

Desert Advisory Council (DAC) Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) Subgroup Meeting Minutes

January 17th, 2013

Attendance:

Meg Grossglass- Subgroup Chairmen
Bob Ham- Local Community
Jim Bramham- CA OHV
Chuck Hattaway- OHV Organization
Teri Raml-BLM DFO
Steve Bird-BLM
Peter DeWitt-BLM
Brian Puckett-BLM
Neil Hamada-BLM
Steve Razo-BLM

Ian Canaan-BLM
Tom Zale-BLM
Karissa Blevins-BLM
Michelle Puckett-BLM
Ray Castillo-Public
Nicole Gilles-Public
Brandon Walls-Public
Brad Sparks-Public
Emilio Sandavol-Public

Meeting called to order at 4:15 P.M.

Welcome, Introductions, and Previous Meeting Minutes-Meg Grossglass

- There was not a quorum for this meeting. All motions made will be held until there is a meeting with a quorum. **(These meeting minutes are now final. A vote was held at the April 18th, 2013 Subgroup meeting and minutes were approved.)**
- Meeting minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.
- There is no call-in phone number for this meeting. A phone number must be made available to the public to call into and the phone system the Field Office has does not accommodate an unlimited number of callers. The system also does not allow the subgroup to manage the calls, so that the chair can effectively manage the he meeting without interruptions. BLM is already looking into other options with the intent of having a a call in phone number available for subgroup members and the public for future meetings.

ISDRA Update-Neil Hamada 4:30 P.M.-5:00 P.M.

- See Attached ISDRA Update Handout for details
- **Motion Presented: “A motion to request that BLM look into what it would take (cost) to maintain the Ogilby tower that is not currently functioning, for navigational reasons.”** Jim Bramham made the motion, Meg Grossglass seconded the motion.

Draft Business Plan Update-Peter DeWitt 5:04 P.M.-5:55 P.M.

- See Attached Business Plan Handout
- Peter DeWitt is a BLM employee from the Bakersfield Field Office who has been detailed to El Centro to assist with the revision of the draft Business Plan for the ISDRA. Peter is currently analyzing the public comments we received on the draft. He presented the preliminary results of this analysis and answered questions about next steps and the schedule for completing the revision of the plan. Update.
- **Motion Presented: “A motion that the BLM get back to the Subgroup with the following information: the required steps for the approval of the Business Plan, proposed timeline, approval authorities, and communication plan.” Meg Grossglass made the motion, Jim Bramham seconds the motion.**
- **Jim Bramham requested that this motion be forwarded to the DAC chair for distribution to the DAC members in accordance with the DAC Charter and Bylaws.**

ISDRA Public Safety Report- Ian Canaan and Brian Puckett 5:55 P.M.-6:23 P.M.

- See attached Law Enforcement Update
- The West Desert was busy this New Year’s Holiday. Rangers are stretched over a lot of area. Staffing decisions have to take response time for back-up into consideration because Rangers work in remote locations.
- The number of DUI’s and other arrests was the highest it has been in over 5 years. The ratio of officer to visitors is lower than it has been in the past. Even so, the amounts of arrests are up.
- The transportation of prisoners to jail is time consuming and takes rangers out of the field. Imperial County Sheriff’s Office provides deputies and a transport van during the holiday events.
- Riders appear to be following new ROV laws in the ISDRA. Many warnings have been issued and some citations.
- During holiday events, helicopter landing zones for injured parties are very labor intensive because a safe perimeter needs to be maintained from the time the airship lands until it takes off. Staffing decisions have to take this need into account.
- See attached EMS Update sheets. Brian Puckett responded to questions asking for clarification and further discussion of his report.

Public Comment 6:24 P.M.-6:39 P.M.

- **Ray Castillo-County Supervisor District 5-** “The County was surprised when the fee increase proposal came out. We have a lot of solar farms coming in so hopefully some money will be able to come in for projects. We have a public benefit agreement that the companies must pay for mitigation fees. Most of these projects won’t be online. So maybe we could share some money with the sand dunes. There should be more than enough to go around for everyone.”

Emilio Sandoval- Chief's Kitchen Vendor- “I want to second the information on LE, the campers feel that LE is not approaching the duners better. I think BLM could work on it. Also, Vendor fees- one of the things is that vendors want to see are porta-potties at the vendor pad so costumers they are closer than Gecko Road and Cements Flats.”

Nicole Gilles- ASA- “If you'd like to keep ASA in the loop on the news releases so we can repost the information in the news alerts and newsletters.”

Meeting Adjourned at 6:39 P.M.