

**JAMUL DULZURA  
COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP  
FINAL MINUTES**

**January 13, 2015**

**Approved Feb. 10, 2015**

**Oak Grove Middle School Library  
7:30 p.m.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER - Dan Neirinckx, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.**
  
2. **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Dan Neirinckx, Steve Wragg, Joe Stuyvesant, Joan Koons, Elizabeth Kelly, Jean Strouf, George Novinger, Randy White, Michael Casinelli, Eileen Poole, Earl Katzer, Preston Brown.

**Excused:** Bill Herde and Janet Mulder  
**Absent:** Judy Bohlen
  
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA for January 13, 2015 and minutes of December 9, 2014 regular meeting as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.**
  
4. **OPEN FORUM: Opportunity for public comment on any item not on the agenda – 3 minute time limit**  
**No comments made.**
  
5. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**  
**Dan Neirinckx suspended elections until the next meeting.**
  
6. **CAL FISH AND WILDLIFE UPDATE – TRACIE NELSON – was introduced by Dan Neirinckx. She came from Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve to update the community through this meeting.** She announced that the pipeline replacement project is complete. Smaller pipes connecting to this pipeline may be added for wildlife/cattle watering purposes, and/or active rehabilitation projects (temporary irrigation). No increase in (long) existing water use will occur from this project. The water is mainly non-consumptive; used for fire-fighting purposes, with a smaller portion used to fill wildlife drinkers and promote habitat development. It is Tracie's understanding that the water holding facility filled by this pipeline was one of the main water sources used to fight the wildfires of 2003 and 2007 in the Jamul area. It is designed to allow helicopters to refill safely without landing.

Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve or RJER is currently open to the public on an Event Only basis. RJER does not have a public entry permit from Caltrans. The main entry does not qualify for a public entry permit. We discussed the one

potential site a public staging area may be accommodated. Improvements to Hwy 94 will be required in order to obtain the necessary permit. There are 4 hunts a year at RJER during the fall/winter season involving either pheasant and/or dove. Information on these Special Hunts, including opportunities to participate, can be found at <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/DFGSpecialHunts/Default.aspx>

Plantings on 94/ Honey Springs and Otay Lakes Road are part of an active habitat restoration project, implemented by River Partners, a non-profit organization. This restoration project is focused on re-establishment of riparian, oak woodland and coastal sage scrub habitats, which were impacted by recent wildfires and historical and use practices. Phase II of the restoration project is proposed in the area of Otay Lakes Road, where it intersects Hwy 94, . Phase III of the project is planned as a partial restoration of the hunting dog training area in front of Rancho Jamul Estates. Neither Phase II or Phase III is currently fully approved by the Department, nor funded at this time. No further restoration activities will occur until drought conditions are officially declared over by the Governor's office. Besides increasing wildlife population sizes and diversity, restoration of habitats to native species has the secondary function of reducing wildland fire hazard over existing non-native grass and thatch conditions.

The existing management practices implemented within the historic agricultural fields at RJER are being monitored for effectiveness on an observational basis only. Current management practices, such as controlled burning and livestock grazing, are based on researched practices implemented in other areas around the state. Experimental research activities ARE occurring at RJER in smaller study areas via partnership agencies and NGOs, such as USGS (United States Geological Service), SDSU and Conservation Biology Institute. There are currently not enough native restoration resources to complete an active rehabilitation project on the entire ~1000 acres of historic agricultural fields of RJER. These fields are being treated using controlled burning and/or grazing to reduce non-native annual grasses and broadleaves, with the intention of increasing forage efficiency for birds of prey and other native species. Increasing observational occurrences of higher densities and greater diversity of wildlife species suggest the practices are working as intended. Non-native vegetation control and reduction has the secondary effect of reducing fire hazard, particularly along Hwy 94.

The education and community outreach program at RJER is run by Earth Discovery Institute (EDI), a non-profit organization. Frequent programs. This program serves CA Dept of Fish and Game, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, and Bureau of Land Management. The education aspect, which serves primary school field trips, was recently expanded to RJER and SDNWR from Crestridge Ecological Reserve. Jamul Primary and Intermediate schools have participated in both 2013 and 2014 (with encouragement to continue services!). EDI also host several weekend outdoor events annually, including hiking, clean-up and restoration activities. For information on the program and upcoming

community events, go to <http://www.earthdiscovery.org/> Event info is sometimes included in the Jamul Shopper as well.

**Preston Brown** asked if Tracie knew anything about potential development in Proctor Valley. She reports Jackson Pendo, LLC, approached the Dept regarding potential property trades in Proctor Valley, real discussions have been entered into. There are concerns regarding open space continuity and protecting wildlife corridors. The Department is discussing with fellow wildlife agencies, and may open dialog with county and community planning regarding potential development and land trades after assessing whether or not trading of land is even possible. Conditions of the original sale of the properties into conservation may preclude.

**Tracie** spends the majority of her (on the clock) time communicating and coordinating efforts and activities of staff and partners, reviewing proposed on-site projects, and implementing habitat management practices, and tries to leave as much time as possible supporting community outreach activities. She spoke about getting community volunteers and planning events. We will help with communication. Follow the EDI link: <http://www.earthdiscovery.org/> [Note from Jean- *I forwarded you Cathy's latest news letter. I could use your help in getting the word out that EVERYONE is welcome to participate in the outreach events. Thank you for the assistance!*)]

We also discussed illegal activities, such as off-road vehicle intrusion and target shooting. **Jean** asked **Tracie** if she thought off-roading was a high priority issue. **Tracie** responded she considers illegal motorized vehicle activities on the Department owned conserved lands the number one priority issue. Off road vehicle operation damages habitats and is dangerous on trails used for sanctioned activities, such as hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding.

**Dan thanked Tracee for the update and invited her to attend our meetings.**

**7. JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE UP-DATE – Federal hearing is scheduled for Jan. 30 and Governor Brown's Senior Advisor, Joe Dhillon is scheduled to come down on Jan. 27 for a meeting.**

#### **8. JDCPG OFFICER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

**a. Dan announced that he would be resigning at the end of the month as he is moving out of the area. He also announced that Bill Herde would continue as Vice-Chair and Janet Mulder will continue as secretary if needed. Reminder: Dan suspended elections until next meeting.**

**b. Dan announced Form 700 is due and each of us need to be mailed to David Morton County of SD Registrar of Voters, 5600 Overland Ave, Ste. 100, SD, 92123.**

**c. Dan also reminded the members that if they have never had "in person" training, one is required of each of us. Otherwise, there is an online course you may take. Be sure to send in your certificate of completion as well as passing the Ethics test is necessary every two years.**

**d. Bill McMurty, Resident Lyons Peak Road,** asked if we knew anything about opening Lyons Peak Road and its planned use. **Dan** suggested he return and discuss this during Open Forum at the next meeting, or if he has more input he can ask to have it put on the agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT: Dan Neirinckx adjourned the meeting at 8:58.**

**MINUTE NOTES TAKEN BY JEAN STROUF, WITH THANKS!**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Mulder, Secretary**

**NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:  
7:30 P.M. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015  
OAK GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**Meeting minutes and agendas can be accessed at**

**<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/CommunityGroups.html>**