

SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
THE GOVERNING BOARD

December 13, 2007
Del Rey Yacht Club

1. Welcome and Introductions

At 9:40 AM, chair Jack Weiss called the meeting to order. Introductions followed.

2. Approval of the April 19, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Correction: Mike Gin was present at the August 16, 2007 Governing Board meeting. 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

After 4 years of dedicated service, Jack Weiss announced his retirement from Chair of the Governing Board. Weiss advised that his successor should remain apolitical, hands off, and let subject matter experts make the decisions.

5. Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee

Dr. John Dorsey announced his retirement as Chair of the TAC.

6. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

Shelley Luce welcomed new members of the Governing Board: Tom Ford, Enrique Zaldivar, and Xavier Swamikannu.

Shelley Luce announced that the Fish and Game Commission will bring the MLPA process to Southern California in early 2008. The SMBRC has taken preemptive measures in preparation for this process by creating a MPA technical advisory board and by securing funds from an Ocean Protection Council grant to collect data to fill data gaps for Santa Monica Bay.

Luce reported that the Community Conservation International assessment fee feasibility study and the Green Solutions study are now complete. The consulting team compiled alot of information together and is analyzing the data as one piece, which has never been done before. The Green Solutions study looked at every parcel in Los Angeles County and models of runoff generated, private and public land, to figure out how much land is needed to treat and infiltrate stormwater. Formal results will be available to the public and published on the web in early January 2008. The results will be presented to the Board in February 2008.

Luce announced that \$1 million in Prop 12 money needs to be put into contract by May 2008. A number of projects will be brought to the Board in February as a presentation and then for approval in April 2008.

In response to a 20% cut to the Bay Commission's budget, the SMBRC plans to roll over \$77,000 from 2007 work plan to the 2008 work plan. Staff requested the Governing Board approve the ammended work plan to reflect this change. Motion by Barbara Cameron. Second by Dennis Washburn. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Consideration of Approval of Funding for Purchase of Corral Canyon Property

Luce reported that staff is working closely with MRCA and SWRCB to ensure that spending will meet standards for Prop 50 funds and help meet the goals of the Bay Restoration Plan.

Luce asked Board to consider awarding \$500,000 from Prop 50 funding pot to the MRCA to contribute to the purchase of Rancho Corral Property. The total price of the property is \$12.6 million. SMBRC funds will be pooled with other sources: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, State Coastal Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, and Los Angeles County. Luce received emails of support from members of the Governing Board. Washburn said if there was fire damage to the property and there may be funding available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Angus Alexander told a story about the origins of the naming of Coral Beach. Alexander asked that Board be aware of the sand replenishment benefits of the area as well as adverse impact of sediment runoff on kelp population, etc. Louse Rishoff asked if payment was worked out with the buyer if some payments were to be made next year. Rorie Skei explained the purchase of this property is occurring in phases to address this issue. Jeff Jennings expressed support for the acquisition and possible trail connections.

Motion by Jeff Jennings. Second by Dennis Washburn. Motion approved without objection.

9. Consideration of Appointment of New TAC Members

Luce commended the TAC for outstanding work such as the State of the Bay report and the Comprehensive Bay Monitoring Plan. The TAC has contributed a lot of time directing studies and the scientific and technical aspect of policies for the SMBRC. Shelley Luce invited John Dorsey to say a few words to the Governing Board. Dorsey expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the TAC and for being the chance to work with TAC members. Dorsey advised the Board to pay close attention to the new TAC as they work on new projects like the TMDLs for stormwater pollution, the Bight Study, etc. Luce awarded a certificate of appreciation to Dorsey. On behalf of the State Senate Laurie Newman, awarded certificates of appreciation to TAC members attending the board meeting including: John Dorsey, Steve Bay, Tom Ford, Mark Gold, Gerald McGowen, Dan Pandela, Xavier Swamikani, Bryant Chesney, Richard Ambrose.

Staff recommended that the Commission vote to approve the nominees to the newly restructured TAC. Marvin Sachse suggested that individuals from the private sector be considered for TAC membership. Luce replied that staff is willing to accept any recommendations from Sachse for TAC members that will represent the private sector. The Governing Board voted on the following eight nominees:

- Richard Ambrose, PhD
- Steve Bay, M.S.
- Dave Caron, PhD
- Mike Connor, PhD

- Mas Dojiri, PhD
- Jenny Jay, PhD
- Burt Jones, PhD
- Karen Martin, PhD
- Dan Pondella, PhD

Motion by Jeff Jennings. Second by Dennis Washburn. The motion carried without objection.

10. Election by Bay Watershed Council (BWC) of Members to the SMBRC Governing Board

At this point, the BWC convened to elect the new president of the BWC and eight new members to serve on the Governing Board. Refer to Table 1. for new elects and other details.

Member	Governing Board Seat	Motion by	Second by	Approved without Objection
Jack Weiss	President of BWC	Dennis Washburn	Jeff Prang	X
Mike Gin	South Bay Cities	Frances Spivey-Weber	Steve Maguin	X
Jeff Jennings	Malibu Creek Watershed Cities	Dennis Washburn	Marvin Sachse	X
Jeff Prang	Ballona Creek Watershed Cities	Mike Gin	Dennis Washburn	X
Richard Bloom, Dennis Washburn	At-large Members of the Bay Watershed Council (2)	Rorie Skei	Marvin Sachse	X
Mark Gold, Tom Ford	Public Members, Environmental/Public Interest (2)	Susan Nissman	Steve Maguin	X
Marvin Sachse	Public Member, Business/Economic Interest	Jeff Jennings	Richard Bloom	X

Table 1. Newly elected BWC members to serve on the SMBRC Governing Board

Laurie Newman asked the Governing Board to be more active in nominating female members to the Governing Board for the next BWC elections. After completing the elections, the BWC meeting adjourned.

11. Convening of the new Governing Board to Elect a New Chair and Six Vice-Chairs.

The Governing Board reconvened to elect a new Chair of the Governing Board. Staff opened up the floor for nominations. Jeff Jennings was nominated, but declined the nomination because his term as mayor of the City of Malibu will end in April 2008, before the Governing Board chair position terms out. Mark Gold nominated Richard Bloom. Laurie Newman seconded the nomination. Dennis Washburn asked when Bloom’s term as mayor of the City of Santa Monica ends. Bloom said he would be mayor until November 2008 and the mayoral elections will occur in December 2008.

Valor closed the floor, without objection. Richard Bloom said he was looking forward to being chair and agreed with Jack Weiss that the chair should be hands off and will allow staff experts to lead decisions.

Motion by Mark Gold. Second by Laurie Newman. Motion carried without objection.

With Richard Bloom presiding as Chair, the Board elected six new vice-chairs of the Governing Board. Scott Valor explained that the vice chairs make up the executive committee and their role is to help staff create Board meeting agendas. The Executive Committee meets every other month to discuss the agenda (typically 3rd Thursday of the month), give staff suggestions, and may have to attend additional emergency meetings. Valor opened up the floor for nominations. The following nominations were made: Mike Gin, Laurie Newman, Dennis Washburn, Mark Pestrella, Mark Gold, Fran Diamond, Mary Small, Alexander Angus, and Tom Ford.

Bloom asked Newman to speak about her experience as an Executive Committee member. She said the Committee meets minimally four times a year, available to staff as needed, work on preparing the agenda, vet matters before they come before the Governing Board. Meetings take place at the office of Senator Sheila Kuehls. The committee works on a consensus approach and takes time. Mark Gold added that the Executive Committee helped with the transition of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project into the Commission as well as selected the current Executive Director of the Commission. The upcoming Bay Plan revision and review of the annual financial report will be some major responsibilities of the new Executive Committee. Another important role of this committee is understanding how Commission projects fit in with regional restoration efforts, so will require an understanding of current projects, policies, plans, etc. Luce reminded everyone that the Executive Committee meetings are public and Board members, who are interested in attending, should ask to be added to the email list. Washburn commented institutional advancement should be an important goal of the Commission and focus of the Executive Committee.

The following nominees were elected to the Executive Committee by majority vote: Newman, Washburn, Pestrella, Gold, Ford, and Gin.

12. Consideration of Approval of the 2008 Governing Board Meeting Calendar.

The Board voted on the new schedule of meetings for 2008. The dates were coordinated with Del Rey Yacht Club. Staff will send a letter of appreciation to the Yacht Club. Motion by Dennis Washburn. Second by Tom Ford. Motion carried without objection.

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

Randal Orton spoke about a recent LA Times article about the drought, stating water savings for Los Angeles as minimal. Orton also presented a document describing potential flow restrictors on agricultural water sources.

Mark Gold announced "Day without a Bag" will take place December 20. Gold asked Board members to participate in this important event. A related press conference about the event will take place at 11 am at The Grove. The City of Los Angeles is donating 5,000 reusable bags for the event.

Jeff Jennings reported that the Solstice Creek bridge project is 50% complete.

11. Announcement of next meeting date

The next meeting of the Governing Board will be held on February 21, 2008.

12. Adjournment

The Governing Board meeting was adjourned at 10:49 AM.

Attendance:

Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Richard Bloom, Santa Monica, Mayor
Alex Fay, Councilmember, LA City Council District 11 (for Bill Rosendahl)
Tom Ford, Santa Monica Baykeeper
Mike Gin, City of Redondo Beach, Mayor
Mark Gold, Heal the Bay
Carol Gross, Culver City
Jeff Jennings, City of Malibu
Steve Maguin, Los Angeles County Sanitation District
Mike Mullin, City of Los Angeles, Mayor's Office
Susan Nissman, Office of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, 3rd District
Jeffery Prang, City of West Hollywood
Marvin H. Sachse, Brash Industries, Public Member for Business
Frances Spivy-Weber, Cal EPA
Dennis Washburn, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Jack Weiss, Council Member, City of Los Angeles, SMBRC Chair

Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Angus Alexander, LA County Fire Department
Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Bryant Chesney NOAA-NMFS Southwest Division
Laurie Newman (for Senator Sheila Kuehl), CA State Senator, 23rd District
Randall Orton, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (for Charles Caspary)
Louise Rishoff, for Julia Brownley, State Assemblymember, 41st District
Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Commission Staff:

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

Other Attendees, including other Bay Watershed Council Members:

Paul Backstrom, Office of Council Member Jack Weiss
Barbara Cameron, City of Malibu
John Dorsey, Loyola Marymount University
John Kemmner, US EPA
Dan Murphy, LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division
Steven Nikaido, LA County Sanitation District
Xavier Swamikannu, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 4