

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
September 18, 2014, 1:00 to 3:00 pm
West Basin's Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility
1935 S. Hughes Way
El Segundo, CA 90245

Attendance:

Fran Diamond
Gloria Gray
Susan Nissman
Sarah Sikich
Damian Skinner

Absent:
Liz Crosson
Timothy Lippman

Staff Present:

Tom Ford, Scott Valor (via
teleconference), Guangyu Wang

Guests: John Davis, Rich
Nagel, EJ Caldwell, Kathy
Knight

Note: Agenda Items are listed in the order in which they were taken up. Called to order at 1:19 p.m.

Fran Diamond chaired the meeting

Agenda Item 1. Public Comment

Members of the public (Kathy Knight & John Davis) presented to the Executive Committee.

Agenda Item 2. Informational Items

- a. Consideration of Approval of May 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Approved without objection (M: Nissman, S: Diamond)

- b. Order of Agenda

Unchanged.

- c. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

Tom Ford gave his first presentation to the Executive Committee in his role as Executive Director. Ford reported on the successful review of the NEP by the US EPA. He noted significant leveraging of local resources to help meet our goals. Ford gave statistics regarding local habitat protection, particularly in this densely populated watershed, both on land and in the water (kelp/rocky reef habitat).

Ford reported on the abalone recovery and management plan, including genetic research, and re-introduction to the coastal waters.

The Marine Protected Areas program continues to progress well, with ongoing monitoring, Ford said.

Ford noted that the NEP is contributing to efforts to understand sediment transport data, specifically working around the Point Dume area now. Staff is collecting sediment samples, among other tasks.

Ford said that we are coming to the end of a grant to understand and quantify the health of local wetlands. A final report should come by the end of the year.

The NEP continues to contribute to the monitoring of the Malibu Lagoon Restoration, Ford said. We will continue to participate for up to five years.

Ford said that the NEP has been working with the City of Torrance on storm water detention basins, using open space as a component.

Ford stated that the NEP received a report from the City of Santa Monica regarding pervious LID infrastructure. Water infiltration is being done to avoid the surface water from reaching the ocean with pollutants. Gloria Gray suggested that the Governing Board be updated on the various new technologies regarding water infiltration.

Ford congratulated Supervisor Yaroslavsky on the preservation of 88 square miles of the Santa Monica Mountains. Susan Nissman briefly described the partnership and efforts.

Ford noted that Ballona Wetlands Restoration information can be found on a specific website, including a variety of alternatives that are being included in the EIR/EIS. He suggests walking through the website with the Governing Board at the October meeting. Ford noted that he and NEP staff have also been meeting with local elected officials regarding the ongoing project. He noted that The Bay Foundation staff has done extensive work on current conditions at the site.

Ford said that the JPA will be meeting on October 1.

Agenda Item 3. Executive Committee Business

- a. Establish Governing Board Agenda for October

Delegation of Authority Resolution

Ford noted that the proposed resolution puts long-standing practices into writing. The resolution is based on models used by the state and regional water boards. Executive Committee members noted that this is consistent with activity by other commissions and state bodies. EC members asked for clarification on resolve items #4 and 5, seeking 30 days of notification.

Kathy Knight commented briefly on this issue and asked for further information.

John Davis commented on the relaying of legal advice by staff from legal counsel, among other things.

Staff Presentations on Ongoing Projects

Tom Ford noted that there will be various updates by staff, including a presentation on the ongoing Ballona Wetlands restoration.

The agenda items above were approved for the October Governing Board agenda without objection. (M: Nissman, S: Sikich)

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

EC members asked about a letter to Rep. Waxman from US EPA. Ford circulated the letter and gave a brief explanation of EPA's response. Nissman asked Ford to include a report of this during his Executive Director report at the Governing Board meeting. Board members want this to be listed as a separate agenda item for discussion, but not for action.

Director Gray introduced herself as West Basin's new representative and offered some suggestions regarding orientation, supporting materials, etc. Staff agreed to work with her to provide background information on the NEP.

Sarah Sikich mentioned Coastal Cleanup Day, which is Saturday. She also summarized the level of public engagement/discussion regarding the south bay shark incident and fishing. Susan Nissman noted that HTB has been working on educational programs for subsistence fishers for over a decade.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m. without objection.