

SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
THE GOVERNING BOARD

February 21, 2008
Del Rey Yacht Club

1. Welcome and Introductions

At 9:40 AM, chair Richard Bloom called the meeting to order. Introductions followed.

2. Approval of the December 13, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Corrections: Item 6, Jeff Jennings made the motion to approve amended SMBRC 2008 work plan, not Barbara Cameron. Item 11, Fran Diamond was elected to the Executive Committee, which replaces Dennis Washburn's name. Motion by Steve Maguin. Second by Marvin Sachse. The minutes, as corrected, were approved unanimously.

3. Order of Agenda

The order of the agenda was approved.

4. Reports from the Chair and Executive Committee

None.

5. Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee

The new TAC Chair, Richard Ambrose, announced that the first meeting will be held March 17, 2008. Currently, the TAC is setting the agenda for that meeting.

6. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

Scott Valor distributed the new Governing Board member list and new member handbooks.

Valor briefly reviewed the final report from the Ad Hoc Committee findings. There were seven different items discussed. One suggestion was to open up a Governing Board position for a tourism/economic sector representative.

FPPC 700 forms are due. Governing Board members, alternates, and 2nd alternates need to send a copy of their forms to Scott Valor. Valor will send out a reminder email.

Foundation elections will take place at the next Governing Board meeting in April 2008. There are 15 seats on the Santa Monica Bay Foundation Board, 12 of them being Governing Board members. Valor will send out an email opening up nominations. Foundation board meetings are less frequent than Governing Board meetings and each meeting is usually under one hour. The Foundation Board helps to implement the mission of the SMBRC, reviews Foundation financial statements, sign resolutions for accepting grants, reviews and approve awarding of Foundation grants (e.g. PIE), etc.

7. Consideration of Approval of Budget for Staff to Move to Loyola Marymount University

Executive Director Shelley Luce discussed the move to LMU. The SMBRC has worked closely with LMU including working with John Dorsey who was the chair of the SMBRC TAC and collaborating

on research projects such as the Ballona Outdoor Learning and Discovery Center. Recently, Luce has been working with LMU's Seaver College of Engineering and Science and John Dorsey to create the Center for the Study of Santa Monica Bay. The purpose of the research center is to further SMBRC's relationship with LMU, attract funding, promote the ability to support LMU student research, etc.

LMU has offered office space to SMBRC staff. The move will allow the Commission to be more accessible to stakeholders. Three staff members will remain at the Regional Board offices: Guangyu Wang (State employee), Jack Topel (State employee), and Joel Hanson (Foundation employee). The Regional Board will provide administrative support for the three employees. Administrative support from the Regional Board will not be transferred to SMBRC staff housed at LMU. A budget was provided to the Governing Board in the staff report. Monthly charges for telephone use, office supplies will be approximately \$750.00.

Randall Orton asked if the longevity of the residency at LMU is based on the success of the research center. Luce explained that a MOU will be signed between SMBRC and LMU for a three year agreement.

Marvin Sachse asked whether staff considered moving to USC or UCLA. Luce responded that even though the working relationship with these institutions is growing, space is very limited at USC and UCLA.

Mark Gold expressed concern about having a length of lease time in the MOU and requested that the MOU be available to Governing Board members for the record. Gold also asked staff to check the market value of the space.

Many governing board members supported the move and asked if future grants awards to LMU will pose a conflict of interest.

Motion by Barbara Cameron. Second by Dennis Washburn. Motion approved without objection.

8. Presentation of Green Solutions Project Final Report (Community Conservancy International)

Esther Feldman gave a presentation on findings for the Green Solutions Project. The objective of the project was to quantify the amount of stormwater runoff contributed by the Santa Monica Watershed, determine how much public land is available in Los Angeles County for Green Solution projects, and what level of infiltration could be achieved by water quality improvement projects.

The final report will be made available to the public on the CCI website and will be distributed to Governing Board members in a couple weeks.

9. Presentation and Discussion regarding Project Concepts for Proposition 12 Funding

Jack Topel gave a presentation on current Prop 12 projects. For more information on this presentation, please contact Jack Topel at jtopel@waterboards.ca.gov.

Shelley Luce reviewed seven proposed projects:

1) Ballona Creek watershed studies: all projects will contribute directly to management actions, restoration, and pollution control efforts.

- 2) Rindge Dam Removal Feasibility Study: Army Corp project to remove barrier in Malibu Creek to steelhead trout.
- 3) SEA Lab Beach Bluffs Restoration: SEA Lab will continue to restore beach bluffs which has led to the return of the Blue Butterfly and builds capacity for their native plant nursery.
- 4) Downspout Disconnect Program: the City of LA will work with home owners to disconnect downspouts that connect to the stormdrain systems. One goal would be to expand the project to other areas of the city.
- 5) Site Survey and Habitat Assessment for the Recovery of the California Red-Legged Frog: the project will assess habitat in Santa Monica Mountains and what needs to be done to re-establish the population of the California Red Legged Frog.
- 6) Stone Canyon Creek Restoration: three year restoration program to remove non-native vegetation and planting and care of native understory plants and trees along Stone Creek at UCLA.
- 7) Green Solutions Project Phase II: this project will refine and analyze parcel data to determine suitability for stormwater infiltration/treatment projects. Sara Wan requested staff look at the private element to land acquisition.

Board members requested a list of Prop 12 projects current status, amount of Prop 12 funds remaining, how these projects will support the Bay Restoration Plan, and why these projects are being considered over other Bay Restoration Plan priority projects. Final proposals will be brought before the board for approval in April 2008.

Washburn pressed the importance of public outreach and education.

Rex Frankel commented on the need to expand Green Solutions Project to include private land.

Dennis Washburn made a motion to approve staff recommended project list as a concept draft for Prop 12 projects. (Second: Gold) Motion approved without objection.

10. Presentation of Annual Report

Staff distributed the SMBRC Annual Report.

11. Public comments and announcements regarding matters not on the agenda

Randall Orton: Urban Runoff Conference on March 4-6 at Pepperdine University, including field trips, breakout workshops. Go to www.malibuwatershed.org for more information.

Dennis Washburn announced a Southern California Association of Governments has published their Regional Comprehensive Plan and requested comments from the Governing Board. Washburn announced the Las Virgenes Creek grand opening/dedication ceremony on Saturday, February 23 at the Las Virgenes Creek Restoration project site on Agoura Road. Washburn announced a Pierce College program called Pizza Farm. Pizza Farm is an interactive program that explores the source of everyday foods.

12. Announcement of next meeting date

The next meeting of the Governing Board will be held on April 17, 2008.

13. Adjournment

The Governing Board meeting was adjourned at 11:48 AM.

Attendance:

Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Richard Bloom, City of Santa Monica (SMBRC Chair)
Barbara Cameron, City of Malibu (for Jeff Jennings)
Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles
Alex Fay, Councilmember, LA City Council District 11 (for Bill Rosendahl)
Tom Ford, Santa Monica Baykeeper
Mike Gin, City of Redondo Beach
Mark Gold, Heal the Bay
Carol Gross, Culver City (for Jeff Prang)
Susan Nissman, Office of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, 3rd District
Marvin H. Sachse, Brash Industries
Mary Small, CA Coastal Conservancy
Frances Spivy-Weber, Cal EPA
Nancy Sutley, City of Los Angeles (for Mayor Villaraigosa)
Dennis Washburn, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Sara Wan, California Coastal Commission

Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Angus Alexander, LA County Fire Department
Richard Ambrose, UCLA, Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee
Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Laurie Newman (for Senator Sheila Kuehl), CA State Senate, 23rd District
Louise Rishoff (for Assembly Member Julia Brownley), State Assembly, 41st District

Commission Staff:

Nick Batch
Sean Bergquist
Shelley Luce
Joel Hanson
Grace Lee
Jack Topel
Scott Valor
Guangyu Wang

Other Attendees, including other Bay Watershed Council Members:

Paula Daniels, City of LA Public Works
Esther Feldman, Community Conservancy International
Rex Frankel, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project
Dean Kubani
Paul Herzog, Surfrider Foundation
Amy Holm, Lechuza Beach Conservancy
Jim Lamm, Ballona Creek Renaissance
Randall Orton, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Brent Scheiwe, SEA Lab
Wing Tam, City of LA Public Works

