



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

santa monica bay restoration commission 320 west 4th street, ste 200; los angeles, california 90013
213/576-6615 phone 213/576-6646 fax www.smbrc.ca.gov

THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION MARINE RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Dan Pondella called the meeting to order on March 21, 2012 at 1:30pm in ECC 1857 of University Hall at Loyola Marymount University, 1 LMU Drive, Westchester, CA 90045. Round robin introductions followed.

MRAC Members

Dr. Dan Pondella (Chair)	Present
Gerald McGowen (Vice-chair)	Present
Dr. Jim Allen	Present (arrived late)
Dr. Rich Ambrose	Present
Dr. Ana Pitchon	Absent
Shelley Walther	Absent

Ad hoc Members

Larry Simon	Present (on phone, arrived late)
Christine Whitcraft	Present (arrived late)

Staff Present

Shelley Luce, Executive Director
Guangyu Wang, Deputy Director
Lia Protopapadakis, Marine Scientist & Project Manager
Letise Houser, Research Fellow (on phone)
Diana Hurlbert
Futha Abdul, SMBRF Intern

Members of the Public

Eric Miller, MBC
Rachel McPherson, Port of LA
Sarah Sikich, Heal the Bay
Matt Wartian, Weston Solutions

PUBLIC FORUM

Members of the public and representatives of organizations/agencies wishing to comment must fill out a comment card at the meeting and will be allowed up to 3 minutes to address the Committee and to provide public testimony on items not otherwise on the agenda. Speaker time may be reduced depending on the number of speakers or otherwise at the discretion of the TAC Chair.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. Order of the Agenda.
No changes were made, approved.

our mission: to restore and enhance the santa monica bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the bay's benefits and values





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b. Approval of Meeting Minutes.
Approved (at end of meeting)

c. Reports from the Chair and Staff
The Chair reported that the TAC met the previous week and are eager to hear about the progress being made on the project being discussed today under agenda item #4.

Staff reported that SMBRF contracted with Dr. Letise Houser to conduct the literature review and draft the report being discussed under agenda item #4 per the direction of the MRAC and SMBRF staff. In addition, SMBRF engaged two additional experts to participate as ad hoc members to the MRAC in regards to the project being discussed under agenda item #4. They are Dr. Christine Whitcraft, CSULB (arriving a little late) and Larry Simon, California Coastal Commission staff (calling in).

d. Member Comment (*TAC members may wish to comment on issues not otherwise on the agenda.*)

Public Comment

Eric Miller of MBC asked for clarification of the role that SMBRC is playing in restoration of the Ballona Wetlands. Staff responded that SMBRC is acting as the lead local entity on the project for the Department of Fish and Game and the California Coastal Conservancy. As such SMBRC is coordinating the development of the restoration plan, the EIR document, [and the contracts for the actual restoration]

AGENDA ITEM #4. The value of vegetated coastal marsh habitat in compensatory mitigation for lost subtidal habitat, draft white paper (Dr. Letise Houser)

Letise presented the overview of the draft white paper, which led into the discussion. The TAC discussed the species used in the draft, the habitat types included, the ecosystem functions identified, and how to conceptualize and visually display the information. A subset of the suggestions include:

- Use a flow diagram to represent energy flow and quantify it if possible
- Groups of species are excluded from list, such as invertebrates. These are currently included as an ecosystem function, but recommendations could consider including invertebrates in the list of species of interest.
- The appendix should include a list of species for wetlands and a list of species for subtidal embayments. Species discussed in the text should fall on both lists.
- When considering species found in wetlands, it is important to consider which wetlands, how common they are, and how widespread they are.
- Ecosystem functions need to be listed for subtidal embayments, if functions are going to be the unit of comparison.
- Species should be identified by guild. This is easy for fish and may be possible for birds too.
- Consider building tables for each species that gets collapsed into a summary table for fish and one for birds. Everytime a habitat scores a function for a species it gets a point. Collapsed, this would yield a numerical score.

Public Comment

Public comment was taken in the course of the discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be a web-based meeting, the details of which will be announced on the

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SMBRC's webpage and through the usual channels.

The next in-person meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2012 and will be somewhere on the LMU campus. The room has yet to be determined.

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