

## **SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 15, 2015**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

At 9:35 a.m. Micheal O'Leary called the meeting to order. Introductions followed.

### **1) Comments from Members of the Public on Items Not on the Agenda and Public Testimony on All Agenda Items**

#### **Public Comment:**

Kathy Knight asked for help to save the last pieces of nature along the coast. Knight said she is trying to stop overdevelopment in Marina del Rey and noted there are huge projects planned including a Marriott hotel.

Walter Lamb said he is following up on Captain Murphy's suggestion from last meeting to not have law enforcement at meetings. Lamb notes two advantages to this including a better tone to meetings and it would free up about \$2000 from the budget. Lamb also commented on the SMBRC and The Bay Foundation structures and processes.

Dayna Bocho asked the Governing Board if it has jurisdiction over development in the marina; question was answered no. Bocho mentioned the marina master plan which does have a coastal permit and asked Kathy Knight if the hotel has a coastal permit. Knight responded yes the hotel does have a coastal development permit. Bocho said the only thing she can do is apply for revocation if there is standing to do so.

### **2) Informational Items**

#### **a) Order of Agenda**

The order of agenda was not changed.

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

Scott Valor gave the EC meeting report from September. Valor reported the purpose of the meeting was to review extensive changes to the RFP. Tom Ford added that governing board members and public are welcome to attend EC meetings. Ford announced governing board members are allowed to participate in EC discussion but will not have a vote. Ford added governing board members are welcome and have a spot around the table with the EC members.

#### **c) Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee**

Ford reported there was no TAC report due to the extensive work on State of the Bay report.

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

Ford welcomed Bruce Reznik the new executive director of LA Waterkeeper who then introduced himself. Ford reported that a complete semi-annual report is coming out in October and will be available online upon completion. Ford reported on the State of the Bay conference and report. Ford noted the report is late because the TAC is coming up with a quantifiable approach to how the bay is doing and beaches have been a difficult habitat type to quantify. Ford said the report will be out in November.

Ford then reported on work being done to meet the goals of the BRP. Ford said the SMBNEP is restoring the El Segundo dune complex of 300 acres off LAX runway and along Vista del Mar; the endangered El Segundo Blue Butterfly is present there and they rely on coastal buckwheat to survive, which needs healthy dunes. CCD volunteers showed up and TBF staff and volunteers are going in monthly to weed. This is the largest stretch of coastal dunes left in Southern California. Ford reported that follow up on successful restoration of Malibu lagoon continues with ongoing maintenance. The Malibu Lagoon report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of monitoring is still available on our webpage. Ford reported we received a grant from Metropolitan Water District to construct four rain gardens and to develop focused measurements on how much potable water we've offset from the rain gardens. This report will be available soon. Ford reported we completed storm water monitoring from the earlier month's storm and that there is more to come from Culver City rain garden complex. Ford reported that SMBNEP

staff are busy in the Santa Monica Mountains completing work on Arroyo Sequit with State Parks to remove barriers for steelhead. Removal of barriers will open four and a half miles to steelhead habitat and is close to 25% of the stated goal in BRP. This project will also allow for greater public safety and easier public access. Ford reported that boater publication “When Nature Calls” is available for download and is a guide for proper sewage disposal from boats. The Boater Program has also been busy installing pumpouts throughout Southern California to prevent direct deposits in our waterways. Ford reported that in early November the restaurant program will have a meeting with the seven cities involved in the project. Ford also reported that we are placing a bilge pumpout in Oceanside Harbor which will be installed this winter. Ford reported the bay has had persistently warm temperatures. Warm waters may be linked to El Niño and may be a harbinger of what’s to come. Ford reported that we received a grant from the state Coastal Conservancy to look at physical changes to restored kelp forests. Ford reported on ongoing abalone restoration work to develop methodology and conduct research to actively get abalone back out on the reefs. Ford reported on kelp restoration stating that since 2013, there has been over 6,000 hours of SCUBA diving, 34 acres restored, and urchins in restoration areas are exceeding fisheries values compared to urchins in natural kelp forests around them. Therefore the 883% return that was modeled as a return to the urchin fishery has manifested in two years. Ford reported that staff presented MPA aerial monitoring results to the group that volunteers its time and planes with us.

John Sibert asked if Ford has seen an impact of high temperatures on kelp. Ford answered that the canopy of kelp burnt off in Palos Verdes in September and now we are seeing the loss of adults almost wholesale barring more exposed headlands and deeper areas down to 75-80 feet. Ford said this is not unnatural and we can lose the adult standing stock annually and it’s more about how quickly it can bounce back and the innate resilience the restoration efforts can provide. Sibert then commented on the restaurant program and said Malibu is pushing to ban rodenticides. Sibert asked if the restaurant program includes better control of rodents other than practices like keeping lids closed

### **3) Governing Board Business**

#### **a) Consideration of Approval of February 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

The June minutes were approved unanimously, as amended, with one change in public comment section 1: change “Greg Cadwallader” to “Craig Cadwallader.” (M: Sikich, S: Caspary).

#### **b) Consideration of Approval of the Proposition 84 Grant Program Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Ford and Jack Topel gave an overview of the Prop 84 RFP. Governing Board member discussion followed.

Jim Knight asked if any previous RFP projects will carry forward as part of this process. Topel answered no, previous RFP projects are being carried forward to this RFP at this time. Knight asked if there were any lessons learned from past projects. Ford stated that it’s difficult to predict what a project will require in terms of monitoring and design elements. Ford said the TAC has done considerable work in the past on these projects to ensure performance of projects and efficacy of approaches. Sarah Sikich asked what the timeline for projects to be completed is. Topel answered generally three years from the grant agreement but that there is usually opportunity for extensions.

Motion to adopt the Proposition 84 Grant Program Request for Proposals, authorizing conforming editorial changes and amendment of maximum request from “\$5 million” to “\$6 million” was passed unanimously (M: Knight, S: Zaldivar).

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

Phil Fries reported that the Governor signed into law bill SB 485 by State Senator Hernandez that gives sanitation districts statutory authority to manage storm water allowing sanitation districts to provide services and assistance to member cities. Fries said that his office was working to execute an agreement with the Metropolitan Water District that would establish the terms under which Metropolitan would implement a potable reuse water recycling project of up to 150 million gallons per day. This would be a new, regionally-significant water recycling project and supply source. Robert Godfrey said Marina del Rey Anglers are involved in rehabilitation of white sea bass and recently discovered a released fish, after 15 years, was

recaptured, which is the longest-lived White Sea Bass in the program re-captured to date. Godfrey said his group recently completed a \$30,000 rehabilitation of the fish pens at Burton Chace Park. They also just released the first batch of 6500 fish from the rehabilitated fish pens. Jim Knight said his city sent a letter of support for SB 485 and would like to work together on MS4 compliance. Sibert discussed the excellent water conference at West Basin. Sibert also said UCLA put together a study on grey water reuse, which Rich Ambrose is familiar with, and he would like a presentation on this at the December meeting. Zaldivar said at the end of October they will be completing their outflow project and continue to work together to ensure things washed ashore are cleaned up. He stated that next week on Monday a boat that washed ashore will be recycled in collaboration with Beaches & Harbors, Lifeguard Division, and the Sheriff's Department. Volunteers are needed to help with foot and bike traffic. Zaldivar said areas of interest with governor include Prop 218 limitations for water funding and encouraged everyone to follow and get engaged. Rorie Skei said the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy issued a request for proposals for a portion of the Prop 1 water bond. Skei said guidelines adopted are on their website. Joan Cardellino said that Coastal Conservancy also has Prop 1 money and received 50 proposals for the first of four rounds of funding. Cardellino said the second round will focus on fish passage projects, an RFP will be out November 1<sup>st</sup>, and proposals are due at the end of December. Cardellino also enjoyed the State of the Bay conference and learned the per capita water consumption in LA is 131 gallons per day and in Australia near the end of the drought it was 25 gallons day. Matt Petersen then announced that the City of Los Angeles will be down to 107 gallons per day soon, but it hasn't been announced yet. Dennis Washburn said the RCD worked with partners on a rapid watershed assessment of the entire Santa Monica mountains range and he also announced the latest edition of the Outdoors magazine. Tim Pershing said the Governor signed a micro beads bill which is the strictest bill of this form, as it doesn't allow for future possible versions of micro beads that may be biodegradable. Pershing also thanked the Coastal Commissions for its stand in San Diego on Orcas.

d) **The Next Meeting Date was Announced as December 17, 2015**

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 without objection (M: Russell, S: Sikich).**

**Attendance**

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

Dayna Bochco, California Coastal Commission  
Joan Cardellino, California State Coastal Conservancy  
Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles  
Debbie Dyer Harris, Councilmember, Los Angeles City Council District 11  
Philip Friess, LA County Sanitation District  
Robert Godfrey, At-Large Member (Marina del Rey Anglers)  
Suzanne Goode, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Jim Knight, South Bay Cities (Mayor, City of Rancho Palos Verdes)  
Dan Murphy, LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division  
Micheal O'Leary, SMBRC Chair, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (City of Culver City)  
Matt Petersen, Office of the Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
Bruce Reznik, LA Waterkeeper  
John Sibert, Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)  
Sarah Sikich, Public Member/Environmental, Heal the Bay  
Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Michael Tripp, LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors  
Dennis Washburn, At-Large Member BWC (SM Mtns RCD)  
Enrique Zaldivar, LA City Sanitation

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

Laurie Newman, President, The Bay Foundation  
Fran Pavley, State Senator, 27 District  
Lauren Pizer Mains, State Senator Ben Allen, 26<sup>th</sup> District

Timothy Pershing, Assembly Member Richard Bloom, 50<sup>th</sup> District  
Dusty Russell, Office of State Senator Fran Pavley, 27<sup>th</sup> District

***SMB NEP Staff present:***

Julie Du Brow  
Tom Ford  
Victoria Gambale  
Jack Topel  
Scott Valor  
Marcelo Villagomez

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

Barbara Cameron, City of Malibu  
Noa Kishe, BHC  
Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project  
Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust  
TJ Moon, LA County Public Works  
Michelle Reed, LA County Public Works  
Damian Skinner, Culver City, Westside CoG  
Wing Tam, LA City Department of Public Works