

**SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD**

**December 20th, 2012**

**Del Rey Yacht Club**

**Welcome and Introductions**

At 9:40 a.m. Fran Diamond called the meeting to order. Introductions followed.

**1. Public Comment**

Kathy Knight asked that Ballona wetlands not be destroyed. Knight said the site is a registered sacred site federally and statewide. Knight asked that the Tongva culture be respected, that the Tongva natives have been living in the area for ten thousand years respecting nature. Knight spoke about previous disrespectful acts against natives, like digging up ancestors in the hundreds. Knight also spoke about their efforts to save the Ballona land for 20 years. Knight recommended cleaning up the water and preventing pollution at their source, and using public service announcements and create public awareness to not put toxics into the creek.

**2. Informational Items**

**a) Order of Agenda**

The order of the agenda was not changed.

**b) Reports from the Chair and Executive Committee (EC)**

Liz Crosson gave a summary of the previous EC meeting. Crosson said the EC discussed agenda items brought before GB meeting today. Crosson reported EC discussions about recreational/commercial fisheries, about the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) MOU, and about the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SMBRC in 2013 and what to do for the celebration. Crosson also reported an update given to the EC regarding the LA County's water quality initiative.

**c) Report from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Richard Ambrose reported on the continued work of the Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRAC) and staff on a White Paper that lays out the values of tide wetlands. Ambrose also mentioned the TAC discussion on recreational and commercial fisheries in the Santa Monica Bay and advice from the TAC. Ambrose also said the TAC is working on a State of the Bay report card.

**d) Reports from the Executive Director (ED) and Staff**

Luce congratulated the Commission members and staff for all the achievements in 2012. Luce said an update of the Malibu Lagoon project will be provided soon and said the project is going well. A grand opening will occur early in 2013. Luce also spoke about the beginning of the CEQA process for Ballona. Luce credited the Coastal Conservancy for spearheading the science and research, surveys, and planning, while taking into account the ecological needs of the site, looking into climate change adaptation and restoration design needs. Luce also discussed the Montrose Settlement Restoration Program portion of the kelp restoration project. Luce mentioned the involvement of the commercial urchin community in the project, ensuring that local fisheries are also participating in the restoration process.

Luce reported about our participation in the Sediment Management Plan Advisory Group for the LA County Flood Control District. Luce underscored the importance of managing sediments, she mentioned the debris basins and dams prevent mudslides from carrying away neighborhoods and also prevent floods, but at the same time prevent the natural movement of eroded materials, sand, pebbles, boulders and cobbles, from the mountains through the rivers and into the ocean and beaches. Luce also reported about our 6<sup>th</sup> year of Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) planning and the adoption of the first complete open space portion of the plan, for the purpose of habitat and recreation.

Luce also introduced the Commission the new communications specialist Julie Du Brow, and spoke about Du Brow's wealth of experience in the non-profit and private sectors.

Luce also mentioned a surprise audit from the CA Department of Finance to review several grants that started since seven years ago, and that not a single problem was found. The grants audited were mostly for work on Ballona and various studies. Luce said the audit report was on the Department of Finance website and that we could provide a link to it. Dennis.

### **3. Governing Board Business Items**

#### **a) Consideration of Approval of October 18, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were approved without changes. (M: Zaldivar , S: Washburn )

#### **b) Election of Executive Committee (comprised of one Chair and six Vice-Chairs)**

Scott Valor introduced the election of the 2013 SMBRC Executive Committee -- Chair and six Vice-Chairs. Valor said there was only one nomination for Chair, Micheál O'Leary, and six nominations for Vice-Chairs: Liz Crosson, Fran Diamond, Mike Gin, Senator Ted Lieu, Sarah Sikich, and Ron Smith. Valor explained the voting rules. The GB approved Micheál O'Leary as the new SMBRC Chair and Liz Crosson, Fran Diamond, Mike Gin, Senator Ted Lieu, Sarah Sikich, and Ron Smith as Vice-Chairs. (M: Washburn, S: Bochco)

Executive Committee for 2013:

Micheál O'Leary, West Side Cities Council of Government

Liz Crosson, Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Fran Diamond, Los Angeles County Regional Water Quality Control Board

Mike Gin, Mayor, City of Redondo Beach

State Senator Ted Lieu

Sarah Sikich, Heal The Bay

Ron Smith, Director, West Basin MWD

Micheál O'Leary assumed the Chair position and directed the GB meeting at this point.

#### **c) Presentation of Partnership Award from the California Association of Conservation Districts (by Melina Watts, Santa Monica Mountains Watersheds Coordinator, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains)**

Melina Watts presented a short history of the California Association of Conservation Districts which is made up of over a hundred districts. Watts said the districts work together on environmental issues and each year they honor people and projects. Watts said the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains nominated a group of partners working on the Malibu Lagoon Restoration Project and the Executive Director of the CA Association of Conservation Districts, Karen Buhr, and her Board of Directors honored and awarded the Partnerships Awards to these partners. Melina Watts, Karen Buhr, and Dennis Washburn presented the Partnership Awards from the California Association of Conservation Districts to Dr. Shelley Luce from the SMBRC, to Mark Abramson from the SMBRF, and State Parks' Suzanne Goode.

#### **d) Consideration of Approval of Integrated Regional Water Management Plan MOU**

Luce introduced the MOU which was originally adopted by the GB in 2008. The MOU lays out the organizational and governance structure of the IRWMP leadership committee. Luce said the MOU was updated and is authorized through 2017, along with other clean up changes like changes.

Fran Spivy-Weber stated that the LA unit is among the best state IRWMPs. Spivy-Weber spoke about integration at the planning and participation levels as characteristics of the most developed units. Nissman said public lands and open spaces are critical component in terms of integrating into recharge, water supply, and across the board.

The MOU was approved unanimously. (M: Spivy-Weber, S: Washburn )

#### **e) Consideration of Approval of the 2013 Governing Board Meeting Calendar**

Valor explained the reasons to formalize the GB meeting calendar and presented the proposed dates for 2013.

The 2013 meeting calendar was approved unanimously. (M: Washburn , S: Gin )

#### **f) Consideration of Appointment of the Marina Del Rey Anglers to the Watershed Advisory Committee**

Valor briefly explained the appointment rules to becoming a member of the WAC membership and that the MDRA had met these qualifications. Lia Protopapadakis explained the role of the MDRA in fishing activities and environmental conservation.

This appointment of the MDRA to the WAC was approved unanimously (M: Diamond, S: Nissman )

#### **g) Presentation on Commercial and Recreational Fisheries in the Santa Monica Bay**

Lia Protopapadakis provided a short history about the recent interest in allowing commercial lobster fishing inside Santa Monica Bay and off the leeward side of Catalina and the consideration of a resolution that would support making no changes

to the existing regulations. Protopapadakis reminded us that no action was taken last October, but that the GB asked staff to prepare a presentation on local fishing for this meeting. Protopapadakis presented data and information, including graphics. A copy of this presentation can be found on the SMBRC website at [www.smbrc.ca.gov](http://www.smbrc.ca.gov).

#### **h) Member Comment**

Dennis Washburn proposed a future agenda item regarding the importance to understanding what the state of the State is with the CA Bio-Diversity Council to understand what is happening at various government levels and how it affects us.

Sibert spoke about a fin whale that landed in Malibu and expressed concern about issues of trying to figure out who is responsible for doing what with issues like this.

Enrique Zaldivar commented on a Prop O project in Mar Vista that was on TV channel 2. Zaldivar clarified that is a water quality TMDL for bacteria project that will be up and running in January, that is not a mal-functioning project as portrayed in the media story.

Sarah Sikich announced the start of a statewide network of MPAs in CA -- with the exception of San Francisco Bay which is developing its process -- which is an important milestone. Sikich also announced awareness of a day without a bag.

O'Leary said Culver City was at the forefront with its City Council voting unanimously to ban single use plastic bags in the city. Sibert said that after passing their plastic bag ban, a few years later Ralphs reported saving money and have been now supporters of the ban.

Nissman announced that property owners should have received a notice about the Clean Water Clean Beaches initiative with the assessment proposed. Nissman said the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on January 15, 2013, and that this will be the start of a long legal process.

John Kelly reminded all that comments to the Broad Beach Geological Hazard Abatement District are due to the State on Dec 21, 2012, which is the extended deadline after complaints.

O'Leary congratulated our former chair Richard Bloom for his successful run for State Assembly.

#### **Announcement of Next Meeting Date**

The next Governing Board meeting will be held on February 21, 2013 at 9:30 am.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

#### **Attendance**

##### ***Voting Members of the Governing Board:***

Dayna Bochco, California Coastal Commission  
Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Liz Crosson, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Los Angeles Waterkeeper  
Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles  
Mike Gin, South Bay Cities (City of Redondo Beach, Mayor)  
Suzanne Goode, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
John Kelly, LA County Dept of Beaches and Harbors  
Michael Mullin (alternate), Office of the Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
Dan Murphy, LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division  
Susan Nissman (alternate to Zev Yaroslavsky), LA County Board of Supervisors (Supervisor, 3rd District)  
Micheál O'Leary, SMBRC Chair, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (Culver City)  
Sarah Sikich, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Heal The Bay  
John Sibert, Malibu-Las Virgenes COG (City of Malibu)  
Rorie Skei (alternate), Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Ron Smith, At-Large Member, West Basin MWD  
Fran Spivy-Weber (alternate), California Environmental Protection Agency  
Dennis Washburn, At-Large Member (RCD, Santa Monica Mountains Region)  
Enrique Zaldivar, Los Angeles City Dept. of Public Works

***Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:***

Rich Ambrose, Technical Advisory Committee, Chair  
Laurie Newman, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, President  
Jennifer Zivkovic (alternate), State Senator Ted Lieu, 28th Senate District

***Commission Staff:***

Shelley Luce  
Julie Du Brow  
Tom Ford  
Lia Protopapadakis  
Scott Valor  
Marcelo Villagomez  
Guangyu Wang

***Other Attendees, including other Watershed Advisory Council Members:***

Michael Blum, Malibu Surfing Association  
Edward Caldwell, West Basin MWD  
Cesar Espinosa, LA County Beaches and Harbors  
Joe Gully, LACSA  
Nancy Hastings, Surfrider Foundation  
Kathy Knight, Sierra Club Airport Marina Group  
Barry Nugent, LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division  
Ellen Perkins, South Bay Cities COG/Palos Verdes Estates City Councilmember  
Damian Skinner, City of Culver City  
Wing Tam, LA City Department of Public Works  
Melina Watts, RCDSMM