

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

June 19, 2014

Del Rey Yacht Club

Welcome and Introductions

At 9:37 a.m. Micheal O'Leary called the meeting to order. Introductions followed.

- **Public Comment**

Walter Lamb spoke about a request for a work group, which he said was rejected. Lamb said there was no progress in regards to addressing Ballona concerns and said the discussion would be taken outside the SMBRC. Donna Murray said the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust need to be heard about what is happening at the wetlands.

Informational Items

- **Order of Agenda**

The order of agenda was not changed.

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

Fran Diamond provided the report on the Executive Committee. Diamond said Guangyu Wang reported on grants received and the site visit of the US EPA. Diamond said the committee worked on the agenda items for today, and that staff briefed the committee on the hiring process of the Executive Director.

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

Richard Ambrose reported on the TAC. Ambrose said the TAC is working on the State of the Bay report and that members are writing section drafts. Ambrose mentioned that the main task on the report is the report card on the status of each habitat. As far as process, Ambrose said the TAC is convening a group of experts for feedback on the best indicators to use for habitats. Ambrose concluded that workshops are in the planning in the next few months.

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

Wang provided the ED report. Wang stated that the transition to a new ED has been swift and smooth, with no disruption in the daily activities. Wang also reported on the site visit of the US EPA to conduct a program evaluation of the National Estuary Program (NEP). Wang said the evaluation is extensive and includes review of all accomplishments in the last five years. The evaluation included site visits of the four EPA staff (from EPA headquarters, EPA Region 9, and a director from another NEP). Wang reported that the EPA staff were very impressed by the accomplishments, and said staff took them to see various projects including Malibu Lagoon, Ballona Wetlands, LID projects like the Westside Park and Culver City Rain Garden, and a boat ride to see the kelp restoration. Wang also thanked all members who attended the reception for the EPA staff. Wang also reported on grants. Two new grants were awarded, one to install a pumpout station and an absorbant pad change program and one for outreach on energy efficiency and water conservation. Wang also reported on a collaborative grant for climate change adaptation work that was approved and awarded by the Coastal Conservancy to partners, which include the SMBRC, cities (Malibu, Santa Monica), Health the Bay, and Beaches and Harbors. Wang spoke about the grant's goals that include coastal monitoring and to provide information to coastal cities in terms of sea level rise and projected storm surge.

Governing Board Business Items:

- **Consideration of Approval of the April 24, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were approved with a correction on the presentation on IRWMP. (M:Nissman, S: Caspary)

- **Consideration of Ratification of SMBRC Executive Director**

Public Comment

Lamb congratulated Ford on his election as ED. Lamb also raised questions about the relationship of the Bay Foundation and the SMBRC.

Member discussion

Diamond spoke about the hiring process for a new ED, and said the hiring committee had a broad but targeted process with 20 applicants narrowed down to four to interview, with the last 2 invited to re-interview, and selected Ford as the best candidate. Diamond presented Tom Ford to the SMBRC members to ratify as ED of the SMBRC. Barbara Cameron asked clarification of who the employer is and what the negotiated salary is. Crosson said as part of the end of year reporting to the IRS, the ED salary is reported on Form 990. Frances McChesney added that the US EPA funds the ED and Foundation to implement the SMBRC NEP Bay Restoration Plan. McChesney added that by MOU the Foundation provides the staff to the Commission to implement the plan. Staff answered other questions by Governing Board members about the hiring process and structure.

This item was approved unanimously. (M: Smith , S: Caspary)

- **Election of SMBRC Governing Board Member to the SMBRA Governing Board**

Scott Valor introduced this agenda item. Valor said the vacancy of the SMBRA is due to the departure of Richard Bloom from the SMBRC, leaving the vacancy. Valor said only one nomination was received, for West Basin MWD, as represented by Ron Smith.

This item was approved unanimously. (M: Crosson, S: Cameron)

- **Consideration of Adoption of 2014 Greater Los Angeles County IRWM Plan**

Wang introduced the resolution of the LA County IRWM. Wang reminded the Governing Board that the SMBRC is a member of the leadership committee, representing open space, and as such it is required to adopt it.

This item was approved unanimously. (M: Sikich, S: Diamond)

- **Consideration of Adoption of Fiscal Year 2015 Work Plan**

Wang said the board is required to adopt the Work Plan as a national NEP to receive US EPA funding. Wang mentioned that funding has increased after reductions in the last couple of years due to Washington's federal budget gridlock, although not to former levels. Wang also mentioned that WAC input was considered and incorporated into the Work Plan.

Public Comment

Dennis Washburn spoke adding language to item 2.2 to support studies that may be effective against challenges faced.

Member discussion

Clark Stevens, Ford, and Susan Nissman discussed various methods and programs to deal with crayfish eradication and invasives, such as trapping, use of volunteers, funding, etc. Timothy Lippman asked if item 3.1, Collaboration of PV cities to promote protection of intertidal, is a new or ongoing activity. Wang said it is new to begin soon, after input from board member Jim Knight. Lippman asked whether Honey Pot day would expand to other marinas. Wang replied that it has been expanded already to various marinas even outside of the bay or the 4000 boats in Marina del Rey. Ford added that the program has almost expanded statewide with different levels of coverage and collaboration. Sachse asked that the summary and detail of the Work Plan be consistent, specifically regarding the copper TMDL in Marina del Rey and the hiring of a ranger in the Abalone Cove. Wang said that staff is looking at two different reports, including the WAC-specific recommendations that may not make it to the Work Plan..

Nissman said item 1.2 needs to be refined to say "facilitation" of water quality requirements. John Kelly added that Beaches and Harbors will play a collaborative role with Waterboards to make the TMDL in the next several years, so it is a County issue as well. Cameron acknowledged that the County approved \$4 million to deal with strategy, monitoring and water quality and working with boaters, and said the role of the SMBRC is to move the message

along. Cameron supported Nissman revisions to language. Cameron also referred to the language on the section that addresses enhance watershed management plan to include any water management plans. Ford took the suggestion to strike “development” from item 1.2 with regards to water quality, because that language belongs to permittees, beyond the scope of SMBRC. Crosson disagreed and interpreted the language to be more broadly and said TBF and SMBRC inform the development of the regulation of TMDL’s by providing data or expertise. This last interpretation was shared by Sikich, because of proactive pieces of technical work. Ford said that language may be revised to be more inclusive, particularly with the words development and regulation. Wang noted that the Work Plan can be amended as often as needed.

Bob Godfrey spoke about item 3.1 which deals with habitat protection and restoration, and expressed disappointment at the lack of recognition of algae bloom, lack of oxygenation, and the fish kill issue which is prevalent in the marina and the bay.

This item was approved unanimously. (M: Skei , S: Sikich)

Diamond chaired the rest of the meeting as O’Leary had to leave early.

- **Consideration of Appointment of Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society to the Watershed Advisory Council (WAC)**

Valor introduced Lucien Pauzoles. Pauzoles said the Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society’s board is requesting to join the WAC out of specific concerns for avian species.

This item was approved unanimously. (M: Notthoff , S: Nissman)

- **Member Comment**

Rorie Skei announced significant preservation efforts in the Santa Monica Mountains, as the SMMC recently closed on 400+ acres between Leo Carillo State Park and Charmlee Park, and also announced another 700+ acres of land on escrow on a property in Puerco Canyon in the Malibu/Santa Monica Mountains area. Skei said the purchases were thanks to support from other groups and Supervisor Yaroslavsky. Gary Hildebrand announced that Oxford Basis got the last permit from the CA Coastal Commission and will begin the project this fall. Hildebrand thanked SMBRC for the strong support of the project and \$2 million from Prop 84 bond funds. Nissman announced an education poster contest for students, in collaboration with Beaches and Harbors, of dog feces as part of source identification. Smith invited all to a reception on July 7th for Randy Record as new chairman of the Metropolitan Water District board. Cameron announced a USGS nutrient study in lower Malibu creek and lagoon that is in peer review that should be on the City of Malibu’s website. Cameron also announced the Malibu Civic Center waste water treatment facility and EIR impact and amendments being available on the city’s website. Crosson announced an LA Waterkeeper fundraiser honoring the City of LA and LA Sanitation on June 19th. Crosson commended the work of LA Sanitation on sewage spillage reduction in the last years since an agreement after a lawsuit was completed.

- **Announcement of Next Meeting Date**

The next Governing Board meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2014 at 9:30 am.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Attendance

Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Barbara Cameron, Malibu Creek Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)

Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Liz Crosson, Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles

Suzanne Goode, California Department of Parks and Recreation

Robert Godfrey, At-Large Member (Marina Del Rey Anglers)

Joe Gully, LA County Sanitation District
Gary Hildebrand, LA County Dept of Public Works
Grace Hyde, Los Angeles Sanitation Districts
John Kelly, LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors
Susan Nissman (alternate to Zev Yaroslavsky), LA County Board of Supervisors (Supervisor, 3rd District)
Ann Notthoff, CA State Coastal Conservancy
Micheal O'Leary, SMBRC Chair, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (Culver City)
Ellen Perkins, South Bay Cities (Palos Verdes Estates)
Marvin Sachse, Brash Industries
Sarah Sikich, Public Member/Environmental, Heal the Bay
Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Ron Smith, At-Large Member, West Basin MWD
Clark Stevens, At-Large Member BWC (SM Mountains RCD)
Enrique Zaldivar, Los Angeles City Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation

Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Richard Ambrose, Technical Advisory Committee, Chair
Andrea Kune, Assemblymember Richard Bloom, 50th District
Timothy Lippman, Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi, 66th District
Kara Seward, State Senator Fran Pavley, 27th District

Commission Staff:

Heather Burdick
Julie Du Brow
Tom Ford
Karina Johnston
Scott Valor
Marcelo Villagomez
Guangyu Wang

Other Attendees, including other Watershed Advisory Council Members:

Willie Brien, Westside COG
Cesar Espinosa, DBH
Walter Lamb, BWLT
Francis McChesney, SWRCB
TJ Moon, LA County
Donna Murray, BWLT
Lucien Pazoules, SM Bay Audubon
Tim Pershing, Asm. District 50
Damian Skinner, Culver City
Wing Tam, LA City Dept of Public Works
Dennis Washburn, RCDSMM & SMMF