

SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
THE GOVERNING BOARD

August 20th, 2009
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 June 18th, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Bloom asked for a motion to approve meeting minutes. Steve Maguin requested correction of Los Angeles County Sanitation District offering educational tours on their research vessel and not free public boat rides. Motion by Tom Ford, second by Marvin Sachse to approve as amended. One abstention by Matthew Kilroy.

3. Order of Agenda

Agenda approved unanimously with no changes.

4. Reports from the Chair and Executive Committee

Ford reported on the July meeting of the Executive Committee, where work was done on Item #7 on the agenda, the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative and Resolution.

5. Report from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Richard Ambrose, TAC Chair, reported on the recent TAC meeting where members discussed the State of the Bay Report. Ambrose spoke of keeping the goals of the Bay Restoration Plan closely aligned with the State of the Bay Report. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for September 24th, 2009, where committee members will contribute their final comments on the text. Ambrose announced that the Governing Board would receive a presentation on the basics of the State of the Bay Report at the October meeting, where members could offer comments. The final report will be available for distribution at the December Governing Board meeting.

6. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

Shelley Luce, Executive Director, announced SMBRC's excitement in restarting the surveys of Ballona Wetlands, a project funded with Proposition 12 grant monies. Luce thanked Mary Small of the CA Coastal Conservancy for her involvement and support in directing enough funds from the Proposition 12 grant monies to SMBRC, which allowed for the first full year of surveying for this project. Staff member Karina Johnston is heading the research and survey team with the help of four volunteer interns who are working ten hours per week. Three additional volunteer interns and SMBRC staff members are also assisting Johnston in September when the team will begin to survey fish, invertebrate, bacteria, and plant life. Johnston and her team have already placed 90 permanent transects throughout the wetlands and will be able to survey these areas for at least the next two years.

Luce also reported on the state of the Steelhead Trout population in Lower Malibu Creek. Rosi Dagit, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM), presented several photos and explained the current conditions of Lower Malibu Creek. Scientists are still unclear as to the cause of the decline in Steelhead Trout population, but are certain they are dying off, especially with data collected in September 2006 where the creek was described as a dead zone, with no visible fish population at all. The University of California, San Diego (UCSD) performed studies on the Creek which showed that at high temperatures, the algae in the Creek released unusual amounts of chlorine, which in turn lowered the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) concentration. Loyola Marymount University (LMU) provided a YSI probe to collect data on the creek's water parameters, and an additional probe was provided by the National Park Service (NPS), California State University at Channel Islands (CSCI), and San Diego State University

(SDSU). Twenty-four gallons of creek water were hiked and air-shipped to the University of California, Davis (UCD) for results of a toxicology examination. RCDSMM is awaiting results of the study and could provide an update at the next Governing Board meeting in October.

Scott Valor, SMBRC staff member, distributed the sign-in sheet, and requested members make necessary changes to contact information.

7. Consideration of approval of a resolution supporting the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative for the Southern California Region

Luce introduced the MLPA Initiative and SMBRC's involvement with the Act since it came to the Southern California Region. Luce presented on a study SMBRC funded that was performed in Redondo Beach. The study investigated the beneficial uses of the resources of the Bay and the economic impacts of consumptive and non-consumptive activities on the city and harbor. The study found that a large percentage (over 75%) of people performed non-consumptive activities on the resources of the Bay, which provided a significant amount of economic activity.

Questions followed regarding the rules and regulations of the process in protecting MPAs and Fish & Game's role in enforcing the laws.

Susan Nissman (Zev Yaroslavsky's office, County of Los Angeles) asked if once the designated Marine Protected Area's (MPAs) reached the desired population size and diversity, would the MPA be removed? Sarah Sikich (Heal the Bay, and MLPA Regional Stake Holder Group member) explained that the MPAs are designated as an adaptive management practice, but once MPA populations had recovered, a report could be made to the Department of Fish & Game and they would determine if MPAs could be reallocated.

Marvin Sachse asked how the MLPA Regional Stakeholder Group defined the size and location of the MPAs. Luce explained the MPAs are defined primarily by designated scientific guidelines, but also defined by the recommendations of the Stakeholder Group.

Governing board members discussed changes to the resolution as originally presented. Changes were agreed upon. Bloom asked for a motion to approve the resolution with the agreed upon changes. Sixteen voting governing board members voted to approve the resolution. The resolution was approved unanimously. (M: Ford, S: Washburn)

8. Presentation by West Basin Municipal Water District on water conservation efforts

Rich Nagel, West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD), discussed water conservation efforts made by WBMWD and their goals for 2020.

9. Presentation by Las Virgenes Municipal Water District on water conservation efforts

Jeff Reinhardt, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD), discussed water conservation efforts made by LVMWD.

10. Member Comment

No member comment

11. Public Comment

No public comment

12. Announcement of next Governing Board Meeting

The next Governing Board meeting will be held on October 15th, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

The Governing Board meeting for the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation will follow promptly after this meeting at 12:00 pm.

13. Adjournment

Dennis Washburn moved to adjourn the Governing Board meeting. Seconded by Gold. The Governing Board meeting was adjourned at 12:11 pm.

Attendance:

Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Richard Bloom, SMBRC Chair, At-Large Member BWC (City of Santa Monica, Mayor)
Barry Brucker, (alternate for Micheal O'Leary) Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (Beverly Hills, Mayor)
Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles
Tom Ford, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Santa Monica Baykeeper
Deanna Gomez (alternate for Michael Mullin), Office of the Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Jim Kennedy (alternate for Bill Rosendahl), Councilmember, LA City Council District 11
Matthew Kilroy (alternate for Mike Gin), South Bay Cities (City Council of Redondo Beach)
Steve Maguin, LA County Sanitation District
Susan Nissman, Office of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, 3rd District, County of Los Angeles
Mark Pestrella (alternate for Gail Farber), LA County Department of Public Works
Marvin Sachse, Public Member (Business/Economic Interest), Brash Industries
John Sibert, Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)
Sarah Sikich (alternate for Mark Gold), Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Heal the Bay
Mary Small (alternate for Ann Notthoff), California State Coastal Conservancy
Fran Spivy-Weber (alternate for Linda Adams), California Environmental Protection Agency
Sara Wan, California Coastal Commission
Dennis Washburn, At-Large Member BWC (City of Calabasas, City Council Member)
Enrique Zaldivar, LA City Department of Public Works

Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Richard Ambrose, Technical Advisory Committee, Chair
Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Aron Miller (alternate for Fran Pavley), State Senator, 23rd District
Louise Rishoff, State Assembly member, 41st District (for Julia Brownley)
Rorie Skei, (Alternate for Joe Edmiston) Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Philip Topar, LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division Section Chief
Catherine Tyrrell, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, President

Commission Staff:

Sean Bergquist
Karina Johnston
Michelle Kearney
Grace Lee
Shelley Luce
Lia Protopapidakis
Jack Topel
Scott Valor
Guangyu Wang
Sarah Woodard

Other Attendees, including other Bay Watershed Council Members:

Barbara Cameron, City of Malibu
Bryant Chesney, NOAA-NMFS Southwest Division
Rosi Dagit, Resource Conservation District Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM)
Shana Epstein, City of Beverly Hills
Phillip Friess, LA County Sanitation District
Marcia Hanscom, Sierra Club & Ballona Institute
Dan Komma, US EPA
Harry Munns, Redondo Beach Harbor Community (Public)
Rich Nagel, West Basin Municipal Water District

Randal Orton, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Jeff Reinhardt, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Wilma Rosenberg, Del Rey Yacht Club (DYRC)
Chris Sellers, Department of Beaches and Harbors
Damian Skinner, City of Culver City
Charlotte Stevenson, Heal the Bay
Wing Tam, LA City Department of Public Works
Kaden Young, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (Culver City)