner Alvarez asked who the leading agency for the Delta Trail was in Contra Costa County and who would be the lead agency in Solano County? Ms. Gabel stated the East Bay Regional Park District was the lead in Contra Costa County and County Parks would be the lead agency for Solano County. Staff Sykes pointed out that the East Bay Regional Park District had staff that was dedicated just to trail development and maintenance, which Solano County Parks does not have.

have.

c. Chair Hermsmeyer asked if Prop 84 were competitive funds allocated for County parks through ABAG (Ass Bay Area Governments). Ms. Gabel stated that the grant funding mechanisms were still being worked out by the :

d. Commissioner Alvarez asked for a "ballpark" cost for Delta Trail planning within Solano County. Staff Syke researched this and did not know. Ms. Gabel stated, for example that the planning and development for the full 1 proposed Delta Trail was estimated to cost about \$4,000,000. Solano County's would be a portion of that.

e. Linda Fiack, Executive Director of the Delta Protection Commission (DPC) stated she had been before the before regarding the Delta Trails and Solano County was supportive. She showed maps with the location of the D stated the trail was located near the water's edge when possible. She also stated Supervisor Mike Reagan serves County's representative on the DPC. She stated that the Delta Trail could link County Parks and tie in with the Co potential environmental education objectives.

f. Commissioner Alvarez asked which counties the Delta Trail would go through. Ms. Fiack stated Contra Cost Sacramento, Yolo and San Joaquin Counties.

g. Holly Dabral, Project Manager of the Delta Protection Commission spoke about the advantages of pooling with the development of the Bay Trail, so the funds would go further.

h. Steve Chappell, Executive Director of the Suisun Resource Conservation District spoke about his organizat in 1977, the California Legislature passed assembly bill 1717, the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act. This legislation provisions to the Public Resource Codes related to their responsibility of the water management practices on priva lands within the Suisun Marsh. This includes 30,000 acres of sloughs and 52,000 acres of managed wetlands. He closely with Fish & Game, the Corps of Engineers and other governmental agencies, and holds programmatic perr them. He spoke of his role during the Kinder Morgan spill helping to close the spill gates. Mr. Chappell stated that money, and in particular the \$480,000 in marsh-only funds, should stay in the marsh and be used for environmer The Suisun RCD was well qualified to implement these projects, and held permits to do so.

i. Commissioner Alvarez stated he felt a partnership should be formed between the Suisun Resource Conserv District and the County staff to discuss projects within the marsh.

j. Linda Fiack clarified the DPC's request for \$50,000 to support the development of the Delta Trail in FY 07/0 \$350,000 in FY 08/09. This \$400,000 could constitute Solano County's contribution toward the estimated \$4 milli planning and development of the Delta Trail.

k. Jerry Emanuelson from the Suisun Marsh Natural History Association stated he agrees the money should b marsh enhancement. He stated his organization had 3 to 4 acres of degraded land to restore. He asked whether t staff had proposed as Fish & Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant money was available over several years or as a one Staff Sykes said the Staff proposal was to award the \$80,000 in one year.

l. Chair Hermsmeyer thanked all the speakers. He said the direction this commission takes to distribute these have resonance on what will happen in this county for years, and he doesn't take this job lightly. He also thought commission should not take action until all commissioners were present. Chair Hermsmeyer said all those at the r were on the same team and the Commission had received good information.

m. Commissioner Riddle thanked County Counsel for attending the meeting.

n. Commissioner Alvarez thanked staff for their help. He clarified with Staff that there are no deadlines for m recommendation tonight. He thanked Steve Chappell and said he was intrigued by the potential for working on pr Suisun RCD. He was also intrigued about the County being involved with DPC in developing the Delta Trail. He fel Parks should take the leadership role in collaborating with these other organizations in developing future trail proj Solano County.

o. Staff Sykes gave a report on the feasibility of developing Pierce Harbor on Pierce Lane as a County Park. He stated that the close freeway access to the site would probably make it a popular boat launch location, but there are several constraints. The County owns about .4 acre there and would need to acquire additional land for parking and access. The asking price for the two adjacent parcels (5.2 ac.) was \$1.5 million. There would be wetlands mitigations and may be contamination from oil and gas leaking into the ground from abandoned vehicles. There is a history of flooding at the site that would require extensive site work to correct. The location of the harbor is far from existing parks, which would make patrolling and maintenance a challenge without additional staffing. As an example, maintenance costs at Belden's landing are budgeted per year at \$15,000, and staffing costs for 1-2 rangers would be an additional \$80-170,000 per year (with benefits). Commissioner Riddle thanked Staff for the report.

p. Staff asked for clarification from the Commission on their instructions for the next Commission meeting. Chair Hermsmeyer and Commissioner Alvarez requested that Staff modify the current Staff proposal based on tonight's meeting and follow up with those present as necessary to understand their suggestions. Chair Hermsmeyer requested that Morgan funds be put on the next agenda for July 12 for a recommendation from the Commission.

8. The next regular meeting was confirmed for July 12, 2007 at 5:30 pm, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Attachment 1: Memorandum (June 26, 2007) from Commissioner Eva K. Laevastu to Daniel Sykes. Subject: Comments for the Solano County Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of June 27, 2007.

[Print Version](#)

[Back to Agendas & Minutes](#)

[Can't Find Something? Have A Suggestion? Contact Us!](#)

© 2006 County of Solano, California