

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

February 21st, 2013

Del Rey Yacht Club

Welcome and Introductions

Fran Diamond called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.. Introductions followed.

1. Public Comment

Andy Lyon read emails of SMBRC staff and board members and other agency representatives regarding data at the Malibu Lagoon. Lyon also read a rebuttal letter to a resolution by a Democratic Commission.

Steven Dan said the SMBRC deceives people with false science and decimates nature for profit.

Patricia McPherson from the Grassroots Coalition said there was no baseline for the Malibu Lagoon restoration work. McPherson also said the process at Ballona regarding the MOU with Annenberg has not been forthright with the public.

Marcia Hanscom from the Ballona Institute and the Sierra Club quoted Huey Johnson regarding a critique of the Ballona Wetlands restoration and the MOU with the Annenberg Foundation to create a center that includes a domestic animal adoption and care area.

2. Informational Items

a) Order of Agenda

The order of the agenda was not changed.

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

Liz Crosson reported on the last EC meeting. Crosson said the meeting included discussions about the ED report before the board today, a recent clean audit report, the draft of the annual report, and information about the County's water quality initiative.

c) Report from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

John Dorsey reported on the nomination of Dr. Eric Stein to the TAC.

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

Shelley Luce said there is a revised notice of preparation/notice of intent for the Ballona Wetlands regarding the consideration of a visitor center, and the notice includes a 45-day scoping period. Luce addressed the MOU with the Annenberg Foundation, stating that it was discussed at the EC meetings a couple of times in the past and the GB was informed. Luce said the MOU is available for public inspection. Luce said the EIR would come late this year with more new comments to consider all details and aspects. Luce also reported on the SMBRC's Watershed Advisory Council (WAC) meeting that took place early in the month, and said all ideas and comments will be considered as we revise the Bay Restoration Plan.

Luce also reported a trip to Sacramento to meet with State elected officials and their staff, and also reported on her election to Chair of the Association of National Estuaries (ANEP). She also reported on her recent trip to Washington DC, meeting with various staff and the Appropriations Committees in the House and the Senate. Finally, Luce reported on a survey of participants in the Rain Barrel program in Culver City – about 400 installed barrels about a year and a half ago – to assess the functionality and success of the program. Luce reported that all responses were positive with barrels still functioning with water being used to water their lawns, as well as other uses and that many requested additional barrels. Luce said the staff is reaching out to expand the program in other cities.

Nate Kaplan said Councilmember Rosendahl sent a letter to Fish and Wildlife to request a 90 day NOP scoping period for Ballona, instead of the 45-day period. Mike Gin asked Shelley to look into the potential impacts of the Sequestration. Susan Nissman commented on the value of capturing storm water and the rain barrels, and asked about how to measure or monitor the unused barrels. Luce said there are plans to do a more comprehensive follow up and asked for suggestions to inspect people's home programs. Enrique Zaldivar said the City of LA keeps a list of contacts and highlighted the success and over-subscription, including a waiting list, to the program and there is much to learn about the contractual obligations involved.

Public Comment

Patricia McPherson said the public does not have a voice on the Commission.

3. Governing Board Business Items

a) Consideration of Approval of October 18, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Dennis Washburn noted a minor typo. The minutes were approved as amended (M: Crosson, S: Sikich, Abst.: Cameron)

b) Appointment of Dr. Eric Stein to the TAC

Luce introduce the nomination of Dr. Eric Stein from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project to the TAC where a coastal science expert is needed.

The appointment was approved (M: Washburn, S: Cameron)

Public Comment:

Patricia McPherson read an email about a SAC, similar to the WAC, and said no alternatives were planned for Ballona since early on, and said hydrology studies have never been done, and also said the Coastal Conservancy, the SMBRF Foundation, and members of the board have driven the funds to only do estuarine studies and not to any other alternatives.

c) Consideration of Approval of Amendments to the MOU (Cleanup language to reflect new legislative districts, agency name changes, etc.)

Public Comment:

Marcia Hanscom said she was denied speaking on an informational item. Hanscom also asked why the board is voting on this MOU and not on the MOU between the Coastal Conservancy, Fish and Wildlife, SMBRC, and the Annenberg Foundation. Scott Valor clarified in which sections of the agenda the public may speak, under the Bagley-Keene act.

Valor explained the changes to the MOU and said the changes are primarily due to the re-districting, but also changes in names, and that the changes are not substantive

The item was approved unanimously. (M: Washburn, A: Skei)

d) Election of Watershed Advisory Council Member to Governing Board At-Large Position

Valor explained the process for filling the At-Large position on the SMBRC governing board left vacant after Richard Bloom was elected to the State Assembly. Valor said this is a two-year position and any member of the WAC is eligible. He clarified that this election will be for the remainder of Richard Bloom's term. Three candidates were nominated: City of Hermosa Beach (Jeff Duclos), City of Rancho Palos Verdes (Jim Knight), and The Marina Del Rey Anglers (Bob Godfrey). Diamond invited the candidates to give statements, which they did. Staff distributed secret ballots for the voting. Valor explained that Voting and Non-Voting GB member have the right to vote on this election. Valor said the At-Large candidates have to be members of the WAC to be eligible for the At-Large post.

Valor reported the results: 24 ballots received, with Marina Del Rey Anglers receiving the majority of votes, 13.

e) Presentation on Bay Restoration Plan Progress and 5-Year Update

Luce made a presentation on the SMBRC Annual Report, which included the scope of work in 2012, including wetlands and riparian habitat restoration, green neighborhoods programs, marine habitats protection and restoration, outreach, and planning and policy development. Luce spoke about more specific efforts including Ballona Wetlands planning stages, Malibu Lagoon restoration, the Annual Wetlands Research symposium, the Lighthawk aerial survey monitoring, LID projects, kelp restoration efforts, the restaurant program, fisheries efforts, special studies publishing (Ballona Hydrology, Wetlands Climate Change impact), and others.

Guangyu Wang presented on the SMBRC's Bay Restoration Plan (BRP). Wang gave a summary of the BRP, indicated that WAC input is incorporated into the BRP, and that the plan itself was first created in 1995 with a major revision in 2008 with 14 overarching goals in 3 priority areas, 60 objectives, and 170 milestones. Wang went over each of the priority areas: Water Quality, Natural Resources, and Benefits and Values to Humans. Wang said 31 milestones were achieved, 114 ongoing or in progress, and 25 uninitiated. Wang said the BRP efforts are done with the collaboration of multiple agency partners. Wang spoke about the various accomplishments in each priority area. Wang also spoke about various remaining challenges in

implementing the BRP. Luce added that at the April GB meeting there will be opportunity for GB members to provide feedback on the BRP.

A copy of the presentation can be found at: http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/about_us/smbr_plan

f) Member Comment

Dan Murphy passed around Angus Alexander's name placard, which members signed, wishing him well. Washburn announced Outdoors, a quarterly publication that provides fun activities in areas where the Commission has an impact, in the Santa Monica Mountains. Washburn also proposed a future agenda item to discuss development of an entrepreneurial program initiated by the SMBRC for the development of jobs and social enterprises, to accomplish mission related goals of the SMBRC. Washburn recommended a book "Creating Good Work" and could ask the author to speak at the GB meeting.

Nissman said the protest hearing of the Clean Water Clean Beaches Initiative continued for 60 days and said the next hearing would be March 12 at the County Board of Supervisors. Nissan thanked the supporters.

Sam Schuchat said a WAC member during one of the GB meetings came with a proposal for stickers for the protection of marine mammals and announced that the Coastal Conservancy provided a funding grant for it and that the stickers were lovely. Schuchat also commented on the MOU signed by three State agencies and the Annenberg Foundation noting that it was brought up by the Dept of Fish and Wildlife to higher levels of government and that it has support from both the State Resources Secretary and the Governor.

g) Announcement of Next Meeting Date

The next Governing Board meeting will be held on April 18, 2013 at 9:30 am.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Attendance

Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Dayna Bochco, California Coastal Commission
Barbara Cameron (alternate to John Sibert), Malibu Creek Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)
Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Liz Crosson, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles
Philip Friess (alternate to Grace Chan), LA County Sanitation Districts
Mike Gin, South Bay Cities (City of Redondo Beach, Mayor)
Suzanne Goode, California Department of Parks and Recreation
Nate Kaplan (alternate), Office of Councilmember Rosendahl, LA City Council 11th District
John Kelly, LA County Dept of Beaches and Harbors
Michael Mullin (alternate), Office of the Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Dan Murphy, LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division
Susan Nissman (alternate to Zev Yaroslavsky), LA County Board of Supervisors (Supervisor, 3rd District)
Sam Schuchat, California State Coastal Conservancy
Sarah Sikich, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Heal The Bay
Rorie Skei (alternate), Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Ron Smith, At-Large Member West Basin MWD
Damian Skinner (alternate to Micheal O'Leary), Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (Culver City)
Fran Spivy-Weber (alternate), California Environmental Protection Agency
Dennis Washburn, At-Large Member BWC (RCD, Santa Monica Mountains Region)
Enrique Zaldivar, Los Angeles City Public Works
Gabrielle Zamora (alternate to Marvin Sachse), Public Member, Brash Industries

Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Andrea Kune, Office of Assemblymember Richard Bloom, 50th District
Timothy Lippman, Office of State Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi, 66th District
Laurie Newman, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, President
Jennifer Zivkovic, Office of State Senator Ted Lieu, 28th District

Commission Staff:

Shelley Luce
Julie Du Brow
Tom Ford
Grace Lee
Lia Protopapadakis
Scott Valor
Marcelo Villagomez
Guangyu Wang

Other Attendees, including other Bay Watershed Council Members:

Jeff Duclos, Councilmember, Hermosa Beach
Marcia Hanscom, Ballona Institute and the Sierra Club
Andy Lyon
Patricia McPherson, Grassroots Coalition
Domingo Orozco, LA Sanitation
Ellen Perkins, South Bay Cities COG/Palos Verdes Estates City Councilmember
Steve Santen, Marina Del Rey Anglers
Michael Tripp, LA County Dept of Beaches and Harbors