

**Piedras Blancas Light Station Association
Minutes from Board Meeting
Rabobank Conference Room, Cambria, CA
October 22, 2014**

Board Members in attendance: David Cooper (Chair), Tim Postiff (Vice Chair), Jim Harris (Secretary), Jackie Howland, and Ellen Stoner.

Board Members absent: Harry Thorpe (Treasurer), Jim Boucher (Ex-Officio).

Others present: Holly Gant (PBLSA Program Director), Jodie Nelson (PBLSA BLM), Abel Martinez, Gabe Garcia (BLM-Bakersfield), John Skibinski (BLM-Bakersfield), and Ryan Cooper (BLM-Carrizo Plain).

David Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

Announcements: David Cooper welcomed Jackie Howland as a new PBLSA board member.

Approval of the Agenda: Agenda was approved, but the order was adjusted as follows:

Discussion item on meeting dates for November and December presented first, and then the two items discussing the proposed State and National Monument (Old Business item 2 and New Business 1) were discussed last to accommodate the early departure of the BLM attendees (they were not present during this PBLSA discussion).

Reports:

1. Secretary Report - Jim Harris previously emailed a copy of the minutes of September 24, 2014 for review. *M/S/P Minutes of September 24, 2014 approved.*
2. Financial Status and Treasurer's Report – David Cooper postponed the financial summary report until the next meeting due to the absence of Harry Thorpe. The motion recommended by the Financial Committee consisting of Harry Thorpe, David Cooper and Jack Morehead was presented: *M/S/P The Board approves the recommendations of the Finance Investment committee as a result of the review of the Association's portfolio with the Fidelity Investment Counselor. This includes the selling of lower performers (Artisan, Fidelity Capital & Income, Fidelity Asset Manager, Ishares and Templeton) and the buying of funds with less risk (Baird, Buffalo, Fidelity Cash Reserves and Fidelity International) Total @ \$172,000.* David Cooper stated that Fidelity remains as the PBLSA financial counselor due to their conservative investment strategies that are consistent with the goals of the PBLSA investments.
3. Gift Shop Report – Ellen Stoner presented the summary of monthly gift shop sales (see Appendix A). Discussion followed. The local gift shop internet service occasionally loses connectivity, but this event can be resolved in a convenient manner. Coasters will be offered for sale for evaluation as a pilot project.
4. BLM Update – Due to Jim Boucher's absence, the BLM report is deferred to the next PBLSA meeting.
5. Website Development – Holly Gant previously sent an email to the members asking them to review the Offshore Theater website before the meeting. She stated that they could add Piedras Blancas as a site for as low as \$30 per month – they will install a panning webcam and provide the PBLSA website with a link to their site for access. Some concerns were raised including the use of commercial ads by their site and the internet bandwidth that is required. After discussion, David Cooper requested Holly to invite a representative of Offshore Theater to the next PBLSA meeting for further discussion and to answer any questions and concerns.
6. PBLSA Events – It was announced that the Twilight Tour on October 25 is sold out and that the visitors will gain access to the light station with a shuttle bus service.
7. Grants/Development – Holly stated that there has been no word on the Maritime Heritage proposal, which stated that they would notify results on October 15. It was noted that both David Cooper and Harry Thorpe are the point of contact, and that David has not been successful in logging into the grant website – he will await for Harry Thorpe's return to pursue the problem. David stated that the PBLSA wait until next year (2015) before pursuing any new grants. As an exception to this course of action, Abel Martinez stated that the Cambria grant (around \$800) to support educational outreach for Cambria schools should be available as in previous years, and that he will work with David Copper with Holly's support to submit a proposal as in the previous years.
8. Membership – Tim Postiff stated that of the 51 renewal mailings with the brochure, 21 have been returned. David Cooper requested that Tim Postiff prepare for the next

meeting a draft policy on sending email to all the PBLSA members for consideration of the board.

Old Business:

1. Replica lighthouse tower status and plans – David briefed the BLM guests on the \$22K engineering study by Shoreline Engineering for the replica tower top. David will contact Shoreline to get clarification on the timeline and schedules for the completion of the study. John Skibinski noted that the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse in Florida is a “sister lightstation”, which used the same plans as Piedras Blancas. He noted that it is fully restored, and could be used as a reference for planning work on the Piedras Blancas tower.
2. Formal PBLSA resolution in support of State and National Monument status – David Cooper stated that the resolution in Appendix B was passed via email vote on September 26, 2014. He stated that he will be presenting as the chair of the PBLSA along with the chair of the FES at the first public meeting at the Cambria Veterans Hall on Saturday October 25 from 2-4pm; the meeting is being coordinated by Donovan Marley, who has been soliciting the San Simeon business community and the Northern Chumash Tribal Council and Salinan Native American tribes for support of the campaign.

New Business:

1. Motion to financially support State and National Monument status campaign - David Cooper noted that the FES is providing financial support for the State and National Monument status campaign, and he requested that the PBLSA provide \$2000 to support the effort. *M/S/P The PBLSA will provide \$2000 to support the State and National Monument campaign.* Based upon the motion, Tim Postiff will work with Harry Thorpe to transfer the funds to the appropriate account.

Discussion Items:

1. PBLSA board meeting dates for November and December – After discussion on November and December meetings, there was consensus that there would be only one meeting for the two months. *M/S/P Move the November PBLSA board meeting to Wednesday December 10, with the next meeting in January at the usual fourth Wednesday of the month.* Tim Postiff and Holly Gant will check the availability of Rabobank, or other possible venue such as the Cavalier Motel or the lightstation for that date.

David Cooper adjourned the meeting at 7:40pm

Appendix A: Gift Shop Report Ellen Stoner (sales values supplied by Holly Gant)

Gross sales by month.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2011	884	1,009	1,354	2,517	1,435	2,216
2012	862	922	1,497	1,812	1,366	2,121
2013	1,848	1,270	1,931	2,849	2,208	3,407
2014	1,853	3,263	3,072	2,465	2,408	2,711

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	3,481	2,973	1,733	1,445	1,158	1,837
2012	3,718	3,725	1,951	2,653	1,207	1,344
2013	4,351	4,121	2,314	2,048	1,872	1,965
2014	4,284	4,214	2,690			

	TOTAL	Subtotal Thru Sept.
2011	\$ 22,042	\$ 17,602
2012	\$ 23,178	\$ 17,974
2013	\$ 30,184	\$ 24,299
2014		\$ 26,960

Appendix B: PBLSA Resolution Passed September 26, 2014

**A Resolution of Support for
Designation of *The Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area* as
*The Piedras Blancas State and National Monument***

Approved by Piedras Blancas Light Station Association on September 26, 2014.

WHEREAS the principal purpose of Piedras Blancas Light Station Association is to support the Bureau of Land Management in the restoration, preservation and interpretation of the cultural, material, and natural resources of the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area; and

WHEREAS interested citizens have proposed that the *Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area* be designated as a state and national monument; and

WHEREAS designation as "*The Piedras Blancas State and National Monument*" will elevate the *Outstanding Natural Area* to a prestigious status recognizable by everyone; and

WHEREAS designation as "*The Piedras Blancas State and National Monument*" will unify the response of federal, state and volunteer organizations to current management challenges that are resulting in serious damage to cultural and natural resources; and

WHEREAS designation as "*The Piedras Blancas State and National Monument*" will assist with the attraction of additional resources for construction of new trail systems, informational centers and scenic view points for the dissemination of ecological, educational, scientific, and historic information;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that effective immediately, The Piedras Blancas Light Station Association endorses elevating the current designation of "*The Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area*" to "*The Piedras Blancas State and National Monument*" and publically endorses citizen efforts to petition the governments of the United States of America and the State of California to attain the new designation.