

**Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District
Ruth Lake Community Services District**

**Joint Agency Aquatic Invasive Species Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting: September 3, 2008, Ruth Lake CSD Community Hall

Attendees: See attached list

Topics Discussed:

1) **Minutes**

The minutes of the August 6, 2008 committee meeting were approved (M/S: Lorin Fleming/Barbara Hecathorn; unanimous)

2) **General Discussion**

There was no further discussion following HBMWD's Special Meeting of August 26th to adopt an Emergency Interim Ordinance to temporarily restrict out-of-area water craft (those not from Humboldt or Trinity Counties) until such time as a Prevention Plan has been developed and implemented.

Regarding Labor Day Weekend

Carol Rische reported that she and Board President Bruce Rupp were prepared to spend Saturday at Ruth Lake assisting the leaseholder volunteers who would be checking in boats and passing out informational material regarding the invasive mussels. However, on Friday, a big rig accident occurred on Highway 36 just east of Bridgeville which completely blocked the road. The accident was not cleared until Saturday afternoon. She reported that she and Director Rupp did not make it up to Ruth Lake..

Tom Felt reported that there were a lot less people this weekend compared to normal. The down turn was likely due to the accident as well as the temporary boating restrictions HBMWD instituted. Ruth Lake CSD had a number of campground cancellations from out-of-town parties. He reported that there were not that many boat registrations, and he was not aware that the volunteers had to turn away any out-of-area boats. He reported people were very cooperative. He added that HBMWD did a good job getting the word out which he appreciated.

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3) Planning Work

a) Education/Outreach

Carol Rische summarized the communication activities that had occurred to date. She also reported that she and Aldaron Laird attended the Humboldt County Fish and Game Advisory Commission meeting on August 19th. We had the opportunity to raise the Commission's awareness of this important issue, and inquire about their interest and role. They expressed interest in being kept apprised.

Lorin Fleming reported that the Trinity County Fish and Game Advisory Commission is meeting the evening of September 17th. He indicated he will be briefing them on this issue and invited anyone else from the committee to join him. Carol Rische stated that Breck McAlexander (DFG's Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator) will be in attendance.

Carol Rische and Dave Saunderson reported that the Ruth Lake Leaseholders Association Board is meeting the evening of September 9th. They have invited all leaseholders to this meeting to learn about this issue and how we are addressing it. Carol stated they will use this opportunity to solicit feedback as to additional means to communicate effectively with the leaseholders.

b) Prevention Plan

Carol Rische reported that the HBMWD Board has endorsed the elements of the proposed prevention plan that were contained in the "Discussion Document" that the Committee discussed at the last meeting. She inquired as to Ruth Lake CSD's position on these elements. Lorin Fleming responded that Supervisor Wendy Reiss thought it was an excellent draft, and that the Ruth Lake CSD has endorsed it too.

Carol Rische reported that she initiated contact with a representative from the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) who provided her with a valuable contact at Santa Clara County Parks. The relationship and relative responsibilities between SCVWD and County Parks are very similar to HBMWD and the Ruth Lake CSD. The Parks Department has developed and implemented a prevention program which includes: boater registration, inspections, "banding" (e.g. tying the boat to the trailer with a tamper-proof band), and quarantine elements. County Parks shared some of the material from their plan

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to help us in developing ours. Carol Rische added that Santa Clara County Parks, as well as many other districts who are dealing with this issue, have retained Urban Parks Concessionaires (UPC) to implement their Prevention Programs. UPC has concessions to operate a number of parks and recreational facilities state-wide, and they have added a Quagga Inspection Division. Carol reported that she and Tom Felt held a conference call with a representative of UPC yesterday to learn more about their program and the services they offer. They are available to assist with the Plan development and/or available to implement all, or parts, of a prevention program.

Barbara Hecathorn reported that she is traveling to the Bay Area this weekend to visit her family. She volunteered to visit one of SCVWD's reservoirs (Anderson) to witness their boat inspection and banding program first hand. She indicated she will take pictures and perhaps even video footage.

Dave Saunderson reported that he obtained a contact on the parks side from East Bay MUD (Bill Zoock).

Lorin Fleming reported that he spoke with Pam Francis from Lake County regarding their program. He added that Lake County purchased four decontamination units, but they only need two and offered to sell two to Ruth Lake CSD. Carol Rische thanked Lorin for initiating discussions with Lake County to learn about their program, but indicated we have not been considering nor proposing decontamination at this time. She added that if we go down that path it will be very expensive.

Ric Jeans indicated Ruth Lake CSD would like to get the Prevention Plan developed and program implemented by year-end. He indicated that Ruth Lake CSD begins taking reservations for 2009 at the beginning of the year, so having the program defined and in-place would be very helpful. The committee agreed the Plan should be developed as quickly as possible. To that end, the Committee requested that Tom Felt and Carol Rische work together and develop a draft Plan by the next committee meeting.

Aldaron Laird expressed concern regarding the bass tournaments. Dave Saunderson and Lorin Fleming indicated they are small and attended by almost exclusively local boaters. Lorin Fleming read where boaters originated from in the tournaments held earlier this

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year. Aldaron Laird responded that boats entering these tournaments would be subject to the same inspection requirements.

Options and trade-offs to implement the Prevention Program were discussed, including: installing automatic gates, limiting available launch times, installing "spikes" on the launch that would puncture tires if a boat launched after hours. Ric Jeans indicated we need to consider such things in order to reduce ongoing staff costs.

Carol Rische asked the USFS representatives about their campgrounds. Tom Hudson responded that they have a stand-alone kiosk at which information can be posted. Julie Ranieri added that she will look into whether information can be shared or posted when the Ruth Lake campgrounds are added to the national registration system. Carol Rische indicated we will have to work with USFS personnel on how best to inform campers who have non-motorized watercraft (e.g. kayaks and canoes) of the requirements once developed.

Regarding funding, possible options were discussed, including launch fees, hosting a bass tournament or other fundraiser with the proceeds going toward the program, RLCSD contributions, HBMWD contributions, and possibly a tax assessment (which if considered could possibly address law enforcement too). Lorin Fleming shared a letter he drafted to Senator Aenstad apprising him of this issue and requesting funding support from the State.

Regarding fire fighting, Tom Hudson indicated there have been discussions at the Regional level of the Forest Service and that helicopters should be addressed.

c) Monitoring Program

Brian Newell reported that one of the three monitoring placed by DFG is gone. It was the one placed at the Marina. Brian indicated the rope holding the device had been cut. Carol Rische indicated HBMWD will work with DFG to get another device installed and will use a chain or cable this time.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 2nd at 10:00 a.m. at HBMWD's Eureka Office (828 7th Street)

(Note – it was discussed and decided to rotate the meeting location between Ruth Lake area and Eureka/Fortuna area so as to share travel responsibility)