

MINUTES OF THE MAY 9, 2024
GOODAN RANCH POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING

ATTENDEES

Committee Members:

County of San Diego: Parks & Recreation Director Brian Albright, Region Manager Matt Sanford, Acting Chief Andy Quinn, Supervising Ranger Kevin Hubbell, Park Ranger Patrick Wiener, Park Ranger Dan Tuttle, Environmental Planner Emily Pacholski, Senior Park Project Manager Mark Kieser, Park Project Manager Lucas Taylor

CA Department of Fish & Wildlife: Reserve Manger Jason Price, Reserve Manager Aidan Renner

City of Poway: Community Services Director Audrey Denham

City of Santee: Councilmember Dustin Trotter, Public Community Services Director Nick Chavez

Public:

San Diego County Water Authority: Public Affairs Supervisor Grace Sevilla, Construction Manager Emma Ward-McNally, Principal Water Resources Specialist Sean Paver

Terry Callan: Friends of Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch

Phoenix Von Hendy: Friends of Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch, San Diego Tracking Team

Susie Murphy: San Diego Mountain Bike Association, Parks Advisory Committee

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – 10:30 a.m.
2. MINUTES APPROVAL
 - The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.
3. INTRODUCTIONS
4. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC
 - Susie Murphy: SDMBA Archipelago trail ride will be on 5/11/24. It is a 45-mile trail ride starting at the Highway 67 Staging Area in the preserve. The result of an extensive planning process with the County, City of San Diego, and local organizations.

5. PRESERVE UPDATE (Kevin Hubbell)

Past year accomplishments:

- Over 400 native trees throughout the preserve and hosted several volunteer tree planting events which included a large group from St. Augustine High School.
- Made improvements to the outdoor amphitheater which included fresh mulch and replacing the steps to provide safer and easier access.
- Acquired a new woodchipper, mini excavator, and water buffalo. These have been a huge help for vegetation management and planting trees.
- Installed temporary fencing along the Martha's Grove Trail to protect Western Spadefoot Toads last spring. Informational signs were also posted along the trail. Staff continuously monitored the trail and kept the fencing maintained until the toads finished their migration. Closely monitoring for toad activity again this spring.
- Staff and volunteers have continued to perform vegetation management, trail maintenance, and road maintenance. Staff has been quick to address any trail issues to keep the trails safe and open during another wet winter season.
- Continued to deter the use of unauthorized trails in the preserve by maintaining barriers, installing signs, and educating users.
- Hosted 4 Star Parties this past year with the San Diego Astronomy Association.
- Rangers have been hosting guided hikes and touch tables on the weekends to provide visitors with an interactive and educational experience about the local plants, wildlife, and preserve history.
- Continuing to promote Goodan Ranch as a great venue option for all types of events.
- Continuing to expand inventory of battery-operated tools and equipment.
- Added 2 new Park Rangers to the preserve staff.

Plans for upcoming year:

- Staff will be replacing the fencing and trimming the vegetation around the historic Goodan Ranch windmill. Also exploring ideas of how to interpret its history.
- Currently working with contractors to replace the existing water tank with a dedicated potable water tank. The existing tank will be used for fire suppression when the new tank is completed.
- Hosting the start of the SDMBA Archipelago Full Ride this Saturday. If successful, this may be an annual partnership.

6. SOUTHERN FIRST AQUEDUCT FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – San Diego County Water Authority

- The Southern First Aqueduct Facilities Improvement Project involves two large-diameter parallel pipelines that were constructed in the late 1940s and 50s.
- Project involves the renovation of 99 structures along Pipelines 1 and 2.
- Work will span 21 miles of the First Aqueduct from Escondido in the north, through Rancho Bernardo and Poway, and ending near the San Vicente Reservoir in Lakeside.

- Inside the Goodan Ranch, upgrades are planned for six existing structures including pump wells and air valves including access points, air vents, blow-offs, pump wells, flow control facility connections, and assorted concrete structures along the First Aqueduct pipelines.
- Construction scheduled in Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon Open Space Preserve: Late May 2024 (Pipeline 2 with 3 structures – Year 1) to July 2026 (Pipeline 1 with 3 structures – Year 2)
- The pipelines will be shut down, inspected, and rehabilitated over the construction period.
- Construction impacts may include things like construction crews on site; heavy machinery with backup beepers; potential noise and dust; road/lane closures; pedestrian detours; and limited parking.
- Keeping rangers informed and working with them to provide signage.
- Conservation of the environment and endangered species that inhabit the area have been discussed with the rangers.
- Environmental Mitigation Measures: Natural Community Conservation Plan/ Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP)
 - o Pre-construction: surveys, environmental training for workers, installation of temporary fencing around work areas, and small mammal relocation.
 - o During construction: environmental monitoring.
 - o Post construction: revegetation and restoration.
- Will continue to share project updates, answer questions, and address community concerns as often as possible.

Questions from the Public:

- Andy Quinn: How can we communicate information to the public?
 - o Emma Ward-McNally: Info sheets with links to the project website are available for public distribution.
- Phoenix Von Hendy: How will the impacts to the wildlife during the 24/7 work be mitigated?
 - o Emma Ward-McNally: Work area will be small, minimizing vehicles on site, and mindful of nighttime lighting.
- Andy Quinn: When should we anticipate future work?
 - o Emma Ward-McNally: The work is expected to extend the life of the pipelines and their supporting structures by more than 50 years.

7. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE – County of San Diego

Resource Management Division – Emily Pacholski

- Currently have funding for this project, which has been used for environmental analysis and to prepare the Public Access Plan. Currently anticipate receiving an additional \$3.6M for project implementation with the next budget (anticipate receiving the funds July 2024).

- Working with legal counsel to finalize the environmental document (MND) and the Public Access Plan. The next step is to bring these documents forward to the Board of Supervisors for approval, which is expected to take place this fall.
- The Board action this fall would also include a request to authorize the first phase of trail construction, which would begin in the fall after nesting bird season ends.
- Recently obtained a grant through the CDFW 30x30 grant program for approximately \$880,000.
 - The grant will allow for the treatment and removal of large invasive non-native woody trees and shrubs and invasive non-native perennial and annual grasses from approximately 290 acres of the 2,927-acre Preserve over a 2-year period.
 - The grant will also support the treatment and removal of invasive non-native plant species around monitoring plots containing San Diego thornmint and variegated dudleya included in the northern portion and monitoring plots containing willow monardella included in the southern portion of the Preserve.

Questions from the Public:

- Jason Price: What is the tree treatment plan?
 - Emily Pacholski: Treatment plan will include non-native woody trees. Will share final plan when available.

8. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- Terry Callan: Request to improve the aesthetics of the Goodan Staging Area. Upgrade the fence and find new location or enclosure for dumpsters. Install an archway and create a Goodan family history interpretation sign.
 - Matt Sanford: We are looking into expanding the Goodan Staging Area and will work with preserve staff to make aesthetic improvements.
- Dustin Trotter: Will there be future property expansions and trail connections?
 - Brian Albright: We are moving forward with MCAS to acquire the Stowe Trail.
- Jason Price: Aidan Renner will be new voting member for CDFW.

9. ADJOURNMENT at 11:14 a.m.