

Piedras Blancas Light Station Association  
Minutes  
Rabobank Conference Room - Cambria, CA  
January 25, 2017

Board Members present: David Cooper, Harry Thorpe, Tim Postiff, Gary O'Neill, Zale Schuster Board

Members absent: Jim Harris, John Brass

Others present: Ryan Cooper (BLM), Jodie Nelson (BLM), Gabe Garcia (BLM), Abel Martinez, Holly Gant (PBLSA)

Tim Postiff called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Announcements- *M/S/P David Cooper appointed chair.* David thanks Jim and Tim for their confidence in nominating him. David noted that this is the first meeting as a California Coastal National Monument. Gabe thanked PBLS for their work on the national monument status. Holly posted an announcement of national monument on the front page of website and archived articles in the history section on the website.

Approval of the agenda- *M/S/P minutes from December 7, 2016, approved.*

Reports:

1. Treasurers- Broke even this year even with a decrease in visitation. Financial committee to meet with Fidelity.
2. Gift Shop- Drop in revenue from last year. Visitation is 20% less so that may be why we're lower. Internet sales have increased in the last 6 months. Ryan suggested starting a committee to work on promoting the LH. National monument status will bring more visibility for us and have a presence on the national monument website.
3. BLM- Concrete vault is going back to the county. New equipment will be on the water tower and old communications tower will be demolished. Partnering with State Parks on black oystercatcher count in March/April. Volunteers are welcome to help; Jodie will send out an email. Board agreed that Alabama elementary school is welcome to start a Pennies for Piedras fundraiser for PBLS.
4. FSB- Dan Murphy will have an onsite visit soon. Dan has upcoming meetings with subcontractors. Waiting for BLM to approve design and ideas.
5. Gate Dedication- Bronze plaque: Holly to get quote on 6x6 size. Holly and Tim are working on accomplishments booklet. Ryan to invite guest speakers.
6. CCNM- See attached.
7. Tower Project- See attached.
8. Power lines- See attached.
9. Beacon- See attached. Jodie to add wildflower information. David to do CCNM article.

Old business- Co-op agreement ends January 31, 2017 (the agreement with BLM for restoration efforts). Report is needed about the last 5 years and our accomplishments; Harry to work on that. After 1/31/17 no

agreement so association may have to pay for the FSB.

Abel was concerned about the association not submitting for a grant from Cambria Community Council. Jackie submitted last packet so emails may be going to her. Abel will let us know when an email is sent out.

New Business-

PCWT event: Board agreed to go ahead with the idea. Questions remain about FSB being renovated in fall, insurance, chairs/tents. Holly to follow up.

Tim will regularly attend San Simeon Tourism Alliance meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm

**Attachment 1: Treasurer's Report 1/25/17 – Harry Thorpe**

**TREASURER'S REPORT for December 2016**

**1. OPERATIONS INCOME:** Last Month: \$3,013.73\* YTD: \$44,360.68

**PROFIT:** Last Month: <\$645.70>\*\* YTD: \$618.06

**BLM SUPPORT EXPENSE:** Last Month: \$505.12 YTD: \$17,709.86

**BALANCES:** H. O. Bank: \$62,942.39 ASAP: \$47,772.01\*\*\*

\* Drive-in: \$500

\*\* Depreciation: \$601(S), Amortization: \$330.50 (S), PIADJ: \$330.27 (A)

\*\*\* No longer available.

**2. INVESTMENT BALANCE – FIDELITY INVESTMENTS**

<i>Month</i>	<i>Beg Bal</i>	<i>Market Chg</i>	<i>Div/Int</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>W/D</i>	<i>Ending Bal</i>
<b>Dec 2016</b>	586,450.24	1,161.26	2,653.00#	--	--	591,264.50
<b>Nov 2016</b>	587,696.31	<2,203.90>	957.83	--	--	586,450.24
<b>Oct 2016</b>	593,596.64	<6,703.28>	802.95	--	--	587,696.31

**3. OTHER:**

- Audited November/December transactions, made adjustments.
- Holly conducted PI and posted PI adjustments.
- Continued with FSB project support – see latest status report.
- Started to gather information on co-op payment expenses for BLM requested document.
- Completed insurance audit – no measurable reduction available – additional bids next year.

**4. ANNUAL REVIEW:**

**INCOME – 2016:** \$44,360.68, **2015:** \$53,677.60 – **Change:** <\$9,316.92>##

## Gift shop: <\$5,552.69>, COM: 57% (+2%)

**PROFIT – 2016:** \$618.06, **2015:** \$1,127.03 – **Change:** <\$508.97>###

### Primary expense increases: Depreciation (\$213.00), All other: minimal changes

Harry M. Thorpe, Jr.

**Attachment 2: Gift Shop Report 1/25/17 – Holly Gant****NET SALES**

	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	2,447	2,186	2,697
2015	2,873	2,278	2,512	2,604	2,783	3,628
2016	1,798	2,609	2,830	1,988	2,142	2,586

	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	3,838	4,283	3,045	2,528	1,412	1,635
2015	4,862	4,356	2,609	3,216	2,258	2,157
2016	4,861	3,410	2,716	2,647	1,930	2,103

	TOTAL	Jan - June
2011	\$ 22,042	\$ 9,415
2012	\$ 23,178	\$ 8,580
2013	\$ 30,184	\$ 13,513
2014	\$ 32,259	\$ 15,518
2015	\$ 36,136	\$ 16,678
2016	\$ 31,620	\$ 13,953

## **Attachment 3: BLM Report – Ryan Cooper**

### **BLM Update 1/25/17**

#### **Communication Tower:**

Installation will begin Feb 1.

#### **Fog Signal Bldg. (FSB):**

Plans are with the BLM Engineer waiting for final approval.

#### **SCA Crew:**

They painted the gift shop and the tank house.

#### **Drive-in Tour:**

Was a great success. We had approx. 40 cars and 100 people for the day. We are planning another one in the spring.

#### **Special Event:**

Jan 25 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup>	Rode Scholars
Jan 29	Lighthouse Foundation Fundraiser
Jan 27 <sup>th</sup>	Vineyard Elementary School
Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Vineyard Elementary School
Feb 8 <sup>th</sup>	California Naturalist Program
Feb 10 <sup>th</sup>	Volunteer Crew from Golden Gate National Park
Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	Gate Dedication
Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Volunteer Summit
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Sunset / Whale Watch Tour

#### **Educational Outreach:**

Jan 27 <sup>th</sup>	Vineyard Elementary School
Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Vineyard Elementary School
????	Vineyard Elementary School Due to rain Cancelation

#### **Entry Gate:**

It is up!

#### **National Monument:**

What does it mean for us right now? We need to redo signs, and brochures. We will be starting up a planning process soon. We are waiting for guidance from Sacramento but I would expect we will be having public meetings this spring.

#### **Events:**

Does the board want to take these over? We are getting more and more requests for them (weddings, fundraisers etc.). It could be a good money-maker for the Association, but BLM does not have the time or energy to devote to them.

#### **Pennies for Piedras:**

I have been contacted by a school in Alabama that is interested in raising funds. They have some connection to lighthouses at their school and found us through the Rocky the Lonely Lighthouse. Watch Rocky's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NL8gHgcmCc8>

## **Attachment 4: Fog Signal Building Restoration – Harry Thorpe**

### **FOG SIGNAL BUILDING RESTORATION**

#### **Status Report as of January 20, 2017**

Following Board direction, a preliminary RFP was created and submitted to Wellsona Iron and Engineering. Board members and Bruce Elster submitted feedback and those inputs were incorporated into the RFP.

On January 4, 2017, a meeting was held at Shoreline Engineering. In attendance were Bruce Elster (Shoreline), Dan Murphy (Wellsona), Ryan Cooper (BLM) and Jim Harris/Harry Thorpe (PBLSA). Bruce led a detailed review of the FSB design specifications with Dan Murphy. Harry Thorpe discussed other aspects of the RFP.

It was determined that finalization of several issues was needed from the BLM. Ryan Cooper will contact both Bakersfield and Denver Engineering to address:

- Final design approval?
- Eliminating “stitching” from brick repair?
- Should paint or sealant be used on the walls?
- New bricks or aged bricks?

Dan and Ryan met at the light station to visibly inspect the FSB and finalize the scope of the project.

The final RFP was issued and distributed.

*Harry M. Thorpe, Jr.*

## **Attachment 5: Entrance Gate Update – David Cooper/Tim Postiff**

January 24, 2017

TO: PBLSA Board  
FROM: David Cooper  
RE: Entrance Gate

The historic replica entrance gate is installed! There are a few “punch-list” items left, including gate stops, restringing wire fences, and installation of the stone bollards. Since the stone bollards were not included in the original bid, I asked Ryan to take the lead and work with Dan Murphy in getting them installed in time for the dedication.

## **Attachment 6: CCNM Update – David Cooper**

January 24, 2017

TO: PBLSA Board  
FROM: David Cooper  
RE: National Monument Update

On January 12, 2017, President Obama, under the authority granted by the Antiquities Act (section 320301 of title 54, United States Code) proclaimed Piedras Blancas the “Piedras Blancas Unit of the California Coastal National Monument.” I asked Holly to post a press release about the declaration on the PBLSA web site with links to the text and local and national news stories about it.

This will have significant and continuing impacts on all of us associated with the former Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area. As a board, we should stand ready to cooperate and collaborate with BLM, California State Parks, local nonprofits, the business community and other entities as we move forward together under our new designation.

## **Attachment 7: Power Lines Project- Zale Schuster**

To: Mike Best, PG&E Avian Protection Plan  
cc: Joe Burnett, Ventana Wild Life Society

Dear Mike:

I am a board member with the Piedras Blancas Light Station Association. Last year, you and I had a brief phone conversation about the removal of the power poles from Hwy 1 to Piedras Blancas Light Station (about 2,000 feet and nine poles). A few years ago, our Board President Jim Harris had started talking with PG&E about removing the power poles. Unfortunately, Jim had to resign from the board this month. I am picking up where he left off and hope to gain some knowledge about the removal process and create an environment that protects our raptors.

One of the goals at the Light Station is to be good stewards of the site and to protect the wildlife, native plants and historical architecture of the 140-year-old facility. All of the volunteers, BLM employees and visitors love the diversity of the ecosystem within the 20-acres that has just been included as a national monument. Observing the mating pair of Peregrine Falcons high up on the Outer Islet rock from the nature trail is exciting and the highlight of our public tours. Falcons perch on the top of the lighthouse and are seen hunting over the light station and flying between Hwy 1 and the shoreline.

Last year we lost one of the three falcon chicks after they fledged from the nest; it flew directly into one of the power poles just short of the lighthouse. It became trapped between the wire and the pole (see attached photo). Unfortunately, birds hitting power poles is not an unusual occurrence at Piedras Blancas.

PG&E has taken steps to prevent bird strikes between Hwy 1 and the light station by installing reflector cards on critical areas. This has been effective at diverting the pelicans around the point of the light station and not over the neck of the spit of land bisected by the power pole line. However, falcons are not as predictable as pelicans as they fly much faster and are usually chasing prey. The power poles and lines pose a real danger (see attached photos).

With the release of California Condors within 10 miles of the light station, and knowing that they may start venturing farther away from their release site, soon they could use the light station to forage for food along the shoreline. We hope to remove any possible threats for all birds, but especially endangered species like the condor.

We have noticed that the Avian Protection Plan has moved power poles in Big Sur, and PG&E is planning to remove poles near the old Piedras Blancas Motel 1.5 miles north of the light station. With the current work being done in the area, would it be efficient and advantageous logistically to remove our nine power poles and re-route our power service now? Would this be within the scope of your current Avian Protection Program?

Any advice on this issue is welcomed and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Zale Schuster, Board Member  
Piedras Blancas Light Station Association





## **Attachment 8: Tower Update 1/25/17 – Jim Harris**

Summary of tower top project  
1/25/17

Bruce Elster continues to pursue the design effort for the construction of the interior structure for the stabilization of the tower. He and Dan Murphy (Wellsona) completed a bore sight optical fiber scope examination of the as-built venting system of the tower. The results of the examination will be incorporated into the computer model of the tower. They submitted an invoice for this effort, and it should be paid. Bruce continues to work in consultation with Dan Murphy on the design of an interior structure for the stabilization of the tower. As part of this design approach, Bruce is recommending that all iron connections to the tower be replaced with composite materials to prevent further deterioration and strengthen the tower in the future.

## **Attachment 9: Beacon – Holly Gant**

Submissions are needed for the following:

April Issue-  
Front-page topic?  
Carrizo featured as our BLM neighbor  
PBLSA Update- David  
BLM Update- Ryan

Deadline for submissions March 10<sup>th</sup>  
Any other content ideas are welcome!

## **Attachment 10: PCWT Fundraiser – Holly Gant**

### **Fundraising Opportunity!**

Erin Martin of Harmony Cellars reached out to me asking if we would like to co-host a fundraiser at the light station. It is through the Pacific Coast Wine Trail and they host events throughout the year. They have a formula for this type of event – wine tasting with light appetizers, music and an auction. They sell the tickets—proceeds go to us.

### **Who are they?**

In January 2013, The Pacific Coast Wine Trail was established to promote wine tasting along the northern SLO Coast. Many tourists stay in Cambria to enjoy the coastal climate but then drive 30 miles to taste wine in Paso Robles. The course of the trail gives wine aficionados the opportunity to stay along the coast and enjoy a full day of wine tasting from ten unique wineries. The trail not only offers premium, award winning wines, but also the opportunity to discover boutique wineries off the beaten path and on most occasions have the chance to learn about the wines directly from the winemaker or owner. You can download a wine passport on their website and have it stamped at the 11 wineries. PBL is listed at the top of the passport as something fun to do that's off the beaten path. They hold fundraisers throughout the year for local organizations. Their upcoming event in February will help Pacific Wildlife Care.

### **Event style**

Eleven wineries will be pouring, they will use a barrel top at each station so minimal floor space is required. They would hold it on a Saturday afternoon this fall. They expressed interest in using the Fog Signal Building, but are open to other spots. Their larger events range from 150-250 guests. Another idea is to have 2 tasting sessions- an early afternoon tasting (charcuterie platters, less expensive) followed by an early evening event (heavy apps, more expensive). Each session is about 2 hrs. Two tastings would be more work than just one tasting, but definitely more exposure (and \$\$ for us).

### **What they handle**

PCWT is donating: wine, event planning (we plan the event, sell tickets, etc.) & marketing. Costs for food come out of the ticket price. They have an event planner and a marketing committee and will work with us on crafting all press releases, etc.

### **Possible Concerns**

Event space- Will the FSB be finished? Is there another suitable location for the event (behind Unit C maybe)? We would need an ABC license and provide parking and another porta-potty. For elderly guests, we may have to provide a shuttle to/from their cars.