

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

March 27, 2011, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Office of State Senator Fran Pavley, Santa Monica, CA

Attendance:

Richard Bloom

Liz Crosson

Fran Diamond

Stephanie Molen (for Senator Pavley)

Mark Pestrella

Sarah Sikich (for Mark Gold)

Staff Present:

Shelley Luce, Scott Valor, Guangyu Wang

Absent:

Mike Gin

Guests:

Dean Kubani

Rebekah Rodriguez-Lynn

(Sen .Pavley's District

Director)

John Davis

Douglas Fay

Kathy Knight

Patricia McPherson

Holly Wright

Note: Agenda Items are listed in the order in which they were taken up.

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 pm. Richard Bloom chaired the meeting.

Agenda Items 1 & 2. Approval of January 20, 2011 Meeting Minutes & Order of Agenda

Minutes approved, without objection (M: Pestrella , S: Molen). Abst: Crosson. Agenda order not changed.

John Davis stated that minutes for meetings should be more specific and less of a general summary.

Agenda Item 3. Public Comment

Douglas Fay requested that Hyperion update be agendized in the future. He also noted that issues such as artificial reefs should also be considered. He asked for information on restoration and enhancement of the bay, also issues relating to microcystin in Northern California. He asked to stop granting money for projects until our bay plan includes restoration in the bay, not just on land.

Luce noted that the Bay Restoration Plan was subject to numerous public workshops and extended public participation.

John Davis commented on the website and the notices on it. He noted that the public commission's website is "owned" by a private individual. He noted that the domain should be a "dot gov" and otherwise should not be trusted until such changes are made.

Agenda Item 4. Reports from Executive Director & Staff

DC Trip Update. Luce noted that she and Jack Topel went to DC to meet with the other NEPs and our legislators. She believes we have developed a consistent approach to our message and needs here in the Santa Monica Bay. She showed some of the sample materials that were distributed. She noted that the City of LA's rain barrel program was recently recognized as a top program. Luce also noted that the EPA is looking at outcomes, including de-listing of impaired water bodies, as a requirement

for NEPs. This may prove more difficult to achieve for some NEPs than others. Pestrella noted that he will be in DC meeting with Jim Hanlon among others. Luce emphasized that we are not regulatory and that we frequently emphasize that to funders. We also significantly leverage our federal funding.

Richard Bloom was also able to attend and was able to secure a meeting for us with Rep. Waxman. Bloom said that interaction with EPA was helpful and informative.

IRWMP Update. Luce noted that we are updating the plan, including the habitat and open space aspects. The latest planning grant funding will focus on this more. Pestrella noted that Luce/SMBRC was re-elected to one of the Leadership Committee positions representing the Open Space Water Management Area position.

Coastal Economy Representative. Luce noted that we are working on recruiting a potential new member for this position and have a series of names. We will contact some of them to determine who might be interested and can materially add to what we do. Luce noted that this position would ideally be someone who is coastal-dependent and could range from a dive shop owner to a hotel operator to a fishing association member. It will depend on levels of interest. We will be contacting chambers of commerce as well.

Public Comment: John Davis suggested a commercial fishing or diving position.

LA River-Woodman Ave Project. Melanie Winter met with Luce to discuss potential funding for a project in Panorama City on Woodman Avenue. Dispersed, onsite LID on a 60-acre site of homes would reduce the amount of runoff flow. The project would include rain barrels and other LID projects on private property, including neighbors helping to work on each other's homes and a local school. This is within our "study area," which is broader than our geographic area because they are areas that are served by the sewage treatment plants that discharge to the bay. Luce believes this is a model that would be great anywhere. Bloom asked about expenditure constraints in the study area vs. the watershed. Luce noted that either Prop 84 or 12 funding might be possible, but that depends on the state budget. Pestrella asked if cities within the watershed are doing something similar and Luce noted that we are not aware of a similar project at this time.

Public Comment: John Davis suggests that we concentrate on the watershed and not outside the area because of the immediate problems/issues. Patricia McPherson also echoed the concern and noted that tax payers have voted for and paid for inside watershed projects. Holly Wright from the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust also commented that rain barrel and other education projects should remain in the watershed region. She commented on the need for joint social learning structures and taking part in a community endeavor.

Public Records Act Request. Some months ago we received a PRA request to which we responded. We have now received a second PRA requests that is in many ways duplicative. We are working with the Coastal Conservancy, among others, to respond to this request as well.

Public Comment: Patricia McPherson wants agendaized an item that goes over the history of the Commission, the SMBRF, etc. for the next Governing Board meeting.

Financial Strategic Plan. There will be an update after our next working group meeting.

Agenda Item 5. Establish Governing Board Agenda for April

Update on SMBRC Role in IRWMP Process. Luce says we mentioned this already. She noted that if there was more to report, we should expand it to a longer discussion. Pestrella noted that LA County is involved in three IRWMPs and that they are looking for input from various public bodies, including the SMBRC and/or the Governing Board members. Agendized without objection.

Consideration of Approval of Public Comment Policy. Valor made a brief introduction and invited comments. Agendized without objection.

Possible Public Presentation. Staff will consider a possible presentation and let the EC know ahead of time.

Public Comment: John Davis suggests items that should be on the agenda, including Hydrology and GIS process regarding the wetlands, discussion of US Public Law 780, and should consider relocating to a public space rather than the yacht club. John Davis is still confused about the legislative origins of the project and requests a full discussion of 1988 EPA approvals. He would also like to see the website agendized so that the Commission can determine whether they would like to see a “dot gov” website or a “private” website. Patricia McPherson would like the gas issues in the report by Phil Williams and Associates discussed due to inaccuracies. She also doesn’t see the notification regarding the Bay Watershed Council. She would like staff to outreach to them, rather than they make comments to us. Holly Wright commented that the hard work of volunteers allows us to do what we do.

Agenda Item 6. Member Comments and Announcements Regarding Matters not on the Agenda

Pestrella wanted to compliment the staff on *Urban Coast*. He said that County Board of Supervisors is commenting on it after individual Supervisor review. Luce noted that the new issue is coming out in Fall. Pestrella also asked about additional SMBRC info for his DC meetings.

Kubani noted that the City of Santa Monica’s plastic bag ban went into effect on March 11. He noted no timely CEQA legal challenges were filed and enforcement will begin September 1. Calif Grocers Association and local businesses have helped out and there hasn’t been the push back that they expected.

Kubani also noted that the city is working on a plan for 100% self sufficiency by 2020. The city is developing a plan this spring with new components that include a sustainable yield analysis of groundwater resources, among other things. Bloom noted that one of the keys is to bring on line its own water treatment facility.

Public Comment: Patricia McPherson noted that MTBE is being brought to the surface and she has concerns about hydrology issues that have not been studied. Kubani noted that the contaminated well field is being pumped, treated, then sent to another location. McPherson noted similarities to the Playa oil field issues. She asks what is going on and what is being done in this basin. She states that this goes back to the lack of hydrology studies. John Davis states that we need to be sure that aquifers need to be protected and preserved. He noted several items to support this.

Agenda Item 7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m. without objection.