

SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
THE GOVERNING BOARD

June 17th, 2010
Del Rey Yacht Club

1. Welcome and Introductions

At 9:43 AM, Chair Richard Bloom called the meeting to order. Introductions followed.

2. Approval of the April 15th, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Bloom called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Minutes approved without objection.
(M: Tam, S: O'Leary)

3. Order of Agenda

No changes.

4. Reports from the Chair and Executive Committee

Bloom reported that Proposition 84 funds were reviewed and the process for approval was considered.

5. Report from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Lia Protopapadakis, SMBRC staff member, reported on behalf of Richard Ambrose regarding the last TAC meeting. Protopapadakis gave an update of a report completed on the status of offshore fisheries, compiled for SMBRC by Dan Pondella. Sections of data from this report were used for the State of the Bay Report 2010. The TAC discussed ways to improve and expand analysis of the report.

6. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

Executive Director Shelley Luce gave a brief report on the status of National Estuary Programs (NEP) affected by the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill. Santa Monica Bay is one of 28 NEPs, and six of our sister NEPs are located in the Gulf of Mexico. Currently, two of the six NEPs have been directly affected by the oil spill, and Luce has been collaborating with other NEPs on efforts to send resources and recommendations. Angus Alexander discussed effects of an oil spill on the Santa Monica Bay estuary and the inadequacy of LA County Fire Department's Oil Spill Contingency Plan. Bloom suggested that SMBRC staff host a symposium on the topic.

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

7. Presentation by Jonathan Bishop, Chief Deputy Director, State Water Resources Control Board

The state's proposed policies for once-through cooling of power plants and for the reductions of trash were presented to the Governing Board by Jonathan Bishop, the State Water Resources Control Board's Chief Deputy Director. Bishop presented on the recently proposed statewide once-through cooling policy and statewide trash initiative. Addressing the once-through cooling policy first, Bishop noted that the primary goals will be to reduce the flow of intake to the power facilities without reducing the disrupting critical electrical power generation for the state. In 2009, a state Science Advisory Team, a collective of 20 scientists, identified once-through cooling as the primary threat to marine life along the coast due to high intake of adult fish and larvae. Bishop noted that the policy proposes using the "Best Available Technology" and an "Adaptive Management Strategy" to achieve the intake reduction goals. He stated that the State Water Board would work with local stakeholders to reissue NPDES permits that conform to the new policy.

A statewide policy on trash reduction is also being considered, based on existing trash reduction policies and mandates. Bishop summarized the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's Trash TMDL (total maximum daily load) policy as well as the San Francisco region's municipal storm water permit policy. Both policies require the reduction of trash by certain percentages beginning in 2014, using best available technologies. The statewide policy would borrow from these existing programs, resulting in a zero trash policy at the source as well as a zero discharge requirement for pre-production plastic pellets by 2022. After CEQA scoping this summer, Bishop anticipates that the trash policy will be presented to the State Water Board in the summer of 2011.

8. Consideration of Adoption of Fiscal year 2011 Work Plan

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission is a National Estuary Program of the USEPA and receives its major operational funding through a grant from USEPA as specified in Section 320 of the Clean Water Act. Each year, a work plan is prepared outlining the issues the Commission will work on, the program objectives, tasks, funding sources, and resource allocations for the work to be performed during the federal fiscal year. It is then used by USEPA to track grant expenditures and progress toward achieving the Bay Restoration's mission to improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resource, and protect the Bay's benefits and values. Highlights of the 2011 Work Plan include continued oversight of Proposition 12, 50, and 84 grants, development and implementation of water quality regulations in the Santa Monica Bay watershed, and participation in a USEPA Climate Ready Estuaries Program.

Approval of the Strategic Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2011 was unanimous. (M: Washburn, S: Sibert)

9. Consideration of Approval of Proposition 84 Grant Award for Trancas Lagoon Acquisition and Restoration Project

The Governing Board approved a grant to restore a portion of Trancas Creek and Lagoon and provide a connection to other upland open space and beach areas. Up to \$1 million was awarded to the National Park Service and local restoration partners to purchase a seven-acre parcel just upstream of Pacific Coast Highway that contains portions of Trancas Creek and Lagoon. The grant will also support the initial phase of native plant restoration. Luce commented that restoring the remaining wetlands of Santa Monica Bay helps improve water quality, increase habitat and provide recreation and beauty for everyone who lives or visits here. It is one of the most important things the SMBRC can do to restore the Bay. The project site is familiar to those who travel Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, as it is adjacent to Howe's Trancas Market on the eastern side of the road. Sibert, who is a Malibu City Council member, noted that the private seller has been cooperative with and helpful to the city and the project proponents. The grant funds will be drawn from the Bay Restoration Commission's Proposition 84 allocation.

Approval for grant allocation was unanimous (M: Nissman, S: Sachse, Abst: Spivy-Weber)

10. Member Comment

No member comment.

11. Public Comment

Marcia Hanscom and Roy Van de Hoek made public comments regarding the Ballona wetlands restoration on behalf of the Ballona Institute, Sierra Club, and Audubon Society.

12. Announcement of next meeting date

The next Governing Board meeting will be held on August 19th, 2010 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.

14. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:49 am.

Attendance:

Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Paul Backstrom (alternate for Bill Rosendahl), Councilmember LA City Council District 11
Portia Cohen, At-Large Member BWC (City Council Member, City of Manhattan Beach)
Liz Crosson, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest, Santa Monica Baykeeper)
Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles
Mike Gin, South Bay Cities (City of Redondo Beach, Mayor)
Dean Kubani (alternate for Richard Bloom), President, Bay Watershed Council (City Council Member, City of Santa Monica)
Steve Maguin, LA County Sanitation District
Susan Nissman, (alternate for Zev Yaroslavsky) Office of Supervisor, 3rd District, County of Los Angeles
Michael O'Leary, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (Culver City)
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)
Fran Spivy-Weber (alternate for Linda Adams), California Environmental Protection Agency
Wing Tam (alternate for Enrique Zaldivar), LA City Department of Public Works
Dennis Washburn, At-Large Member BWC (City of Calabasas, City Council Member)

Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Angus Alexander, LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division
Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Callie Hurd (alternate for Fran Pavley), State Senator, 28th District
Kathline King (alternate for Santos Kreimann), LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors
Ephraim Leon-Guerrero, US EPA Region IX
Louise Rishoff (alternate for Julia Brownley), State Assemblymember, 41st District
Rorie Skei (alternate for Joe Edmiston), Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Catherine Tyrrell, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, President

Commission Staff:

Tom Ford
Joel Hanson
Diana Hulbert
Michelle Kearney
Shelley Luce
Lia Protopapadakis
Jack Topel
Scott Valor
Guangyu Wang
Sarah Woodard

Other Attendees, including other Bay Watershed Council Members:

Melanie Beck, National Park Service
Jonathon Bishop, State Water Resources Control Board
Barbara Cameron, Malibu Creek Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)
Rosi Dagt, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains
Peter Glick, Public
Marcia Hanscom, Sierra Club & Ballona Institute
Sona Kalapura, At-Large Member (City of Manhattan Beach)
Robert Van de Hoek, Ballona Institute
Kaden Young, City of Culver City