

## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

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Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission  
May 21, 2015, 12:00 to 2:00 pm  
West Basin's Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility  
1935 S. Hughes Way  
El Segundo, CA 90245

### *Attendance:*

Joan Cardellino  
Liz Crosson  
Gloria Gray  
Timothy Lippman  
Micheal O'Leary

Absent:  
Fran Diamond, Sarah Sikich

### Staff:

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

Guests: EJ Caldwell, Laura Emberson, Kathy Knight, Walter Lamb, Molly Martin

*Note: Agenda Items are listed in the order in which they were taken up. Called to order at 12:18 p.m.*

Micheal O'Leary chaired the meeting

### *Agenda Item 1. Public Comment*

Walter Lamb commented on the SMBRC Annual Work Plan and stated that if the Governing Board approves the work plan without understanding the ramifications, it was a failure of the board's duty. He noted that staff still has not completed an orientation page on the SMBRC website. He noted a "significant shift" of personnel and projects from the Commission to The Bay Foundation. Lamb also commented on pending litigation between the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust and the SMBRC.

Laura Emberson asked about the precedent of not ceding time from one public commenter to another.

Kathy Knight urged taking the attitude of respecting the rights and welfare of animals at Ballona. She noted that large governmental entities are not necessarily connected to the wildlife in certain areas where the agencies are conducting projects.

### *Agenda Item 2. Informational Items*

- a. Consideration of Approval of March 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes  
Approved without objection (M: Crosson, S: Lippman)
- b. Order of Agenda  
Unchanged.
- c. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

Tom Ford discussed the work plan and the fact that the SMB NEP will perform a broad vulnerability assessment, being only the second NEP to do so in the US. Examples of work include climate change, ocean pH values, etc. He also discussed carbon footprint aspects of the assessment as well. Board members and Molly Martin (US EPA) provided input.

Ford mentioned a coastal resilience presentation at the California Academy of Sciences, which was well received. He also noted a presentation on vegetation communities at the Ballona wetlands.

Ford provided an update on the abalone nursery, kelp forest restoration, and other rocky reef habitat work the NEP is doing.

Ford noted that, with various local partners, the NEP is attempting to establish a financial value for the wetlands in the Santa Monica Bay, from a resource economics standpoint.

Ford also stated that a Malibu Lagoon report will be out soon and that the City of Malibu's wastewater treatment plant was approved by the California Coastal Commission.

Ford said he and Guangyu Wang presented to the RWQCB on the comprehensive monitoring program.

Finally, Ford commented on the recent oil spill in Santa Barbara, noting two slicks of nine miles in expanse.

Liz Crosson asked about the limited number of dives for the kelp restoration staff and meeting contractual grant obligations. Ford noted that wave height and other conditions have limited diving in an unusual way. He said he is in full communication with the grant supervisors.

### *Agenda Item 3. Executive Committee Business*

- a. Establish Governing Board Agenda for June

#### Consideration of Approval of FY 2016 Work Plan

Ford and Wang outlined the changes contemplated in the FY2016 Work Plan (WP). Ford specifically discussed the Watershed Advisory Council meeting and the comments that were generated as a result.

Director Gray asked about the makeup of the Watershed Advisory Council. Molly Martin, Tom Ford, and Guangyu Wang discussed the structure and history.

EC members provided various comments, including discusses various WAC comments and staff responses. Molly Martin asked about which WAC comments were accepted and whether or not there is a determination that other comments might be considered in the future. She noted that the first Bay Restoration Plan was completed in about 1992, so that document and the Work Plan are regularly evolving.

Liz Crosson asked for clarification about activities that are designated as both SMBRC and The Bay Foundation (TBF). Ford noted that there is a great deal of interest in clarifying which entity of the NEP is doing which project. He noted that the Work Plan is not shifting

duties from one entity to the other, but actually clarifying (compared to prior work plans) which entities are undertaking the task.

Wang and Ford gave examples of “Commission” versus “TBF” versus partner projects (such as a City of Los Angeles BMP hypothetical). He noted that the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) and the WP both note projects from partners outside the SMB NEP (City of LA, County, etc.) where NEP entities have no actual duties, but the outside partners’ projects may help meet the goals of the BRP.

Ford walked the EC through the five major areas that comprise the WP, responding to EC member questions.

Molly Martin suggested a separate box for each project/task that noted yes/no whether there is a public outreach component to it.

Ford asked the EC if the template, as presented, was satisfactory to move forward to the June Governing Board meeting. EC members generally agreed.

The EC then voted to approve the presentation of the WP to the GB in June. The vote was unanimous. (M: Crosson, S: Gray)

#### Presentation “To Be Determined”

Ford noted that a presentation was not named due to the fact that deliberations on the Work Plan at the June meeting may take most, if not all, of the meeting time. He suggested that a presentation by himself on aerial surveys would be ready, if time permits.

This was agreed to without objection. Board members also noted interest in hearing about Proposition 1 funding in the future. Joan Cardellino suggested that Sam Schuchat present on how the State Coastal Conservancy funding might affect projects in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed.

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

Members discussed various meetings recently attended as well as upcoming meetings.

Molly Martin noted closure of the US EPA’s wetland development grant program for the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m. without objection. (M: Crosson, S: Lippman)