

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

**April 18, 2013**

**Del Rey Yacht Club**

**Welcome and Introductions**

At 9:40a.m. Micheal O'Leary called for a moment of silence for the Boston bombings. O'Leary then called the meeting to order.

**1. Public Comment**

Douglas Fay commented on Heal the Bay's website report and also made an assessment on the status of the bay. Fay also spoke about Annenberg center and the Ballona Creek project, his opposition to it, and an alternative location for the Annenberg center.

Roy Van De Hoek from the Ballona Institute passed around two portrait paintings, talked about its author Henry David Thoreau, and a gave brief history of his struggles near Boston. Van De Hoek painted a story of an encounter of Henry David Thoreau and a Great Blue Heron whom he thought deserved citizenship too.

Kathy Knight, Conservation Chair of the Marina Sierra Club, spoke against having more development in the wetlands and said less than 5% of wetlands, of which she fought to keep, are left on our coast. Knight said various species and whole ecosystems now use the area where the Annenberg center is proposed. Knight said their position is to have the interpretive center built at Playa Vista.

Introductions from board members followed.

**2. Informational Items**

**a) Order of Agenda**

Agenda item 3b was removed from the agenda. The order of the agenda was then approved without objection.

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

Scott Valor reported on the last EC meeting. Valor reported about Shelley Luce's trip to Washington to visit Members of Congress and Senators to speak on a variety of issues. Valor said Luce updated EC members on the Ballona Symposium and on the Malibu Lagoon grand opening planning. Valor also reported on the EC discussion of agenda items for the Governing Board (GB) meeting today.

**c) Report from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Richard Ambrose said the last TAC meeting included some discussion about the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) and that the main discussion was about the State of the Bay Report that will come back in 2015. Ambrose said they discussed the content to be placed in the report. Ambrose reported about two presentations at the TAC related to quantitative bases to assess the state of the Bay. One presentation was from Dr. Eric Stein from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) about methods to assess the health of streams. The other presentation was from Karen Martin from Pepperdine University. Martin is an expert in sandy beaches who has been working on assessments methods. Ambrose said that during the previous State of the Bay report, there were available some good quantitative bases, and that the goal was to build objective bases throughout this time around.

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

Luce thanked the TAC for its work towards the State of the Bay report. Luce said December 2013 will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Santa Monica Bay Estuary Program, and that an anniversary celebration is being planned on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Luce acknowledged the planning work of Laurie Newman, Fran Diamond, and others. Luce also announced and invited members to the grand opening of the restored and enhanced Malibu Lagoon project to take place on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Luce also reported about the State of the Watershed report issued by Heal the Bay in March and the many years of research that went into it. Luce said the SMBRC recommended funding that went into the surveys and studies of the report. Luce also spoke about our annual Urban Wetland Symposium, which had a focus on the impacts of climate change on urban wetlands and how these wetlands mitigate impact. Luce said the symposium had a full-house of 150 people. Finally, Luce reported on her trip to Washington on the week leading to the Friday when Sequestration took effect. Luce said she met with

Congressional Appropriations Committee staff and our local elected officials in Congress, and she expressed hope the Estuary program funding remained the same or at worst at the 5% across the board cut. Luce said Valor is working with Congress staff to keep the Estuary funding intact.

Luce thanked Mike Gin for his service at the SMBRC, the EC, and especially for his work around the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Gin expressed gratitude for being part of the SMBRC and thanked all the members for their important work. A recognition certificate was presented to Gin.

### **3. Governing Board Business Items**

#### **a) Consideration of Approval of the February 21, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were approved without changes (M: Washburn, S: Gully)

b) This agenda item was removed.

#### **c) Presentation & Review of Watershed Advisory Council (WAC) Recommendations**

Dr. Guangyu Wang reviewed the WAC recommendations for the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP). Wang spoke about the comments and feedback that resulted from the WAC meeting, and praised the quality of feedback. Wang highlighted various comments from the Overarching and Cross-Cutting comments as well as comments from each section: water quality, natural resources, and benefits and values to humans. For further detail please refer to the "WAC Comment Summary Presentation".

#### **d) Presentation & Discussion of Draft Bay Restoration Plan Update**

Luce made a presentation about BRP accomplishments with SMBRC partners, which included: establishing state-wide policy to discontinue once-through cooling, updating and finalizing the inventory of discharges to the ASBS, upgrades to some provisions to include performance based designed criteria, completing a feasibility study for a potential LA County-wide property assessment for our storm water cleanup, completion of Legacy Park, and the institutionalization of SMBRC participation in Coastal Cleanup Day.

In natural resources, Shelley said a GAP analysis was done in preparation for MPA development, monitoring the fill data gaps was completed, the NOP process for the south coast region and established the MPA network was completed, then a monitoring plan for MPAs in the south coast network was developed. Luce said the new EIRs for potential new pipelines in the bay were reviewed, Historical Ecology and Water budget studies for the Ballona Creek Watershed were completed, we participated in regional surveys, and priority parcels in Corral Canyon were purchased. Luce continued stating that education and outreach for mudsnails was expanded, comprehensive watershed plans for invasive species control was adopted, baseline monitoring for Ballona Wetlands was completed, and that we implemented the Malibu Lagoon Restoration and Enhancement project. Finally Luce noted that we completed technical studies to understand the hydrology for local streams, completed the State plan for Topanga Lagoon, completed the design and CEQA process for the restoration of Grand Canal, established an advisory group for Oxford Lagoon restoration, and restored five acres of kelp habitat.

With regards to the area of benefits and values to humans, the milestones included applying and adapting new indicators by hosting annual meetings, developing and issuing fish consumption advisory and updating signage, modeling optimum locations for converting impervious to pervious surfaces, opening an access point to Ballona wetlands, completing the Ballona Greenway planning, and planning to increase recreational activity along the Ballona Creek. Luce thanked members who helped to accomplish the BRP goals.

Luce proceeded to talk about staff's top 10 issues identified in the BRP. The presentation report was segmented into four sections: the issue, what is currently in the BRP since 2008, what progress has been made, and what changes are being proposed. The top ten issues were: TMDL implementation, promoting LID/Green infrastructure for urban runoff pollution control, wetlands protection and restoration, MPAs monitoring and management, fishery management and sustainable food, climate change adaptation, storm water pollution, regional funding mechanisms for storm water quality improvement, rocky reef/kelp habitat restoration, and beneficial use and management of natural sediment. For a complete list and detail please refer to the "BRP Top 10 Issues".

An extensive discussion among board members relating to the top ten priorities proceeded after the introduction of each issue by Luce. Members discussed various issues and ideas, from prioritizing areas such as source identification and good science as discussed by Susan Nissman and Mike Gin; to being precise with the language of the BRP, having clear goals and objectives, as recommended by Charles Caspary, Dennis Washburn, and Michael Mullin; to aligning resources for common goals, taking overlapping and cumulative budget effects, looking at overall costs of projects, talking about funding and sharing budget estimates, as proposed by various members, including Washburn, Barbara Cameron, John Kelley, Susan

Nissman, and Mike Gin. Additionally, Caspary questioned the wisdom and effectiveness of layering new TMDLs on top of partially implemented 2003 TMDLs for the same pollutants and in the same watershed; the role of the SMBRC with its collective knowledge and priorities, integration, and bringing coherence to policies was discussed by Mark Pestrella, John Sibert, and Caspary; having overarching guiding principles was proposed by Gin; educating and sharing information with the public with regards to MPAs was shared by Sarah Sikich; and incorporating climate change into restoration planning and developing innovative ideas related to climate change was raised by Joan Cardellino and Washburn.

Further discussions included funding sources and ideas for LID projects such as parcel taxes and fees, city ordinances for private developers, grants, and multi-faceted approaches for LIDs from various groups, with various members, including Cardellino, Nissman, Enrique Zaldivar, Wing Tam, Pestrella, and Luce exchanging ideas. Other discussions included storm water and issues of plastic bags and smoking restrictions and education on State beaches and State legislation restrictions with plastic bags as discussed by Sibert, Nissman, Sikich, Kune, and O’Leary. With regards to natural sediments, Washburn proposed looking into private/public partnerships. Pestrella also proposed additional language on the BRP for coastal and beach erosion. Caspary, Pestrella, and Nissman commented on the idea of having SMBRC as a repository of knowledge and education to inform each other and the public.

### **Public Comment**

Fay asked for more open public participation. Fay also commented on other projects like sand replenishment and the Rindge Dam and available funds from homeowners, sustainable fish in Morro bay while in our bay we place signage not to fish, a baseline for history of the bay in his father’s library, waste water segregation, and Hyperion dumping billions of tons of waste in this bay.

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

Washburn announced “Not Just Another Dam Film Festival” in July 19<sup>th</sup> and asked members to check out Outdoors Magazine for next quarter activities. Sikich announced that all water quality data is back online at the Heal the Bay website. Sikich also announced that they are available to give presentations to other agencies. Sikich also announced Earth Day. Zaldivar announced that on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, they dedicated one of the largest Prop O funding projects of \$20 million for a three million gallon of storm water capture and thanked participants. Zaldivar also agreed to have a presentation about the city’s rain barrel program. Jennifer Zivkovic announced that on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, Senator Ted Lieu will host an Internet town hall meeting on the State budget. Dan Murphy announced the outreach and education of the strategic plan of the Fire Department. Murphy spoke about a remote operated vehicle that can go down a thousand feet available for training opportunities and surveys in the water. Murphy shared two websites: [www.sippinsaline.com](http://www.sippinsaline.com) and [www.beachology101.com](http://www.beachology101.com).

Cardellino announced three grant rounds by the State Coastal Conservancy. Pestrella announced the release of the Sediment Management plan that was developed with many stakeholders. Pestrella estimated about 18 to 20 million of cubic yards of sediment sitting in reservoirs now. The plan includes anything from transport, beach replenishment, private/public partnerships, infilling Legacy excavations, etc. Pestrella recommended YouTube videos on sediment management. Pestrella also announced the launch of an Adaptive Management Plan for channels maintenance in LA County. Pestrella also announced a June 28<sup>th</sup> County Board of Supervisors meeting and the follow up protest hearing on Prop 218 about what is happening on storm water management and funding.

O’Leary announced a Cyclavia event on Sunday, April 21, for bikes going from Venice Beach to Downtown LA. Caspary announced that on the weekend of May 4 and 5, the Las Virgenes Metropolitan Water District is sponsoring a solar power challenge. Caspary announced that the Water District has released a study that compiles 40 years of data in the Malibu Creek watershed that is available for download on this website: [www.lvmwd.com](http://www.lvmwd.com). Nissman announced an annual farmwalk on April 28<sup>th</sup> at Pierce College, with interest in sustainability. Kune suggested events announced to go to the public as well, especially water related activities.

#### **f) Announcement of Next Meeting Date**

The next Governing Board meeting will be held on June 20th at 9:30 am.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:53a.m.

### **Attendance**

#### **Voting Members of the Governing Board:**

Dayna Bochco, California Coastal Commission

Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Joan Cardellino, California State Coastal Conservancy  
Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles  
Mike Gin, South Bay Cities (City of Redondo Beach, Mayor)  
Suzanne Goode, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Robert Godfrey, Marina Del Rey Anglers  
Joe Gully, LA County Sanitation Districts  
John Kelly (alternate), LA County Dept of Beaches and Harbors  
Michael Mullin (alternate), Office of the Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
Dan Murphy (alternate), LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division  
Susan Nissman (alternate to Zev Yaroslavsky), LA County Board of Supervisors (Supervisor, 3rd District)  
Micheal O'Leary, SMBRC Chair, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (Culver City)  
Mark Pestrella, LA County Department of Public Works  
Sarah Sikich, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Heal The Bay  
John Sibert, Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)  
RorieSkei (alternate), Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Ron Smith, At-Large Member, West Basin MWD  
Wing Tam, LA City Department of Public Works  
Dennis Washburn, At-Large Member, (RCD, Santa Monica Mountains Region)  
Enrique Zaldivar, Los Angeles City Public Works

***Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:***

Rich Ambrose, Technical Advisory Committee, Chair  
Andrea Kune, Assemblymember Richard Bloom, 50<sup>th</sup> District  
Laurie Newman, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, President  
Louise Rishoff, State Senator Fran Pavley, 27<sup>th</sup> District  
Jennifer Zivkovic (alternate to Ted Lieu), Senator Ted Lieu, 28th District

***Commission Staff:***

Shelley Luce  
Julie Du Brow  
Tom Ford  
Scott Valor  
Marcelo Villagomez  
Guangyu Wang

***Other Attendees, including other Bay Watershed Council Members:***

Edward Caldwell, West Basin MWD  
Barbara Cameron, Malibu Creek Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)  
Jeff Duclos, Hermosa Beach City Council  
Douglas Fay  
Marcia Hanscom, Wetlands Defense Fund, Ballona Institute, Sierra Club  
Kathy Knight, Sierra Club Airport Marina Group  
Keith Lambert, Marina Del Rey Anglers  
Jim Lamm, Ballona Creek Renaissance  
Damian Skinner (alternate), Micheal O'Leary, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (Culver City)  
Robert "Roy" Van de Hoek, Ballona Institute