



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	October 29, 2024
TITLE	Approval of the Minutes for the Board Natural & Cultural Resources Committee Meeting July 31, 2024
DIVISION	Acquisition, Stewardship & Development
FROM	Annalynn Londonio, Recording Clerk

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend approval of the minutes for the Board Natural & Cultural Resources Committee Meeting of July 31, 2024.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

The July 31, 2024, Board Natural & Cultural Resources Committee meeting was held in-person and via video conference pursuant to the Brown Act, as amended by AB 2449.

Members of the public can watch the meeting on the Park District's website here:

<https://www.ebparks.org/calendar/public-meetings>

The meeting was called to order at 10:39 a.m.

I. Roll Call

Recording Clerk Annalynn Londonio conducted a roll call. Present were the following Directors and staff:

Committee: Chair Colin Coffey, Director John Mercurio, and Director Dennis Waespi

Staff: Jason Rosenberg, Ken Wysocki, Annalynn Londonio, Allison Rofe, Dina Robertson, Matt Graul, Natalie Reeder, Becky Tuden, Doug Bell, Pamela Beitz, Jaclyn Lim, Tatiana Manzanillo

Consultant: Tiffany Ashbaker

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approval of the Minutes for the Board Natural & Cultural Resources Committee Meeting May 10, 2024

Director Waespi requested striking "Jewel Lake" from his statement about swimmable lakes in the May 10, 2024, meeting minutes.

MOTION

Director Waespi moved and Director Mercurio seconded a motion to approve the May 10, 2024, Natural & Cultural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

None.

4. Informational Items

a. Conservation Grazing Overview and Ecological Importance of Pond Management

Wildland Vegetation Program Manager Dina Robertson and Rangeland Specialist Allison Rofe presented a PowerPoint outlining the organization chart; history of grazing program; comparison to Sister Agencies; land acquisitions; conservation grazing; goals and objectives; ranchers; livestock infrastructure project planning; budget; grazing revenue; shifts and challenges; and pond creation, management and costs.

In response to Director Mercurio, Specialist Rofe explained soil piles; increased hydroperiod; property of grazers; maintenance of fencing; and inventory of infrastructure. Director Mercurio suggested soil amendments to reduce hoof prints.

In response to Director Waespi, Specialist Rofe discussed lack of grazing by the State; \$1.1 million revenue and \$900,000 in expenses; Cal Fire grants more focused on prescribed grazing; issues with cattle and dogs; cattle with native animals; and off-season grazing areas.

Chair Coffey discussed the lack of grazing programs at Mt. Diablo State Park; lobbying efforts to serve grazers; complaints by park users over damage by cattle to trails; and encouraged public education on grazing.

In response to Director Waespi, Specialist Rofe explained efforts to move fencing and water troughs; and sheep grazers.

Public Comments: William Wyragui and Kelly Abreu discussed issues with cattle grazing, the spread of thistle, revenue from grazing and rotational grazing.

b. 2024 Annual Review: Implementation of the Updated Free-Roaming Cat Management Policy

Wildlife Biologist Natalie Reeder and Tiffany Ashbaker, Friends of Oakland Animal Services, presented a PowerPoint outlining the timeline; purpose; risk of extinction; education and prevention; coordination with animal services agencies; community relations and buy in; trap and transfer; working cat and adoption; and park staff perspective.

In response to Committee questions, Biologist Reeder and Tiffany Ashbaker discussed the reduction in cats; impacts on birds; violation for cat feeding; and trap, neuter and return (TNR).

Chair Coffey discussed the success of the program. Chief of Stewardship Matt Graul discussed the program budget and one additional year of funding.

Public Comments: Kelly Abreu discussed politics surrounding cats and issues in the City of Fremont.

c. Annual Report on Park District's Integrated Pest Management Program Activities for 2023

IPM Specialist Pamela Beitz presented a PowerPoint outlining an IPM overview, program and training updates, 2023 herbicide use trends, IPM goals and case studies and program directions for 2024.

IPM Ecologist Jaclyn Lim discussed safe and accessible recreation.

Vegetation Ecologist Tatiana Manzanillo discussed Operation Broom Bust.

In response to Committee questions, Specialist Beitz discussed the owl box program and discouraged the use of Sweet Broom.

Public Comments: William Wyragui expressed appreciation for reduction in pesticides; concern about Yellow Star Thistle; and suggested use of volunteers for weed removal and trail maintenance.

5. Announcements

The Board and AGM Wysocki commended staff for the presentations.

Chair Coffey suggested consideration of the master list of potential topics.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Coffey declared the meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolande Barial Knight, Clerk of the Board