

SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

December 15, 2011

Del Rey Yacht Club

Welcome and Introductions

Fran Diamond chaired the Governing Board meeting. At 9:39 am, Diamond called the meeting to order. Introductions by attendees followed.

1. Public Comment

Athena Shlien spoke about opposing the Malibu Lagoon Restoration project and opposing “bulldozing”. Shlien expressed concern about viruses from sand going into the water.

2. Informational Items

a) Order of Agenda

Order of the agenda was changed: Items 3. c) and 3. d) were switched to accommodate members leaving early. New order of the agenda was approved without objection.

b) Reports from the Chair and Executive Committee (EC)

Diamond gave the EC report. Diamond’s report included: Shelley Luce’s report to the EC that the annual ANEP Conference was a success; Luce’s report about the COGs responding well to the new MOU structure; and Mark Gold’s recommendation to staff to look into Green Solutions on the Expo Line based on the discussions at the City of LA meetings regarding Proposition O. Diamond also reported discussions at the EC meeting regarding establishing a Governing Board (GB) agenda. Diamond reported the need to amend the grant to the City of Calabasas. Diamond also reported discussions of the procedures to select Watershed Advisory Council (WAC) members; EC members noted that the nomination period was still open and the procedures were explained. The EC also discussed future GB meeting presentations for 2011 projects and follow up on the artificial reefs issue.

c) Report from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Richard Ambrose reported that one of the main responsibilities of the TAC was to help put together the State of the Bay report. Ambrose mentioned that on the last State of the Bay report the TAC developed new analysis and methods to look especially at the health of habitats. Ambrose spoke about the innovation of such methods and mentioned being contacted by Monitoring Enterprise from Ocean Science to participate in a group to codify how best practices should be done. Ambrose said the TAC wants to make such methods more standardized and rigorous. Ambrose also reported on another major responsibility of the TAC, which is to help with technical assessments of the Prop 84 projects, and mentioned that the TAC previously worked on identifying information for monitoring effectiveness.

d) Report from the Executive Director

Luce reported on the new procedures for Councils of Governments (COGS) to appoint city reps to this governing body for two-year terms, and mentioned that the COGs responded well to the change. Luce mentioned the confirmed appointments from Las Virgenes-Malibu COG (John Sibert), Westside Cities COG (Mayor Micheal O’Leary), and Southbay Cities COG (Mayor Mike Gin). Luce also announced the GB meetings for 2012. Luce thanked the Del Rey Yacht Club for their generosity in providing us the space. Luce also reported on the completion of the final report for the first year of the baseline assessment program in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Luce pointed to the extensive research and survey at the Wetlands and spoke about the comprehensiveness of the report comprising 400 pages and broken into segments such as soils, sediments, fauna groups, fish, invertebrates, etc. Luce also spoke about summaries and highlights to be given in later events. Luce also reported on other projects and programs not frequently reported, with continued activities and studies such as: Ballona tours, Stone Creek restoration, Rocky Reef habitat restoration, Public Involvement and Education program, etc.

3. Governing Board Business Items

a) Consideration of Approval of August 18, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Board minutes from the October 18th meeting were approved (M: Maguin, S: Gin)

b) Consideration of Appointment of Various Entities to the Watershed Advisory Council

Scott Valor clarified who could become a member of the WAC, mentioned the criteria, and mentioned that two organizations applied to become members and presented them for the GB to consider: Ocean Conservation Society and Friends of Ballona Wetlands. Valor described their qualifications and prior work with the SMBRC. A motion was presented for the two organizations to become part of the WAC. The motion was approved (M: Gin, S: Washburn) with one abstention (Tyrrell).

d) Election of Eligible Watershed Advisory Council Members to Seven Governing Board Positions

Valor invited floor nominations, but there were no new nominations. Valor then described the open positions in each group: At Large, Environment/Public Interest, and Business. Valor mentioned that there were two groups with non-contested positions, for the Environment/Public Interest and for the Business (General) position. A motion was presented for a vote on the nominations on the non-contested positions for Heal the Bay and Santa Monica Baykeeper in the Environmental/Public Interest group and for the Brash Industries in the Business (General) group. (M: Washburn S: Zaldivar).

Valor indicated that for the Business Coastal Tourism there were no candidates yet and that staff is working with the board on looking for an eligible business interests for this open position.

The three open positions for the At-Large group was a contested election. The four candidates for the three positions were: West Basin, Santa Monica Mountains RCD, City of Santa Monica, and the Ballona Creek Renaissance. Each candidate organization gave a short presentation about their work before the governing board vote. The top three elected were: West Basin (16 votes), SM Mountains RCD (15), and City of Santa Monica (19). Ballona Creek Renaissance received 13 votes. Valor announced the results.

c) Consideration of Amendment to Grant Award Recommendation for City of Calabasas Trash Screen Purchase & Installation Project (Proposition 84)

Luce described a significant change in the City of Calabasas Trash Screen project. Luce described that the trash basin inserts that the City intended to use can't be used because they are made of recycled plastic not metal, and they would have to be removed before the rainy season, which would defeat the purpose of using them. The change is to allow the City to use metal flip-up inserts instead. Luce explained that the metal ones are more expensive, and described that the total grant and match would remain the same. Alex Farassati from the City of Calabasas next addressed governing board concerns of maintenance, addressing chemical barriers, and potential flooding. Dennis Washburn commended the City of Calabasas's work on dealing with trash TMDLs and expressed hope in dealing with oils and the like in the future. Amendment approved unanimously (M: Nissman , S: Pestrella).

e) Member Comment—Governing Board members may wish to comment on issues not otherwise on the agenda

Suzanne Goode addressed the earlier statements made during public comment regarding Malibu Lagoon. Goode spoke about misconceptions related to the USGS study and Malibu Lagoon and said that the project had nothing to do with fecal indicator criteria from birds and was not meant to address it. Goode mentioned that the project intends to focus on changing the artificial topography. Good also referred to the de-watering concern of the project and indicated that it is a requirement of our regulatory permits to minimize aquatic life and spoke about completely disinfecting the water before putting it back into the ocean. Goode also anticipated that the beach will not be closed as a result of de-watering.

Mike Gin welcomed his alternates Councilmember Ellen Perkins and Mayor Pro-Temp of Hermosa Beach Jeff Duclos.

Steve Maguin announced his retirement from the Sanitation District at the end of January 2012. Maguin said Grace Chan will be his replacement. Fran Diamond expressed appreciation for Maguin's services and expressed sadness about him leaving and congratulated him on his decision.

Other announcements were made. A Day Without a Bag Day was announced. Angus Alexander presented Tsunami Inundation maps with evacuation routes. Bob Hoffman's retirement was announced. A meeting of State Coastal Conservancy board was announced for January approving funds for the ongoing restoration of the Ballona Wetlands.

f) Announcement of Next Meeting Date

The next Governing Board meeting will be held on February 16th at 9:30 am.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am without objection.

Attendance

Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Dayna Bochco, California Coastal Commission
Joan Cardellino, (alternate for Sam Schuchat), California Coastal Conservancy
Liz Crosson, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Santa Monica Baykeeper
Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles
Mike Gin, South Bay Cities (City of Redondo Beach, Mayor)
Mark Gold, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Heal The Bay
Suzanne Goode, California Department of Parks and Recreation
Nate Kaplan (Alternate to Bill Rosendahl), City of Los Angeles, City Council District 11
Dean Kubani, (alternate for Richard Bloom) At-Large Member, City of Santa Monica
Steve Maguin, LA County Sanitation District
Michael Mullin (alternate), Office of the Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Susan Nissman (alternate to Zev Yaroslavsky), LA County Board of Supervisors (Supervisor, 3rd District)
Micheal O'Leary, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (Culver City)
Mark Pestrella, L A County Department of Public Works
John Sibert, Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)
Damian Skinner (alternate for Micheal O'Leary), Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (Culver City)
Ron Smith, At-Large Member, West Basin MWD
Laura Rosenthal (Alternate for John Sibert), City Councilmember, City of Malibu, Malibu Creek Watershed Cities
Dennis Washburn, At-Large Member (RCD, Santa Monica Mountains Region)
Enrique Zaldivar, LA City Department of Public Works

Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Richard Ambrose, Technical Advisory Committee Chair
Angus Alexander, LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division
Bobbi Buescher (Alternate for Betsy Butler), State Assemblymember, 53rd District
Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Bryant Chesney, NOAA-NMFS Southwest Division
Rebekah Rodriguez-Lynn (alternate to Fran Pavley), California State Senator, 23rd District
Paul Wong (alternate to Santos Kreimann), LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors
Jennifer Zivkovic (alternate to Ted Lieu), Senator Ted Lieu, 28th District

Commission Staff:

Michelle Kearney
Grace Lee
Shelley Luce
Tom Ford
Scott Valor
Marcelo Villagomez
Guangyu Wang

Other Attendees, including other Bay Watershed Council Members:

Magdalena B, Ocean Conservation Society
Michael Blum, Malibu Surfing Association
Frances McChesney, State Water Board
E.J. Caldwell, West Basin
Zan Calhoun, City of Rolling Hills
Jeff Duclos, City of Hermosa Beach, Councilmember
Alex Farassati, City of Calabasas
Bob Godfrey, MDR Anglers
Nancy Hastings, Surfrider Foundation
Rich Hibbs, BCR/BLMP
Kathline King, LA County Dept of Beaches and Harbors
Leighanne Kirk, West Basin
Kathy Knight, Sierra Club Airport Marina Group

Jim Lamm, Ballona Creek Renaissance
Ellen Perkins, City of Palos Verdes Estates, Councilmember
Charles Saylaw, Ocean Conservation Society
Athena Shlien, Surfer/Citizen
Wing Tam, LA City Department of Public Works