

Explore North Coast Board Meeting Minutes July 14, 2022

Present: Kathleen Kinkela-Love, Larry Buwalda, Marcella Ogata-Day, John Schmidt, Brian Orland, Jennifer Tavares, Terry Bean, Jeff Pockett & Lena Ashley

The meeting began at 6:32pm with Board members introducing themselves to John Ash. Larry invited John, founding ENC member and retired Architect, to join our meeting and discuss concepts for his \$1,000 donation he envisions for marketing, expanding membership, and ensuring the continued success of our club. John said 2022 is the 20th year anniversary of when he began Explore North Coast. John explained he moved to Humboldt County in 1997 and started ocean kayaking. ENC was born out of meeting fellow kayakers on the water, inviting others to paddle together and developing paddling relationships. Marsha and Simon Tauber were fellow founding members who together with John paddled avidly, planned paddle trips and practiced Eskimo rolls and rescues at the Arcata pool. John worked with Jen Rice to develop the Humboldt Bay Water Trail Map which was modeled after the Washington Water Trails Association's (WWTA) map of Puget Sound. The WWTA (www.wwta.org) protect and promote access to Washington waterways, shorelines, and marine trails for human powered watercraft. The Humboldt Bay water trails map is in our ENC book, Sea Kayaking the Redwood Coast.

John said Explore North Coast paddle club was something very important in his life. We discussed John's vision for his donation including marketing on social media, listing paddle events in the NC Journal, printing Brochures and reaching out to the public & students to draw in new members. John suggested a "wake-up event" to create & gain interest. He described the former "Paddle Fest" with Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center, lots of media attention and cardboard canoe races that we learned Larry B is a reigning champion. John's goal with his donation is to enliven ENC and to sustain the great mission of bringing people together to paddle and enjoy the outdoors together.

Reports

1. **Approval of the May 12, 2022, Minutes:** Adopted May minutes with the spelling correction of Larry's last name, Buwalda, as presented. John moved, Terry seconded, and all approved.
2. **Membership Report:** Marcella reported membership is currently maintained around 60+ members. For the past several years ENC memberships had decreased from 100+, especially during the Covid pandemic when social events became nonexistent. This year's strategy of working with paddle host to schedule and map-out paddle events months ahead and thru the year has resulted in more paddlers and guests. Interest has grown. There is still a need to plan, host, and keep events scheduled. Continuing these steps is important for keeping the club growing.

3. **Treasurer/Secretary Report:** John Schmidt reported our bank balance was up to approximately \$10,000 and continues to grow. Reimbursements for the upcoming 7/28-7/31 Mendocino Paddle Trip will need to wait until early August when John returns from France. Bon voyage John!
4. **Paddle Host Coordinator Report:** With our focus on the upcoming Mendocino Paddle weekend, Jeff reported 24 members have signed up, we have lots of paddle hosts & assistants and we plan to organize paddles when we arrive and can all review conditions. The cut-off for sign-ups is 7/18/22.
 - Beginning August & September, we don't have any paddle events on our club calendar. Larry proposed a Kayak & SUP Demo Day at Big Lagoon on Saturday, **August 13th**. He will coordinate with Adventures Edge and contact the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center to sponsor the event.
 - Brian proposed a fall Coastal Clean-up in Humboldt Bay around Tuluwat (*Duluwat*) Island. The clean-up is scheduled Saturday, **September 24th**. Brain will coordinate with the Oyster Company volunteers to request assistance with their flat bottom boat, contact Ivy at the North Coast Env. Center, The Wiyot Tribe and Humboldt Baykeeper to propose we jointly plan the clean-up event. The Board approved \$200 budget for food & a prize for the Coastal Clean-up volunteers. John Ash was enthusiastic about this event. He asked if we could contact Friends of the Dunes and suggested ENC could sponsor this Fall Humboldt Bay Coastal Clean-up.

We encourage more planned events; please contact Jeff with future paddle events you might like to schedule.

Other Report

5. Lecture Series Update: Brain has investigated reviving the past ENC quarterly evening lecture series. He proposed re-initiating speaker presented topics via zoom with hosts possibly from CAL Poly Humboldt. Brain suggested offering speakers an honorarium, and the board discussed a gift certificate from Adventures Edge. Ideally, Brain suggested paddles could be planned linking speaker topics to local landscapes/locations. The Board supported his proposal.
6. Club Bylaws update: Kathleen began with reviewing the feedback received on the Bylaws revision and the concerns expressed. John Schmidt discussed his second revision attempt to address concerns. In the end, John felt he and Terry's initial simplified proposal aligning the Bylaws with our current practice for electing ENC Board members was the best proposal. The ENC board has had a history of being united, members interested in joining the Board have been given the opportunity, and in general new Board members must be recruited. ENC Board elections are not competitive, nor continuous and club members support ENC and our collaborative goals. Finally, we welcome club members to attend Board meetings and discuss candidates for Board election, and our past process of club wide elections for new

Board members has resulted in few votes. Lena motioned to approve the original Bylaws revision and Terry seconded. All present in favor; Marcella left at 7:25 pm before this item.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Minutes taken and submitted by Lena Ashley

Minutes Adopted: _____ Date: _____
Board Officer DATE