

SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF  
THE GOVERNING BOARD

August 21st, 2008  
Del Rey Yacht Club

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

At 9:41 AM, chair Richard Bloom called the meeting to order. Introductions followed.

**2. Approval of the July 19th, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

Richard Bloom moved to approve minutes. Meeting minutes approved without objection.

**3. Order of Agenda**

Adjustments: Move Item 9 before Item 8. Approved without objection.

**4. Reports from the Chair and Executive Committee**

Bloom reported work done by the Committee in July 2008 was useful and effective.

**5. Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee**

In place of the TAC Chair, Richard Ambrose, Bay Commission Staff, Lia Protopapadakis reported on the TAC updates. Protopapadakis discussed the last TAC Meeting, and announced that the committee is on task to finish the State of the Bay report by the beginning of 2010. The TAC is gathering data to complete the report.

Shelley Luce briefly discussed addition of the TAC as a sub committee to the Clean Beach Task Force, to be appointed by the State Water Boards as of September 2nd, 2008.

The TAC identified a need to add a new member from the socio economist field to the committee at the last governing board meeting, but has not identified a new member yet.

Protopapadakis discussed the progress of the MTAC, the sub-committee formed from the TAC. The MTAC is concerned with the Marine Life Protection Act and designation of MPAs in the region. The MTAC is working on gathering information and analyzing data gaps in order to best inform the MLPA process in the region. She discussed the classification structure determined by the State, where the Santa Monica Bay is located in the South Coastal Region (from Point Conception to Baja, CA). The State appointed a Blue Ribbon Task force to guide the policy side of assigned MPAs. The Blue Ribbon Task force makes recommendations to the Fish & Game Commission. This task force will then select a scientific team and regional stakeholder group which does work on developing proposals. Protopapadakis was nominated by Shelley Luce as a member of the South Coastal Region stakeholder group. Laurie Newman provided a letter of recommendation on Protopapadakis' behalf. The Group will be selected at the end of September 2008 and start work at the beginning of October 2008.

**6. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff**

Executive Director Shelley Luce introduced a new Commission Staff member, Sarah Woodard. Woodard works closely with Commission Staff member Jack Topel on all projects funded by SMBRC.

Luce announced the release of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Proposition 84 money allocated to the Commission. She also announced that a workshop on the RFP will be hosted by the SMBRC on September 2nd, 2008.

Scott Valor did not distribute the new Governing Board rosters because of email changes.

## **7. Election to fill Governing Board Vacancies**

Valor asked for a motion to elect Micheal O'Leary as new Governing Board member. Approved unanimously. (Motion: Gin, Second: Alexander)

## **8. Presentation of Ballona Wetlands Restoration efforts**

Mary Small (CA Coastal Commission) and Sean Bergquist (Commission Staff) report on the progress of the Ballona Wetlands Restoration project. The two major goals of the project is: 1) Ecosystem Restoration and 2) Socio economic value assessment. The project continues to do technical studies to increase the available data. The objective is to release a feasibility study by the end of this year.

Bergquist discussed 5 alternatives to the current process as a range of possibilities to the site. For more information, reference [www.ballonarestoration.org](http://www.ballonarestoration.org). The alternatives are: 1) Existing on site, hydrologic connections, and improving what is there by replanting native species. 2) Restore habitat, increase wetlands, fill removal. 3) Large title connections, wetland habitat, obtaining cleaner water from Marina del Rey. 4) Sub Title Habitat, habitat protection for fish species. 5) Arrange entire site as a whole, instead of separating by type, managing the creek and watershed together.

Small addressed the main focus of the project which is to refine the discussed alternatives and finish the feasibility study by the end of the year. The project is working on the Early Action Plan and Long Term Monitoring. There are plans to make improvements on Gordon Market's Parking lot, creating a public assess point, and a public overlook at 66th avenue.

## **9. Workshop on the Bay Restoration Plan Update**

Luce introduced the Bay Restoration Plan Update which reflects the intent of the members and agencies of the Governing Board members. Staff will present the draft Plan for adoption by the Governing Board at its next meeting in October, 2008.

Guangyu Wang provided background information on the Plan. The last plan was written in 1995, with two progress reports published since then, one in 1998, the other in 2004. There have been numerous accomplishments but also remaining challenges and new issues since initial adoption of the plan, and thus there is a need to develop a new plan.

Luce described the overall structure of the updated plan. The report will discuss goals of the Commission, objectives, and milestones associated with those objectives. The main topics will focus on water quality in the Santa Monica Bay and Watershed, Natural Resources of the Watershed, and the benefits that th Bay offers to people.

Shelley distributed a survey form for soliciting comments on the BRP update and asked members to fill and return at the end of the workshop.

Recommendations were made to improve the overall structure of the plan. Major recommendations include adjusting wording to describe the role of Commission in supporting TMDL implementation and TMDL as indicator for achieving pollution reduction so that SMBRC does not appear as a regulatory agency Include agencies who share our objectives that are not on the Governing Board (Caltrans) and have impacts on water quality in Santa Monica Bay. Integrate the affect of climate change on our goals and objectives. Include additional information on how acquisition of land will benefit water quality to the Santa Monica Bay. Lastly, add the Water Districts to the list of partners under water conservation related objectives.

## **10. Public Comments and announcements regarding matters not on the agenda**

Angus Alexander (LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division) expressed concern over the plan for new drilling at Baldwin Hills Oil field. He requests further research be conducted by Commission staff in accordance with the Baldwin Hills Task Force to review the process of drilling oil in Kenneth Hahn Park. He recommends attention be paid to prevent catastrophic results from drilling oil in this park, and requests support in converting the oil fields into a national park. He requests this item be attached to the next Governing Board agenda.

Marcia Hanscom announced the Grand Canal Lagoon is starting Phase I of its restoration project next week. Non-native species will be removed from the east banks of the lagoon, which may draw attention to the project and provide more funding for future restoration efforts. She announced the "Celebration of Ballona Creek" event taking place as a formal dinner at the Ritz Carlton on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008.

## **11. Announcement of next meeting date**

CA Coastal Clean Up Day will take place September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008.  
The next Governing Board meeting will be held on October 16, 2008.

## **12. Adjournment**

The Governing Board meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am.

### **Attendance:**

#### *Voting Members of the Governing Board:*

Richard Bloom, City of Santa Monica (SMBRC Chair)  
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  
Mark Gold, Heal the Bay  
Susan Nissman, Office of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, 3rd District  
Mary Small, CA State Coastal Conservancy  
Dennis Washburn, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Wing Tam, City of LA Public Works  
Barbara Cameron, Malibu Creek Watershed, City of Malibu  
Sara Wan, CA Coastal Commission  
Frances Spivy-Weber, CAL EPA  
Michael Mullin, Office of the Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
Micheal O'Leary, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (Culver City)  
Philip Friess, LA County Sanitation District  
Mike Gin, South Bay Cities (City of Redondo Beach, Mayor)

*Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:*

Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Laurie Newman (for Senator Sheila Kuehl), CA State Senate, 23<sup>rd</sup> District  
Louise Rishoff (for Assembly Member Julia Brownley), State Assembly, 41st District  
Catherine Tyrrell, Chair of SMBRF/Malcolm Pirnie/FBW  
Angus Alexander, LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division  
Bryant Chesney, NOAA-NMFS Southwest Division  
Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Randal Orton, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Ephraim Leon-Guerrero, US EPA Region IX

*Other Attendees, including other Bay Watershed Council Members:*

Marcia Hanscom, Ballona Institute/Sierra Club  
Shelly Wolfberg, City of Culver City  
Reza Iranpour, L.A. City  
Ken Weston, City of LA, BOs  
Jimmie Cho, LVMWD  
Stephen Groner, S. Groner Associates, Inc  
Josh Frank, S. Groner Associates, Inc  
Paul Herzog, self  
Rick Mayfield, DFG  
Jim Lamm, Ballona Creek Renaissance  
Daniel Murphy, LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division

*Commission Staff:*

Sean Bergquist  
Shelley Luce  
Lia Protopapidakis  
Grace Lee  
Jack Topel  
Guangyu Wang  
Sarah Woodard  
Joel Hanson  
Scott Valor