

# **San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan Trust**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **June 1, 2023**

The meeting convened at 2:30 p.m. in person at the Criminal Justice Training Room.

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Clay Holstine (City of Brisbane), Sharon Ranals (City of South San Francisco), Mike Callagy (County of San Mateo)

**TRUSTEES ABSENT:** Thomas Piccolotti (City of Daly City)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Evan Cole (SMCP), Hannah Ormshaw (SMCP), Brett Jones (fiscal auditor), Austin Lam (SMCP)

#### **1) Public Comments**

Denise – concern with the livestock grazing proposal, conservation grazing is the grazing industry’s greenwashing of intensive land management. Urges trustees to reconsider the grazing, feels that it is a backward approach to the management. Believes that the land management is a farce/fallacy that historically that these were grasslands. Wildfire mitigation – feels that in 10-15 years people will look back and think that fuel management is not good, and that we will look back and think this was the wrong approach. Mentions Craig Dreman and his mowing approach for native grassland.

#### **2) Action to Set the Agenda and Approve the Consent Agenda Items**

Consent agenda included minutes from June 2022 meeting and FY2021-22 Audit

Action: Motion/Second Callagy/Holstine to set the agenda and approve the consented agenda items.

Motion carried 3-0.

#### **3) Report Backs**

##### **a) Dedication Status Updates**

- Hannah Ormshaw provided a memo outlining updates on the Toll Brothers property dedication of the Northeast Ridge parcels to the County, in conjunction with the development described in the 2008 HCP amendment.

- has now offered two parcels for dedication to the County in accordance with the terms of the HCP. A Dedication and Transfer Agreement has been developed to clarify the next steps in the dedication process for these parcels to be added to the San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. The property for dedication and transfer to the County at this time consists of two parcels, “Parcel B” and “Parcel C” (totaling 78.27 acres), that make up the prime butterfly habitat that was conserved by HCP Amendment 5, as approved in 2010.
- County, City of Brisbane, and HOA are in negotiations over a maintenance easement for existing drainage infrastructure on the parcel. It is in the County’s guidelines for acceptance of dedications that existing drainage infrastructure must have a maintenance easement for the county to accept the parcel.
- Dedication agreement to come to the County’s Board of Supervisors for approval after the maintenance easement agreement can be met.

**b) USFWS discussion on HCP Amendment**

- Hannah Ormshaw updated that an HCP amendment is in progress in regard to the Quarry development. This would entail an amendment to the incidental take permit (ITP) for the HCP, to address listed butterfly species that currently do not have take coverage for the Quarry property, an update to the operating program for the parcel, since it is currently specific to quarry operations, and would need to change to reflect the new land use, and an update to the funding program for the HCP to update commercial assessment fees for the HCP trust fund. Procedurally, all of the signatories of the HCP would receive an amended ITP for signature/approval, and the other items would be handled between City of Brisbane the developer, the County, and the USFWS.

**c) Updates on Grant Awards from the State Coastal Conservancy & Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service**

- County Parks working with Metropolitan Transportation Commission on \$137,900 grant award given for the SBMHCP Grazing Pilot Program.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \$20,000 grant for restoration of the federally endangered San Francisco Lessingia. Grant is closed out and no longer active

No action required for this item.

No public comment for this item.

**4) Review and Approval of San Bruno Mountain HCP Budget**

**a) Review and Update of Planned Expenditures for Habitat Conservation Activities within the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan area for FY 2023-24\***

- Evan Cole discussed the proposed changes to the budget for FY 2023-24.
  - o Revenues include interest for the trust fund as well as interest from the HCP endowment
  - o Revenue also includes fees collected annually from property owners within the HCP area
  - o Slight increase in the previous years in the San Bruno Mountain fees, related to x metrics and property value changes
  - o Increase in the grazing trust fund line due to more work upcoming in the next year to help with the grant
  - o Additional funding for vegetation management due to increased staff capacity to do more work
  - o Other line items consistent with previous years
- Hannah Ormshaw discussed the desire to work with the Cities on homeowner annual fee payment, that we have difficulty getting all payments provided annually. Austin Lam explained that annually we expect to receive ~\$275,000 in annual fees, but only typically receive \$200,000-\$220,000. We are only at about a 70% participation rate. Each household pays ~\$60 annually. We cannot at the County level add this to the property tax bill without creating a special district. Currently we send invoices annually for payment. Balance of unpaid fees gains interest. County Parks would like to reach out to the City department on ways to reach homeowners for compliance on fee payment, and can do as a follow up for this meeting.

Clay Holstine asked if we Can we show the running balance for the endowment in future years for the trustees.

Clay Holstine asked if there was prescribed burning occurring on the mountain. Evan responded no.

Sharon Ranals asked about who supervises the interns, that it seems to be a very cost-effective tool. Evan explained park aides working for the department, and supervision by parks natural resource management staff.

Public comment –

Pat – just because you put conservation in front of grazing does not make it so. Talking about grazing as a detriment for the mountain, methane gas, and environmental degradation. Increasing grazing. Sounds like subsidized grazing at a taxpayer expense. Methane is a greenhouse gas impacting climate change. Strongly urge to put the brakes on this.

Denise – introducing grazing as a detriment to San Bruno elfin and the impacts that grazing could have on the species. Cites information on the impacts to San Bruno elfin

Action: Motion/Second Callagy/Holstine to approve the budget.

Motion carried 3-0.

#### **5) Review of 2020-2021 Annual Activities Highlights**

- Vegetation management 269 acres. Focus on high quality habitat areas to improve habitat quality
- Butterfly monitoring – species monitored biannually, this year has been Mission blue, last year was callippe and San Bruno elfin. Populations are stable
- Grazing update - grazing strategy completed. Major milestone for the project
- Mission blue butterfly translocations occur annually, partnering with the national parks service on the translocations, helps meet the recovery goals for the species
- Butterfly reintroduction for bay checkerspot has been occurring since 2017, has been successful that the species are continuing to sustain and go through different life stages. Parks staff to take on monitoring for this species moving forward
- Fuel reduction update – no active projects, work upcoming
- Volunteer restoration. A lot of volunteer friendly activities and do great work for the mountain.

Holstine – can there be a spring field tour – include in the tour next year.

Public Comment – Pat – comment that eucalyptus. Glad we are managing. Getting rid of scrub. Concerned that coyote brush is being removed. Biodiversity hot spot. Protect biodiversity and concerned about demonization of coyote brush. Can't change environment, shouldn't be fighting the native plants.

Denise – concern about mission blue using coyote brush, misguided removal of coyote brush.

No action required for this update.

#### **6) Upcoming & Recent Meetings**

##### **a) Grazing TAC**

- i) **Grazing strategy.** Trustees meeting. Evan gave update on the grazing program benefits. Timeline. 3 year monitoring program. Use the monitoring program to monitor the benefits

Mike Callagy asked for clarification on the benefits of grazing for habitat management, and the monitoring to assess impacts. Evan provided clarification.

- b) Natural Resource Coordination – Quarterly**
- c) Trustees Meeting – May 2024**

Action: Motion/Second Holstine/Futrell to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried 3-0.