Council Coordinator/Member
“Coffee Talk” Report

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Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting
August 22, 2014
Build relationships and encourage positive, open, and forward-thinking dialogue regarding:

• Member feedback of the council to understand members’ experience serving on the council, and opportunities and/or roadblocks they have had personally or collectively through the council

• Coordinator expectations of the members

• Any seat-specific issues the members or coordinator would like to discuss
When?
   January – May 2014

Who?
   25/45 members
   16/23 seats

Where?
   From Monterey to Sacramento
How has your experience been serving on the SAC?

- Mostly Positive: 46%
- Neutral: 33%
- Mostly Negative: 21%
How has your experience been serving on the SAC?

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- Mostly Negative: 21%
- Neutral: 33%

Less effective, less productive, less activist
Meetings are useful and informative
Love the people, hate the process
Great opportunity to connect with others
Suggested Improvements

Working Groups:

• More guidance/direction from staff and the council on priorities and how WGs should operate
• WGs should better present all sides of an issue, and provide more background info before an action
Meeting Content:

- Each meeting should have an action item/opportunity to provide advice
- Clearly define goals for each agenda item, desired outcome and follow-up actions
- Annual work plan!
- “state of the sanctuary” presentations
Suggested Improvements

Meeting Operations:

• Bring back the summer meeting
• Limit member announcements to 3 minutes – remind council of the purpose of this time
• Chair help guide council discussion
• Times back on the agenda; 15 minute breaks
• Rely more on less formal procedures for providing advice
• Streamline council commentary period – less word-smithing and nit-picking
Suggested Improvements

Council Membership:

• Greater accountability for constituency communications
• Some seats need more clear definition (e.g. research)
Suggested Improvements

Council Coordinator:

• More lead time for action items and meeting content
• FAQs for council members
• Hold members accountable – contact ahead of time if we expect/need their presence for a particular issue
• Craft goals and follow-up actions for each agenda item
• Continue annual meetings with members
• More detailed orientation for new members, with real examples of council actions
What are YOUR goals?

- Involvement in the sanctuary; learn!
- Provide outreach to the community, be an ambassador
- Benefit the council with skills, perspective, expertise
Goals for the Council

Provide support to MBNMS
Be more proactive; address issues in a more timely manner
More active and involved members
More focus on:
  • Water management issues
  • Sanctuary funding (MBSF)
  • Management and policy-relevant issues – revisit the management plan
  • Sanctuary priorities
  • Community Outreach
Council Communication

With your constituents:
- Overall, not great.
- Constituency in some cases needs better definition
- Council members need more direction and guidance
- Some outstanding examples exist!
- Not a problem for agency reps

With each other:
- About half seem to have this down
- The other half needs more guidance and reminders
- Most expressed it could be better, especially before meetings
Interaction with Staff

- Need More: 25%
- Sufficient: 75%
Interaction with Each Other

- More active in Sanctuary activities
- Opportunities to help each other
- Meeting time is sufficient to connect
- I connect with some members outside of council meetings

Sufficient 77%

Need More 23%
Annual Retreat

Conditions:
• Not recreational
• To address a very specific issue
• Clearly defined objectives and purpose
• In Cambria
• Completely transparent (open to public)
My Final Recommendations

- Make communication a priority
- Stay on task during meetings – report back only on what is relevant
- Resist the urge to word-smith and nit-pick
- Come prepared