

## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

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Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

July 31, 2012, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Conference Room 5, Public Safety Facility, Santa Monica, CA

### *Attendance:*

Liz Crosson

Fran Diamond

Mike Gin

Susan Nissman (for Mark Pestrella)

Sarah Sikich

### Absent:

Richard Bloom, Rebekah

Rodriguez-Lynn (for Senator

Pavley)

### Staff Present:

Shelley Luce, Scott Valor, Guangyu Wang

Guests: None

*Note: Agenda Items are listed in the order in which they were taken up. Called to order at 2:09 p.m.*

### *Agenda Item 1. Public Comment*

None

### *Agenda Item 2. Informational Items*

- a. Consideration of Approval of March 22, 2012 Meeting Minutes

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

- b. Order of Agenda

Unchanged

- c. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

Shelley Luce stated that the scoping comment period has begun for the BWER CEQA/NEPA process. She noted that people who want to comment need to submit comments in writing, not verbally to staff, in order for them to be recorded. The comment period runs for 45 days. The scoping meeting will be held at the BWER site.

Luce discussed the LA County Water Quality Funding Initiative. She asked for input regarding the SMBRC's potential role (promote the initiative? Support?).

Nissman noted that the county parcel tax special election may go in March 2013. A 3-2 County vote to do so released funding for outreach, writing ballot language, etc. August 2013 would be the fallback date, but would push tax funding back to 2014. Luce discussed SMBRC's possible role and options regarding how the entity can educate about the assessment within the watershed. There was discussion regarding which cities within the watershed did or did not support the measure. Staff will ask the GB whether it would support authorizing staff to provide educational information regarding the measure.

Luce noted that we now have a communications director/manager position open. Staff has a great need for this role and look forward to working with the individual who fills the position. A job description is forthcoming.

The Foundation board met recently and elected Laurie Newman as the new board President. Catherine Tyrrell served for the previous four years.

Scott Valor discussed the Foundation membership effort status.

Guangyu Wang noted that the MS4 permit is up and will warrant future discussion. Liz Crosson suggested that the SMBRC note the LID (and other) projects that went forward as a result of the needs from the MS4 permit. She noted that this will demonstrate that cities have invested in LID to improve water quality. Luce stated that USEPA has stated that it is definitely appropriate that the SMBRC comment and support the types of projects that support LID and/or other parts of the MS4 permit. Comment period is over, but testimony will be taken September 13-14.

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

#### a. Discussion of Conceptual Plan for Bond Funding

Luce noted that this was discussed as recently as May and the bond funding list is evolving. Luce discussed conceptual ideas that have been brought to staff and informed EC members regarding broad funding ideas. Gin suggested explaining how the categories meet certain goals, as they may not be region- or city-specific. Sikich suggested recategorizing general and specific projects and providing more information on the specific projects. Diamond suggested that it be presented to the GB as a list of “potential future projects,” not specific awards, so that future projects can be added as deemed appropriate. These concepts will be considered guidelines for future, specific funding.

#### b. Establish Governing Board Agenda for August

##### Commission & Foundation MOA

Luce stated that the MOA is being considered based on the recommendation of SWRCB legal counsel. It would be a non-binding document that would serve to more clearly explain the relationship between the SMBRC and SMBRF. EC members reviewed the draft and made recommendations as follows:

“Implement and coordinate implementation”

Comply with all legal requirements of a 501c3 entity—add to Foundation section 2

Carry out WP by US EPA—add develop & implement projects that fulfill the goals of the Bay Restoration Plan

Under Commission—develop & update the BRP/CCMP before implementation section.

Incorporate WAC into this?

##### Topanga Narrows Discussion

Luce noted that Susan Nissman raised this issue some time ago, noting that a road area up Topanga Canyon is frequently shored up with emergency permits, but needs re-engineering. There are habitat/steelhead trout issues as well as public safety issues. Staff believes that this is a CalTrans funding responsibility. It was suggested that this be placed on the CalTrans Stip list. CalTrans Region IX director was invited to the August meeting but cannot make it.

Luce asked the EC members if a resolution from the GB would be appropriate. The resolution asks them to prioritize this project. Luce said that the board could direct the her to write a letter to CalTrans requesting consideration of the issues. The RCDs and Yaroslavsky's office have been engaged in this for some time. EC members asked whether the state senator or assembly member has been asked to act on this and what is the history of communication on this issue.

Luce will bring to the GB an updated understanding of who has been engaged as well as a draft letter to be signed by the GB members

Tsunamis & At-Risk Cities in the Watershed Presentation

Luce noted that Angus Alexander requested to do this presentation. Another presentation may be in order if Angus is not available.

The EC approved these items for the August GB meeting without objection (M: Sikich , S: Diamond).

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

None

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m. without objection.