

Piedras Blancas Light Station Association
Minutes
Conference Call
May 27, 2020

Board Members in attendance: David Cooper (Chair), Harry Thorpe (Treasurer), Sharon Flaherty (Secretary), Jim Harris, John Brass, Gary O'Neill, Zale Schuster, Ryan Cooper (BLM), Jodie Nelson (BLM), Holly Gant (PBLSA)

Board Members absent: None

Others present: John Hodge (BLM), Veronika Kocen (BLM intern)

David Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Announcements: Acknowledge to Ryan for being the temporary Ukiah BLM field manager for the summer.

Approval of agenda: *Approved with consensus*

Secretary report- *M/S/P minutes of April 22, 2020, approved.*

Treasurer's report- See report.

GS report- See report.

BLM report- See report. Ryan is currently in Ukiah and will be back mid-September. A temporary position will fill Ryan's position at PBLS. BLM determines opening procedures by following the county's guidance but there may be some lag time due to risk assessment.

FSB- No report.

Tower- See report.

Power lines- See report.

Capital Campaign- See report. Given internal and external struggles with the capital campaign, the board agrees to defer our capital campaign efforts and turn its attention principally on the repatriation of the Fresnel lens. *M/S/P Board has approved to defer the capital campaign, but continue to build community support and focus our project development and fiscal efforts on repatriation of the lens knowing that the title to the issue of the lens is solely between the BLM and USCG.*

Old Business:

Lens Report - Seven points from attachment 7 will be discussed at the next meeting.

New Business:

None

Discussion Items:

FSB air compressor - Jodie will follow up with the donor to learn more about the condition, price, size, etc. Some of the board was concerned about spending time and money on this project and reducing the usable room in the FSB.

USLHS Grant - Holly will ask USLHS for grant money for COVID-related PPE and signage for when we reopen.

End: 7:25 pm

Minutes recorded by Holly Gant.

Appendix 1: Treasurer's Report 5/27/2020 – Harry Thorpe

TREASURER'S REPORT for April 2020

1. OPERATIONS INCOME: Last Month: \$92.00* YTD: \$14,419.15

PROFIT: Last Month: <\$1,417.26>** YTD: \$792.50***

*Light station closed for April

**Excludes FSB/tower restoration expense: \$38,975

***Excludes FSB/tower restoration expense: \$45,424

TOWER RESTORATION FUND BALANCE: \$12,662.03

BLM SUPPORT EXPENSE: Last Month: \$416.92 YTD: \$672.07 (excludes \$1,000 loan)

BALANCES: PP Bank: \$4,741.18 ASAP: \$35,934.12

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>
Apr 2020	526,640.37	28,999.78	971.77	--	40,000.00	516,611.92
Mar 2020	568,597.10	<42,869.90>	913.17	--	--	526,640.37
Feb 2020	584,973.27	<17,254.76>	878.59	--	--	568,597.10

3. OTHER:

- Reviewed April transactions – no changes.
- Conducted a second phone review with BLM to review Cooperative Agreement expenses.
- BLM audit still in progress – funds on hold.
- Transferred \$40,000 from Fidelity Investments for restoration expenses.
- Paid Shoreline Engineering and Wellsona Engineering invoices.
- Light station remained closed for the entire month of April.

Harry M. Thorpe, Jr.
Treasurer

Appendix 2: Gift Shop Report 5/27/2020 – Holly Gant

NET SALES

*Shaded month indicates lower sales than that same month last year

	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
2017	2,196	1,461	2,678	3,909	2,864	3,350
2018	3,077	3,094	3,104	3,316	3,133	3,707
2019	1,015	1,605	2,565	3,350	3,641	4,665
2020	2,202	2,764	1,653	150		

*Government shutdown effected Dec 2018 and Jan 2019

*COVID-19 effected 2020 beginning on March 19, 2020

	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
2017	4,666	3,701	2,218	3,022	2,793	3,491
2018	6,225	4,157	3,383	2,552	1,597	1,730
2019	6,804	4,722	2,070	3,656	2,717	3,719
2020						

	Jan - Jun	TOTAL
2011	\$ 9,415	\$ 22,042
2012	\$ 8,580	\$ 23,178
2013	\$13,513	\$ 30,184
2014	\$15,518	\$ 32,259
2015	\$16,678	\$ 36,136
2016	\$13,953	\$ 31,620
2017	\$16,458	\$36,349
2018	\$19,431	\$39,075
2019	\$16,841	\$40,529
2020		

Appendix 3: BLM Report 5/27/2020 – Ryan Cooper

When we get to go back to work

Start with a Volunteer Summit

-This will allow us to welcome back our volunteers and also do a little training on how things may change at the Light Station due to Covid-19.

Change in tour format

- Tours will be more of an open house type tour.
- Limit tour sizes. Probably 30-40 weekdays and 60 on weekends.
- Watch room closed.
- Eliminate touch pad educational activities.
- Limit number of people in the rotunda and FSB with one-way traffic.
- Gift Shop procedures still need to be determined.

Determine if this type of tour is our new normal or if we go back to regular tours.

Future Projects

Parking Lot Redesign / Restrooms

-The State engineer is working on a good design and we are going to work with him to incorporate the new restrooms and possible low-profile lighting.

Coast Guard Unit Roof

-We also received funding to reroof the Coast Guard units.

Air Compressor

-We have the possibility to get an air compressor that is similar to the one that was in the FSB.

Special Event:

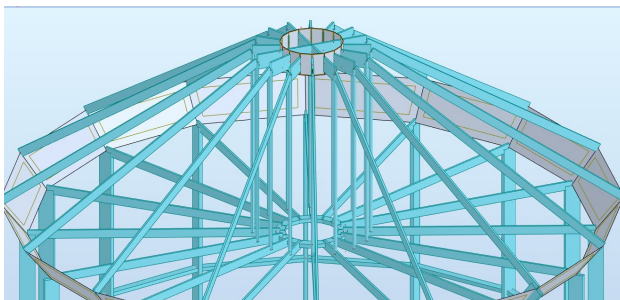
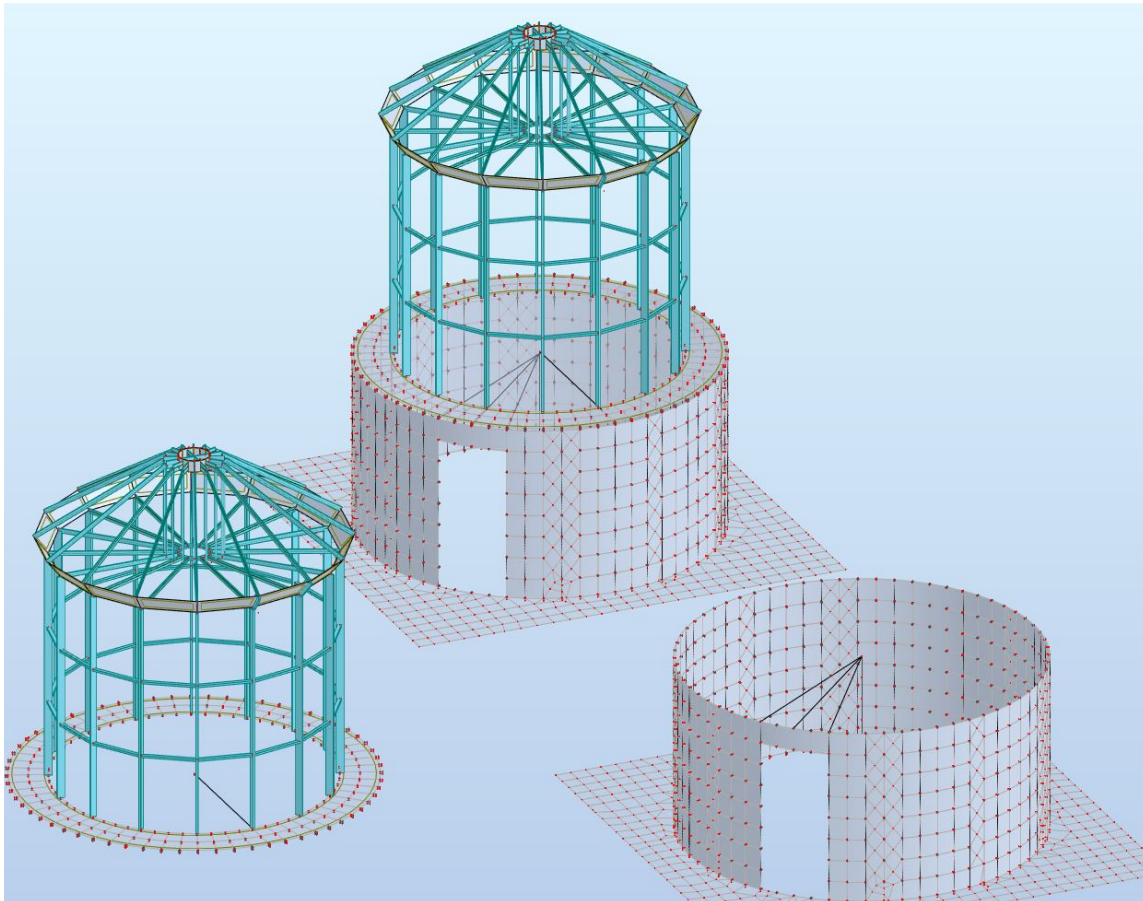
Eroica	September 27
Hike in Tours	Last Wednesday in June, July and August?
School Tours	Start back in the fall?

Tour Numbers

Month	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
October	637	605	516	500	506	441	535
November	622	503	474	357	523	433	334
December	404	464	426	273	829	251	518
January	661	731	623	266	608	0	715
February	573	570	572	284	780	318	578
March	696	754	560	502	662	784	185
April	663	616	581	666	684	790	0
May	432	629	352	572	362	555	0
June	658	916	521	787	732	698	
July	1178	990	850	1125	1169	1085	
August	985	809	693	836	1001	819	
September	601	481	442	437	591	374	
Total	8110	8068	6610	6605	8447	6548	

Appendix 4: Tower Report 5/27/2020 – Jim Harris

Bruce Elster continues to model the existing tower and the replica replacement top with the new computer hardware and software. Some graphics of his modeling were sent to the PBLSA Board members for their information in an email of May 8, 2020. Included in this summary are some graphics of the analytic model of the tower turret, lantern, and crown, which has been modeled from information contained in the 1874 Piedras Blancas Lighthouse plans. The tower design now consists of four channels without any horizontal girdling. The design process is to determine if this functionality will satisfy the building code requirements; if it doesn't, then more channels will be added. The driving force is to simplify the design to reduce the construction costs. Because of the continuing shelter-in-place public health policy, the meeting between Bruce and Dan Murphy to determine the estimated rough cost for the construction of the design has yet to be held.



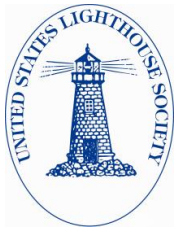
Appendix 5: Underground Utilities Report 5/27/2020 – Jim Harris

The status is the same as in the previous two months. The undergrounding of the PG&E electrical supply lines project remains on hold. Connected Energy submitted a draft white paper design and cost estimate in March. The original plan was to have Maxwell Muscarella and Sean Cassidy of Connected Energy along with Brian French present their work to the PBLSA Board at the March meeting. Their presentation is being delayed until there is a face-to-face meeting of the Board (this month is virtual as have been the last two months). Then, the board will be able to review the white paper and make its recommendation for future action on the concept of pursuing the design of a sustainable option to allow electric power for the light station to be provided with or without grid input using a microgrid system with solar and motor generator input and battery storage.

Appendix 6: Capital Campaign/Grants Report 5/27/2020 – Jim Harris/Holly Gant/David Cooper

The plan to initiate the capital campaign continues to be obtaining a set of three proposed consultants who will be reviewed by the committee and then presented to the PBLSA Board for their decision. Unfortunately the public health crisis has put this planning on hold. It also is recognized that the current financial challenges due to the covid-19 health crisis does not make a good environment to initiate a capital campaign; hence the delay is probably for the best in the long run. Therefore, the following is given as a suggestion for a discussion by the board for the plans for the next two years:

1. The primary focus of the SLO community for the next two years or so will be the covid-19 pandemic and its economic consequences.
2. In 2021, ownership and care of the first order Fresnel lens on loan to the Lions Club of Cambria will be transferred to the Piedras Blancas Light Station under the responsibility of the BLM.
3. The Lens will eventually require a museum quality environment for public display.
4. Perhaps the best short-term option to provide support for the Lens is to refurbish its present housing in Cambria.
5. The alternative is to store the Lens until the requirements for its new display environment are realized.
6. In lieu of a targeted capital campaign to fund tower restoration, during the next two years the PBLSA can solicit grants and donations to rehab the Lens enclosure. The PBLSA could use this fund raising as an opportunity to educate the community about our accomplishments and plans for restoration of the light station.
7. Design, engineering work, and current contracts will continue for eventual tower restoration. Fund raising and construction will remain on hold.



UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

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These are tough times, for all of us. The financial hardship caused by this pandemic has slowed travel and tourism, making it so much harder for lighthouse groups -- especially small lighthouse groups dependent on gate receipts for most of their operating budgets -- to share the legacy of the lights they work to preserve.

Since its inception, the United States Lighthouse Society lighthouse preservation grant program has awarded funds to many not-for-profit lighthouse organizations across the nation, all designed to help restore or preserve the lights we all love -- what is commonly referred to as "bricks and mortar" projects. This year, in light of Coronavirus, we are taking a new direction and will award grants to help preserve lighthouse organizations themselves with emergency relief grants similar to what the Federal government has done for all the citizens of the US.

We are pleased to announce that the Society will offer 20 grants of up to \$1,000 each to help ease the financial stress on lighthouse preservation groups that need financial help and encouragement, to see these tough times through.

If you are a nonprofit lighthouse preservation organization, museum or public venue, we invite you to send us a simple email requesting help. Please direct this to the Society's Executive Director Jeff Gales: jeff@uslhs.org and put "Emergency Relief" in the subject line. Once received, a team of Society experts, led by our Vice President Henry Gonzalez, will evaluate requests in a timely manner and distribute funds as quickly as possible. The email application deadline for this round of funding is June 10 with awards being made by June 30.

Your request doesn't have to be detailed. Just identify your organization and your lighthouse clearly, affirm your not-for-profit status, and let us know generally what you need the money for and how urgent that need is. Tell us how the grant would impact your organization (for example, by leveraging other donations or a match, saving a job, keeping the lights on or doing some needed maintenance that otherwise would be deferred). And let us know if you've received any CARES Act or other governmental help, so we can get a feeling for how that aid is working for the lighthouse community.

That's it. We're not going to require a budget or a report, we just want to get some support directly to the lighthouse community now more than ever. In return we ask that those of you who apply for grants would let your members and volunteers know, helping us to promote the program. In addition, we would deeply appreciate it if you could encourage your members also to join the United States Lighthouse Society to access the wider community, take advantage of our ever-increasing research databases and to support our ongoing mission to preserve lighthouses and their history.

We hope to hear from you soon. And we really hope we can help, at least a little. Stay safe.

Mike Vogel, President



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