

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

**February 20, 2014**

**Del Rey Yacht Club**

**Welcome and Introductions**

At 9:43 a.m. Micheál O'Leary called the meeting to order.

**1. Public Comment**

Kathy Knight, representing Ballona Ecosystem Education Project, commented that the area of Ballona Wetlands near Lincoln and Jefferson is an underground aquifer and a potential source of drinking water during our current drought. She wants this to be considered when SMBRC makes decisions and doesn't want it to get contaminated or polluted.

Walter Lamb, with the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust, stated that he appreciated the opportunity to speak regarding the Annenberg proposal for construction at Ballona Ecological Reserve. He stated that an "us versus them" atmosphere isn't conducive to creating the best environmental policy and referred to an article written by the executive director (ED) of the SMBRC in a May 2012 article published in the *Urban Coast*. He stated that the Land Trust has been dedicated to protecting the Ballona Wetlands ecosystem for 20 years and opposes the Annenberg proposal as it falls short of the "good standard" articulated in that article. He encouraged SMBRC to have a more proactive role in discussions.

Dennis Washburn of the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains spoke of the reorganization of the RCD board and their current focus on implementation projects, many of which are in line with SMBRC's projects and efforts. He will be serving as Executive Officer Clark Stevens' alternate. He handed out a copy of the most recent edition of *Outdoors* and also announced that 6:30 this evening there will be a long range planning meeting for trails in the Santa Monica Mountains.

**2. Informational Items**

**a) Order of Agenda**

The order of agenda was not changed.

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

Liz Crosson reported on the last EC meeting. She stated Shelley Luce discussed the Ballona Wetlands Restoration planning and that the Department of Fish and Wildlife and Coastal Conservancy are currently working on NEPA CEQA documents and noted that many agencies are coordinating on this project. They discussed that there are many alternatives (approximately eight). Crosson also reported the EC discussed agenda items for today and that The Bay Foundation staff have been working on the annual report and will be presenting some of their projects at today's meeting.

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

There were no reports from the TAC.

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

Luce stated that her visit with the Director of the Office of Water with the EPA, Nancy Stoner, who was visiting to speak about climate change, requested to be taken on a tour of Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and talk about how climate change resilience can be incorporated into coastal restoration projects. They discussed how sea level rise and rain fall pattern changes are incorporated in the plan. Luce also mentioned articles published in the *Argonaut* and *Daily Breeze* that are available to view online.

Luce discussed that The Bay Foundation and SMBRC audits have been completed, and that there were no suggestions from the auditors, meaning that the audits were clean. She also mentioned that the 2013 Annual Report and Bay Restoration Plan were finalized at the last Governing Board meeting and that a draft is currently posted on the SMBRC website. The final version should be posted by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Luce announced that SMBRC has a new alternate for its position on the Leadership Committee of the Integrated Regional Water Management Program. This seat is representing open space for habitat and recreation and how that fits into integrated

water resource management planning. Luce has had this seat for over five years and her new alternate is Andrea Golo, Executive Director of the Puente Hills Habitat Conservation Authority, replacing Norma Garcia with LA County Department of Parks and Recreation. Golo will attend next week's Leadership Committee as Luce will be out of town in Washington DC to meet with elected officials to discuss EPA's funding allocations to the National Estuary Programs. Last year there was a 15% cut and Luce hopes there will be no additional funding cuts this year. There will also be two full days of meetings during this trip with EPA staff at their headquarters to discuss current programs.

Luce announced that there will be an annual meeting of the Watershed Advisory Council on March 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be a presentation followed by a workshop format to receive input from WAC members on the work plan for the upcoming year. The finalized Bay Restoration Plan will be available at this meeting.

Luce stated that SMBRC was awarded a new grant with the Metropolitan Water District's Innovative Conservation Program for \$50,000 to work on four different properties located in the MWD service area, two commercial and two residential, for water conservation retrofitting. Luce stated they would prefer to focus on a location in the Ballona Creek Watershed. For the residential location she would like to focus on a multi-family property. She encouraged members to contact her if they know of any locations that may be interested.

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

#### **a) Consideration of Approval of December 19, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Sachse noted a typo under Item C. Brass Industries should be spelled Brash Industries.

The minutes were approved as amended. (M: Sachse , S: Sibert ).

#### **b) Election of Governing Board Chair and Vice-Chairs (comprising the Executive Committee**

Scott Valor introduced this agenda item, for the election of one Chair and six Vice-Chairs. Before the voting for each vacancy Valor announced opening the voting process for floor nominations.

For the Chair position, Micheál O'Leary was unanimously re-elected.

For the six vice-chairs the nominations were: Los Angeles Waterkeeper (Liz Crosson), Los Angeles County Regional Water Quality Control Board (Fran Diamond), LA County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, State Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi, Heal the Bay (Sarah Sikich), and West Basin MWD (Ron Smith). These nominations, not being contested, were approved by the GB by acclamation.

#### **c) Consideration of Appointment of the Ballona Ecosystem Education Project to the Watershed Advisory Council**

Valor introduced Kathy Knight of the Ballona Ecosystem Education Project stating that she has participated regularly at Governing Board meetings as well as a citizen participating at the Watershed Advisory Council meetings. Valor stated the qualifications needed to be added as a member to the Watershed Advisory Council and that BEEP meets these qualifications. Knight stated that BEEP can bring a long history of knowledge of the Ballona ecosystem to the Council including knowledge about wildlife and plants. Working since the mid-1980s, BEEP is comprised solely of volunteers. This group has also fought to save land east of Lincoln, as well as west of Lincoln, through public education.

This item was approved unanimously. (M: Nissman , S: Jim Knight ).

#### **d) Staff Presentations on SMBRC 2013 Annual Report**

Luce stated that staff would be presenting on current projects and that hard copies of the 2013 Annual Report would be handed out. She also encouraged visiting SMBRC's website for a link to a digital copy.

Staff and project partners showcased several projects funded or carried out by the SMBRC in the past year. Jack Topel presented on Prop 84 projects and introduced Michael Guerrero, with the City of Manhattan Beach, who discussed the Greenbelt Low Flow Infiltration Project, which is an innovative project that captures urban runoff. Ivan Medel presented on an award winning rain harvesting program in Culver City that was completed two years ago and not included in the 2013 report. Vicki Ippolito presented on a new iPad App of the popular Boater's Guide that is interactive and will be available for free, as well as distributed hard copies of the Guide to all board members. Tom Ford and project partner Terry Kuric presented on a unique urchin removal/kelp restoration project done in cooperation with local commercial fishermen. Many Governing Board members appreciated the opportunity to learn about these interesting projects, commenting that they reflected truly the diversity, depth, and the collaborative nature of SMBRC's work.

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

Sachse brought up the copper TMDL in Marina del Rey stating it was passed by the Water Board last week. He stated there is still ongoing discussion whether this is accurate for Marina del Rey and that there will be a meeting tonight at Del Rey Yacht Club at 7pm and that that it is open to the public. Sam Unger will be speaking. Sachse brought flyers to pass out.

Sibert commented on the use of rodenticides and that it cannot be stopped because it is a state regulation but pressure can be put on local merchants, which they have done. He spoke of the County of Los Angeles storm water issue meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and that recommendations should be finalized at that time. He also said that on April 24<sup>th</sup>, in Malibu, they are giving away rain barrels with West Basin.

Susan Nissman announced that at the last Board of Supervisors Meeting a second hearing was held on the acceptance of the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Plan. It was adopted by the Board of Supervisors and will be reviewed next by the California Coastal Commission. She thanked the local environment community for their support.

Rorie Skei reiterated Washburn mentioning the National Recreation Area Trail Management Plan meeting tonight in Calabasas, but she stated that there is a second meeting Saturday morning at 10am.

Joan Cardellino with the Coastal Conservancy acknowledged the role Senator Lieu had in sponsoring legislation that was passed last January that gave the Coastal Conservancy specific authority to do climate change projects. In January, their board approved a package of grants and she wanted to mention those that were given to members of SMBRC including the City of Hermosa Beach (\$100,000), Heal the Bay (\$169,000), Northeast Trees (\$160,000), Council for Watershed Health (\$150,000), and LA County Beaches and Harbors (\$69,000). Cardellino stated twenty grants were given statewide. She also discussed state water bonds that are being debated in the legislature and that there will be hearing at City Hall in Monterey Park on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Dan Murphy stated the return of large predators to the Bay is a measure of success, however that the presence of white sharks is also a challenge for Lifeguards. In January they held a White Shark Symposium. Many agencies were represented and there was a full house. It was a great opportunity to come to a consensus on how to interact with the sharks as well as how to react to unhealthy interactions. He stated that the return of this large predator is great for the ecosystem but that there are challenges for public safety agencies. He said the current sharks are small and not a threat without being chased.

Andrea Kune announced bill AB1699 introduced by Bloom that seeks the ban of plastic micro beads found in personal care products and discussed their accumulation in the Pacific Ocean and our local waterways.

Jim Knight mentioned an article in the LA Times showing the success of the Marine Protection Act Management Plan and stated he wanted to put a plug in for good science and that using good science is a tool for good management. He also asked Luce for more information on using open space as mitigation for water quality.

Liz Crosson announced that LA Waterkeeper has released a report that is a follow up on a report from 2000 called *Crude Awakenings* that is an analysis on how prepared we are in the event of a major oil spill. She also announced that they are having their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Stand Up for Clean Water which is a Stand Up Paddleboard race at Paradise Cove in Malibu.

Sarah Sikich announced that next Thursday Heal the Bay will be co-hosting with LA Food Policy Council, The Bay Foundation and several local restaurants at a Sustainable Seafood Panel.

Nate Kaplan reiterated the Sustainable Seafood Event, which will be held at Loyola Marymount University.

**f) Announcement of Next Meeting Date**

The next Governing Board meeting was set for April 17, 2014 at 9:30 am.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

## **Attendance**

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

Joan Cardellino, California State Coastal Conservancy  
Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Liz Crosson, Los Angeles Waterkeeper  
Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles  
Philip Friess, LA County Sanitation District  
Suzanne Goode, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Keith Lambert, At-Large Member (alternate) (Marina Del Rey Anglers)  
Nate Kaplan, Councilmember, LA City Council District 11  
John Kelly, LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors  
Jim Knight, South Bay Cities (City of Rancho Palos Verdes)  
Dan Murphy, 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 Dept of Public Works  
Matt Petersen, City of Los Angeles, Office of the Mayor  
Marvin Sachse, Brash Industries  
John Sibert, Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)  
Sarah Sikich, Public Member/Environmental, Heal the Bay  
Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Ron Smith, At-Large Member, West Basin MWD  
Clark Stevens, At-Large Member (BWC (SM Mountains RCD))  
Enrique Zaldivar, Los Angeles City Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation

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

Andrea Kune, Assembly member Richard Bloom, 50<sup>th</sup> District  
Laurie Newman, The Bay Foundation, President  
Louise Rishoff, State Senator Fran Pavley, 27<sup>th</sup> District

### ***Commission Staff:***

Carrie Baldwin  
Tom Ford  
Vicki Ippolito  
Karina Johnston  
Shelley Luce  
Frances McChesney (SWRCB Legal Counsel & Counsel for SMBRC)  
Ivan Medel  
Jack Topel  
Scott Valor  
Marcelo Villagomez  
Guangyu Wang

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

Tonya Durrell, City of LA Sanitation  
Suzanne Fuentes, South Bay COG  
Michael Guerrero, City of Manhattan Beach  
Terry Herzik, Commercial Sea Harvester  
Leighame Kirk, West Basin Municipal Water District  
Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystems Education Project  
Tiffany Let  
TJ Moon, LA County  
Randal Orton, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Tim Pershing, AD50  
Damian Skinner, WSCCOG  
Wing Tam, LA City Department of Public Works  
Gary Thompson, Commercial Sea Harvester  
Dennis Washburn, RCDSMM