

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
September 20, 2012, 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Conference Room 5, Public Safety Facility, Santa Monica, CA

Attendance:

Liz Crosson
Mike Gin (via telephone)
Dean Kubani (for Richard Bloom)
Dana Murray (for Sarah Sikich)
Mark Pestrella
Rebekah Rodriguez-Lynn (for Senator
Pavley)

Absent:
Fran Diamond, Richard
Bloom

Guests: None

Staff Present:

Shelley Luce, Guangyu Wang, Lia
Protopapadakis

Note: Agenda Items are listed in the order in which they were taken up. Called to order at 2:10 p.m.

Mark Pestrella chaired the meeting

Agenda Item 1. Public Comment

None

Agenda Item 2. Informational Items

- a. Consideration of Approval of July 31, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Approved without objection (M: Crosson, S: Kubani)

- b. Order of Agenda

Unchanged

- c. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

Shelley Luce stated that we are hiring a communication person. She noted that the Commission never had a dedicated communication person. Other staff have been doing it but it was difficult. We have received over 100 applications and interviewed five. One stood out and is invited back for the second interview. Laurie Newman helped to review applications and participated in interview.

Luce noted that staff is involved in the Committee set up by the County to work on the County Water Quality Funding Initiative. Mike noted that City of Redondo Beach passed resolution to support the measure and asked if our role is just outreach. Luce responded yes but still not sure how to play this role. Foundation is flexible but not advocacy, just education.

Luce stated that the Commission is scheduled to do a BRP update in 2013. The last update was a major overhaul and was daunting. This time it will be just an update to see which

milestones we have accomplished. She noted that the timing is good because next year is the 25 year anniversary of the Santa Monica Bay NEP. Staff is planning a celebration/fundraising event which may be associated with completion of the Malibu Lagoon restoration. Staff needs advice and nomination of honorees possibly in the category of restoration scientist/activist, policy person, and water quality or public education. The event may be held in March 2013 if it is not too soon. The Foundation will set up a subcommittee to plan the event at its next Board meeting. The Commission also plans to do recognition of each Governing Board member for their accomplishment at the December GB meeting.

Luce noted that we need to elect a new Governing Board Chair. Richard Bloom can no longer serve as Chair after he vacates the Santa Monica City Council seat this December. Staff would like to get ideas from the EC for potential candidates. She noted that any member of the Governing Board (voting or non-voting) is eligible. Kubani suggested it may be better to have an elected official serving in the Chair position.

Luce noted that there is a request for her to be the next Chair of the ANEP partly because of the conference we hosted last year. Kubani raised concern about the time commitment. Gin noted that this will be great for bringing a higher profile to the Commission. Luce noted that this provides more opportunity to interact with Congressional representatives and focuses more of their attention on the west coast.

Luce noted that the Foundation has received membership dues from six Governing Board members. The only no's were received from City of Malibu and El Segundo. Dana suggested that Malibu may change its position after Lagoon Restoration is completed. Luce noted that the next step is for the Foundation to approach corporations.

Agenda Item 3. Executive Committee Business

a. Discussion Regarding Spiny Lobster Fisheries Management Plan for the Santa Monica Bay

Luce introduced this item, stating that staff would like the EC to provide direction regarding what positions the Commission should take.

Lia Protopapadakis provided the background. She noted that Commission staff is involved in development of the Fishery Management Plan for Spiny lobster. Commercial fishermen raised the issue and propose to lift the commercial fishing ban in the FMP. Protopapadakis also noted that there is no historical records regarding the intent of the initial ban and very little has been done on the impacts of the initial closure. She further noted that we have BRP goals for protecting fishery resources and helping F&G manage fish stocks. Luce noted that because fishermen are asking to open either Santa Monica Bay or the coast of Catalina Island. One concern is that if we are successful in keeping the closure in the Bay, then Catalina will end up opening. Protopapadakis noted that the TAC has not discussed this issue in detail, but its immediate reaction is not to open any area. She also offered to bring to the TAC any questions that the EC would have.

Mark Pestrella suggested that with our stated mission we should argue for protection. Mike Gin noted that even though he has not heard people talking about this issue, there are many recreational fishermen in Redondo Beach. Pestrella suggested that staff draft a resolution saying that the Commission oppose opening of both the Santa Monica Bay and the Catalina coast in order to protect sportfishing as well as for ecosystem health. This position is

consistent with the Bay Restoration Plan. It is necessary to protect both Santa Monica Bay and Catalina due to the ecological connection between the two. Also, lifting of the ban will negate the rationale of the MPA compromise.

Protopapadakis asked whether the resolution should include a clause that allows reconsideration in the future. All EC members agreed that we should not touch the issue of opening other areas.

Luce noted that staff will draft the resolution but won't be able to bring it back to another Committee meeting before the Governing Board meeting. But the draft resolution will be circulated for comment by e-mail.

b. Establish Governing Board Agenda for October

Discussion Regarding Consideration of Approval of TAC-Recommended Projects

Luce stated that staff has been working on a couple of Prop. 84 project concepts. One of the projects is the Oxford Lagoon restoration. We did not agree to the plan several years ago because it was more about dredging. The County brought back a beautiful plan with habitat enhancement and public access. Kubani noted that the County asked for \$5 million and questioned if the County has enough funding if the Commission only provide \$2 million. Pestrella answered that enough funding will be obtained from different sources. Luce noted that the TAC discussed and supported the project. The TAC also noted that the reprogramming of the tidegate is experimental and requested the County commit to comprehensive monitoring and adapted management after completion of the restoration.

The item was placed on the agenda without objection. (M: Kubani, S: Crosson)

Guangyu Wang provided background on the Abalone Cove restoration project. He noted that this is similar to two other bluff restoration projects funded by the Commission in the past. Both were completed successfully by the same applicant, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy.

The item was placed on the agenda without objection. (M: Crosson, S: Murray)

Pestrella suggested that when this project is brought to the GB we should present how the previous projects on PV were done.

Discussion Regarding Potential Presentation

Luce noted that Angus Alexander requested to do presentation on Tsunami preparedness. This can be done in combination with a presentation by Heal the Bay on debris from Japan after the 2011 Tsunami. The EC agreed with these suggestions.

c. Member Comments and Announcements Regarding Matters not on the Agenda

Murray requested an update on Malibu Lagoon. Luce noted that it is well on track. We are pushing hard to meet the Oct. 15 timeline to complete everything in the water. There has been no water quality problem. We will start replanting next week with new native plants. December 30 is the projected completion day for the rest of the project.

Pestrella noted that the County is working diligently on the County-wide funding measure. The County may have specific constituencies (coastal cities) that need Commission help. Pestrella is also preparing testimony at the MS4 permit hearing. Pestrella also noted that the County is working on restoring Tujunga Wash and would like to invite people to visit when it is done. Sun Valley's Strathern Wetlands will be done in a year and half.

Crosson noted the CWA 40th anniversary on Oct. 9 at the Japanese Historical Museum.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m. without objection.