

SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2016

Welcome and Introductions

At 9:49 Enrique Zaldivar called the meeting to order. Introductions followed.

1) Comments from Members of the Public on Items Not on the Agenda and Public Testimony on All Agenda Items

Public Comment:

Walter Lamb commented on litigation by BWLT against the SMBRC. Lamb also commented about the Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) meeting.

Kathy Knight commented on saving marshland in Marina del Rey where a hotel has been approved for development by the board of supervisors. Knight invited board members to take a tour of the Ballona Ecosystem Ecological Reserve, given by the Audubon society which occurs the first Saturday of each month. Knight also commented on the WAC meeting.

2) Informational Items

a. Order of Agenda.

The order of the agenda was not changed.

b. Report from the Chair

Enrique Zaldivar gave the Executive Committee (EC) meeting report from January. Zaldivar reported that time was spent going over items to bring to the board including considerations of three presentations: climate change adaptation, a constitutional amendment that's going through the legislature and Senate Bill 163 for no ocean discharge from wastewater facilities. The climate change adaptation presentation was chosen and the other presentations will be made at subsequent meetings.

c. Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Steve Bay gave the TAC report. Bay reported that the March 3rd meeting included the climate change readiness project being heard today; that the TAC recognizes its extreme importance and it provides a lot of activities with great opportunities for collaboration with the Commission. Bay reported the TAC also provided input regarding monitoring related to ocean acidification along the coast. Bay stated that the TAC provided input and assistance in the review and evaluation process of Prop 84 proposals. Bay reported the next TAC meeting would be April 28th wherein they will work to identify enhancements to the TAC and better ways to improve monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of Best Management Practices for storm water and water quality.

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

Tom Ford reported briefly on the EC meeting, the chosen presentations, and their timing. Ford reported the comprehensive monitoring plan for the Santa Monica Bay was brought to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and it coincided with the production and publication of the State of the Bay report. Ford reported that water is circulating through the new mariculture and research facility, at Southern California Marine Institute on Terminal Island, designed to assist in better, more effective way to restore abalone. Ford noted that in June a presentation will be given on the abalone restoration project in Ensenada at a meeting intended to share knowledge across the border with international collaboration. Ford reported, in early March, the California Coastal Commission approved a permit for a community-based approach to the restoration of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve using solarization and hand weeding to remove highly invasive iceplant and engage the public in restoration work. Ford clarified some comments made at the California Coastal Commission

meeting and reported the iceplant removal project was discussed and presented at the WAC meeting last year. Ford reported the Ballona restoration work has been a long process and to the extent possible the public and stakeholders have been engaged in the project. Ford listed over 200 meetings, working groups, presentations, and conferences for public and stakeholder engagement in the Ballona restoration project. Ford reported 120 public comment letters on the draft EIR EIS were received by the lead agency and the scoping report summarizing those letters was 2,272 pages. Ford reported this process has not happened without public and stakeholder engagement. Member discussion followed regarding the iceplant removal project and the California Coastal Commission meeting. Ford reported on legislation regarding the Santa Monica Mountings National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment (SMM NRA BA). Member discussion followed regarding the SMM NRA BA. Suzane Goode encouraged the commission and associated organizations to conduct scientific education, to the community, regarding invasive species.

3) Governing Board Business

a. Consideration of Approval of February 18, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The February minutes were approved unanimously. (M: Pestrella, S: Cardellino)

b. Watershed Advisory Council Report

Ford introduced the agenda item. Dr. Guangyu Wang gave a summary of the comments from the WAC meeting. Member discussion followed. Lauren Pizer-Mains suggested PowerPoint presentations should use fewer abbreviations. Bob Godfrey clarified a comment and noted he would submit clarified wording to Dr. Wang. Barbara Cameron asked for a reminder regarding WAC subcommittee meetings. David Coupe said he will report back on this and agendaizing specific closed sessions for future commission meetings to the extent that commission board members will find it helpful or valuable. Ford responded generally that we have to look at our capacity and ability to enable the commission to function, as 15-17 public meetings a year are supported and we will continue to strive to do better. Gloria Gray asked Coupe to come back with a recommendation regarding agendaizing a closed session.

c. Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Work Plan Update

Ford gave the fiscal year 2015-2016 Work Plan update. Member comment and discussion followed. Ford announced, in response to a question from Jon Bishop, the board's feedback regarding the work plans are welcome.

d. Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Work Plan Update

Ford gave the fiscal year 2016-2017 Work Plan update in conjunction with the 2015-2016 Work Plan agenda item.

e. Presentation on Climate Change Adaptation

Melodie Grubbs gave the presentation on Climate Change Adaptation for the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP). In response to a question from Charles Caspary, Grubbs and Ford announced this work will be available for review and comments by the end of the calendar year.

4) Member Comment

Denis Washburn announced the latest version of *Outdoors* is available online and he has copies. Washburn also announced it's the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service and 38th anniversary of Santa Monica Mountain National Recreation Area and there is a fundraiser event on May 22nd at King Gillette Ranch. Washburn announced Calabasas is celebrating its 25th anniversary with an event on April 30th at King Gillette Ranch. Charlie Caspary asked staff to send a link to the California Coastal Commission video of the hearing for the iceplant removal presentation. Caspary thanked staff and Karina Johnston for her excellent job presenting

information and shared other board member concerns regarding the public's knowledge and perception of invasive species. Kevin McKeown asked about the commission's role on land use decisions such as the hotel development mentioned during public comment. Ford answered that the commission does not have regulatory authority, but can make recommendations. Ford announced most of the authority will fall on the county and CA Coastal Commission. McKeown asked about the agenda format regarding offering public comment after agenda items. Ford answered the format has been considered and there was difficulty getting through the agenda in a timely manner. Barbara Cameron announced the City of Malibu celebrated its 25th anniversary and the North Santa Monica Bay Coastal Watershed's Enhanced Watershed Management Plan has been approved. Robert Godfrey announced Marina del Rey Anglers are in their 18th year of raising seabass for restoration, over 100,000 seabass have been released into the bay, and they are one of eight organizations that have successfully reestablished the white seabass fishery. Godfrey announced that there are an incredible number of cormorants and they have displaced the seals, gulls, and pelicans on the breakwaters. Joan Cardellino announced CA Coastal Conservancy's 40th anniversary and that they are celebrating with a complete hike on the coast trail from May 1st to Aug. 4th with hosted events along the way. Cardellino announced the fourth grant round for Prop 1 is exclusively for LA County and the request for proposals period will be May 2nd to June 30th for urban greening projects in LA County.

Knight responded to the CA Coastal Commissions' meeting discussion regarding the Coastal Development permit for iceplant removal. Knight commented on the lack of notice to groups working in the area and stated the project almost didn't pass due to lack of notification. Knight called for collaboration regarding information on the pros and cons of iceplant.

5) Announcement of Next Meeting Date (set for June 16, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 without objection.

Attendance

Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Jonathan Bishop, California Environmental Protection Agency
Barbara Cameron, Malibu Creek Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)
Joan Cardellino, California State Coastal Conservancy
Charlie Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles
Philip Friess, LA County Sanitation District
Gloria Gray, At-Large Member West Basin MWD
Robert Godfrey, At-Large Member (Marina Del Rey Anglers)
Suzanne Goode, California Department of Parks & Recreation
Timothy Lippman, for Sheila Kuehl, Supervisor, 3rd District, County of Los Angeles
Kevin McKeown, Westside Cities (City of Santa Monica)
Mark Pestrella, LA County Department of Public Works
John Rea, South Bay Cities (Palos Verdes Estates)
Bruce Reznik, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Rod Spackman, Public Member (Business/Economic Interest), Chevron
Clark Stevens, At-Large Member BWC (SM Mtns RCD)
Michael Tripp, LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors
Enrique Zaldivar, LA City Sanitation

Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board

Steve Bay, Technical Advisory Committee, Chair
Lauren Pizer-Mains, for Ben Allen, State Senator, 26th District
Dusty Russell, for Fran Pavley, State Senator, 27th District

SMB NEP Staff present:

Tom Ford

Victoria Gambale

Melodie Grubbs

Marcelo Villagomez

Guangyu Wang

Other Attendees, including other Watershed Advisory Council Members:

Steven Johnson, Heal the Bay

Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project

Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust

Anthony Misetich, City of Rancho Palos Verdes

TJ Moon, LA County

Michael O'Mary, APP Clean Water Technologies

Meghan Sahli-Wells, City of Culver City

Josh Svensson, LA County Public Works

Wing Tam, LA City Department of Public Works

Dennis Washburn, At-Large Member BWC (SM Mtns RCD)