

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

July 18, 2011, 3:30 to 5:30 pm

Conference Room 5, Public Safety Facility, Santa Monica, CA

Attendance:

Richard Bloom

Liz Crosson

Fran Diamond

Mike Gin

Mark Pestrella

Rebekah Rodriguez-Lynn (for Senator Pavley)

Sarah Sikich (for Mark Gold)

Absent:

None

Guests:

Barbara Cameron

Staff Present:

Shelley Luce, Jack Topel, Scott Valor,

Guangyu Wang

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:38 pm. Richard Bloom chaired the meeting.

*Agenda Items 1 & 2. **Approval of May 19, 2011 Meeting Minutes & Order of Agenda*** Minutes approved without objection (M: Diamond, S: Gin). Agenda order not changed.

*Agenda Item 3. **Public Comment***

None

*Agenda Item 4. **Reports from Executive Director & Staff***

New Website. The new “dot gov” website is at www.smbrc.ca.gov and will have Commission-only information.

New US EPA Grant. Luce noted that we received \$350,000 for wetlands restoration and study. The program will start on or about January 1.

Ballona Restoration Update. Luce stated that we were able to get a meeting with Col. Toy of the US ACE to show him the site. She noted that a productive conversation about how to proceed from here. She also stated that work is ongoing.

*Agenda Item 5. **Discussion re MOU Revisions***

Luce noted that the original MOU was developed in 2002 and signed in 2003, per the original Public Resources Code. She noted that some parts of the MOU that are obsolete. It doesn't always describe how we are operating.

Current structure creates confusion and is hard to understand. Need to make clear the reasons for improvement.

Gin: Consider making WAC more like the TAC—tighter. Establish certain criteria.

Luce—what type of advice do you want?

Pestrella—consider specialized/localized type of advice.

Rodriguez-Lynne asked about what staff does to educate citizen advisory council members prior to upcoming meetings.

Crosson—Raised concerns regarding dilution of BWC effectiveness. Wants assurances that BWC will remain an effective body. Questions need for direct West Basin appointment as ex officio.

Bloom—Asked whether combining the advisory council and Governing Board at times for informational purposes.

Focus on benefits and rationale in staff report to the GB.

Bloom—GB elects from pool of BWC. If no qualified body from advisory council, allow GB to seek position from outside the BWC.

Fran—note that state board legal questions need for WAC to vote. Also no other NEPs

Letter from board should show that the organization supports the mission of the SMBRC.

Pestrella—setting up a framework for consideration of changes, to help the GB set up the discussion. Need a good preamble—why do we need to do this in the first place. Acknowledge issues and prepare a solution.

Bloom—bullet point areas of discussion.

Luce—don't wordsmith a document, but present certain items to the GB to allow for the drafting of a document to be decided on possibly at the October GB meeting.

Agenda Item 6. Establish Governing Board Agenda for August

Proposition 84 Grants. Luce introduced this item, noting that the TAC reviewed the applications submitted pursuant to the RFP from earlier this year. Staff recommended four projects from the TAC recommendations. Luce walked the EC through the four proposals. On the Old Oak Road project, the EC asked for additional monitoring as part of the project.

Artificial Reefs Presentation by NOAA.

Kelp Restoration Monitoring Presentation (by Tom Ford)

MOU Discussion. See agenda item above for information.

The EC agreed to place these items on the August Governing Board agenda, without objection.

Agenda Item 7. Member Comments and Announcements Regarding Matters not on the Agenda None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m. without objection.