

SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
THE GOVERNING BOARD

October 15th, 2009
Del Rey Yacht Club

1. Welcome and Introductions

At 9:45 AM, Vice Chair Fran Diamond called the meeting to order. Introductions followed.

2. Approval of the August 20th, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Diamond asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Corrections were made to the minutes regarding member attendance, spelling errors, and specific facts in a presentation by Rosi Dagit. Minutes, as amended, were approved unanimously (M: Wing Tam, S: John Sibert).

3. Order of Agenda

No changes.

4. Reports from the Chair and Executive Committee

No reports from the Executive Committee or Chair.

5. Report from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Richard Ambrose, TAC Chair, announced that he would discuss the State of the Bay Report when taken up in Item #7.

6. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

Shelley Luce, Executive Director, announced approval of stimulus funding by the State Water Board, through the State Revolving fund, to the SMBRC. Luce described SMBRC's involvement with Governing Board member Micheal O'Leary with the City of Culver City, in partnership with the Santa Monica Baykeeper and Los Angeles County Flood Control District, in a project to install rain gardens. Nearly two million dollars in funding was approved by the State Water Board for the design and installation of rain gardens in an industrial area of Culver City which drains directly into Ballona Creek. The project is expected to begin in December, 2009, at which time the SMBRC may be able to give an update on its progress. SMBRC hopes to show improvements in water quality due to the implementation of these rain gardens, and perhaps use them as a demonstration of where they may be more suitable along Ballona Creek and other parts of our watershed.

Luce announced SMBRC's excitement of meeting with the EPA administrator, Lisa Jackson, along with Heal the Bay, in order to express our watershed's need for funding in order to fulfill EPA's own requirements for water quality. Scott Valor, Government Affairs Director, represented the SMBRC at the meeting and described the intimate setting of the meeting. He noted Jackson's understanding of the issues of the watershed and our role as a National Estuary Program. The meeting was very well received.

Lastly, Luce announced three important upcoming dates for the Governing Board members. First is a trash TMDL workshop sponsored by the SMBRC and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board on November 10th, 2009. Second, November 18th, 2009, is the release date of the SMBRC Bay Journal, Urban Coast. Third, January 13th, 2009, is the State of the Bay Conference, which will be the release date of the State of the Bay Report (released every 5-years).

Valor announced election of Governing Board members for the next Governing Board meeting, held in December, 2009. The December 17th meeting of the Bay Restoration Commission will open with the Bay Watershed Council's selection of nine of its members to the Governing Board. Of the 35 positions on the Governing Board (20 voting, 15 non-voting), nine positions come from the 70+ member Bay Watershed

Council. All nine serve as voting members. Those members will then assume their roles on the Governing Board at its first meeting of 2010, tentatively scheduled for February 18th, 2010. Members serve two-year terms, with no term limits.

7. Report & Discussion re: State of the Bay Report

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission will host its State of the Bay Conference on January 13, 2010 at Loyola Marymount University. The conference will highlight the successes and challenges that we still face regarding water quality, habitat protection, and other environmental issues.

The conference will revolve around the Commission's State of the Bay Report, scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) chair Rich Ambrose, TAC member Mas Dojiri, and Commission staff Lia Protopapadakis presented the Report's main topics and findings.

The Report will more closely parallel the goals and objectives of the Bay Restoration Plan than previous editions. The TAC has been more involved in developing this latest report, recommending inclusion of a new "Habitat Conditions" section which will be the first time a comprehensive assessment of the Bay's main habitats has been conducted using a standardized scale. Sections focusing on more current issues in the areas of water quality and natural resources will be featured.

The TAC members and staff noted that despite the remarkable achievements we've had, there are still many challenges ahead, including new, emerging issues such as the impacts of climate change. On the bright side, we have been learning to work across issues and jurisdictions for better management. Integrated water resources and ecosystem-based management approaches are great examples.

8. Presentation by Los Angeles County Flood Control District on Oxford Basin Rehabilitation

Greg Jaquez of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District presented the District's proposal to rehabilitate and redesign the Oxford Retention Basin in Marina del Rey. Oxford Retention Basin is operated by the Flood Control District as a flood protection facility serving the northerly portion of Marina del Rey and the adjacent Venice neighborhood in the City of Los Angeles.

The basin is connected by tidal culverts to Basin E in the Marina. The project's objectives are to improve flood protection, water quality, habitat, aesthetics, and recreational opportunities. Major features of the project include a new relief storm drain and pump station upgrade, constructed wetlands, native coastal upland landscape, observation/bird watching stations, and a walking path along the basin perimeter. The project is nearing completion of conceptual planning and is anticipated to be constructed by early 2013.

9. Member Comment

Heal The Bay's "Day Without a Bag" was announced to take place on December 17th, 2009.

10. Public Comment

None

11. Announcement of next Governing Board Meeting

The next Governing Board meeting will be held on December 17th, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

The Governing Board meeting for the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation will follow promptly after this meeting at 12:00 pm.

12. Adjournment

The Governing Board meeting was adjourned at 11:48 am (M: Sachse, S: Friess)

Attendance:

Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Paul Backstrom (alternate for Bill Rosendahl), Councilmember, LA City Council District 11

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

Tom Ford, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Santa Monica Baykeeper

Phil Friess (alternate for Steve Maguin), LA County Sanitation District
Mike Gin, South Bay Cities (City of Redondo Beach, Mayor)
Michael Mullin (alternate for Antonio Villaraigosa), Office of the Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Susan Nissman, Office of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, 3rd District, County of Los Angeles
Micheal O'Leary, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (Culver City)
Marvin Sachse, Public Member (Business/Economic Interest), Brash Industries
Neal Shapiro (alternate for Richard Bloom), At-Large Member BWC (City of Santa Monica)
John Sibert, Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)
Sarah Sikich (alternate for Mark Gold), Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Heal the Bay
Wing Tam (alternate for Enrique Zaldivar), LA City Department of Public Works
Dennis Washburn, At-Large Member BWC (City of Calabasas, City Council Member)

Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Richard Ambrose, Technical Advisory Committee, Chair
Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Stephanie Mollen (alternate for Fran Pavley), State Senator, 23rd District
Catherine Tyrell, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, President

Commission Staff:

Sean Bergquist
Joel Hanson
Karina Johnston
Grace Lee
Shelley Luce
Lia Protopapadakis
Scott Valor
Guangyu Wang

Other Attendees, including other Bay Watershed Council Members:

Michael Blum, Malibu Surfing Association
Mas Dojiri, City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation
Bob Godfrey, Marina Del Rey (MDR) Anglers
Greg Jaquez, Department of Public Works
Victor Jedlicka, Del Rey Yacht Club (DRYC)
Howard Katzman, Del Rey Yacht Club (DRYC)
Beverly Ponder, Public
Mickey Scheinbaum, Del Rey Yacht Club (DRYC)
Dan Sharp, Department of Public Works
Damian Skinner, City of Culver City
Bob Wu, Caltrans District 7
Kaden Young, City of Culver City
Chiemper Yu, Caltrans District 7