

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
January 28, 2016, 12:00 to 2:00 pm
West Basin's Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility
1935 S. Hughes Way
El Segundo, CA 90245

Attendance:

Fran Diamond
Gloria Gray
Micheal O'Leary
Sarah Sikich

Absent:
Joan Cardellino, Timothy
Lippman, Bruce Reznik

Staff:

Tom Ford, Scott Valor (via
teleconference), Marcelo Villagomez,
Guangyu Wang

Guests: EJ Caldwell, Barbara
Cameron, Walter Lamb,
Damian Skinner

Note: Agenda Items are listed in the order in which they were taken up. Called to order at 12:11 p.m.

Micheal O'Leary chaired the meeting.

Agenda Item 1. Public Comment

Walter Lamb commented on the structure and staffing of the SMBRC.

Agenda Item 2. Informational Items

- a. Consideration of Approval of November 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Approved without objection. (M: Diamond, S: Sikich)

- b. Order of Agenda

Unchanged.

- c. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

Tom Ford noted that the City of Culver City and Inglewood joined the Clean Bay Restaurant Program. He also briefly discussed a pesticide/rodenticide program at the City of Malibu. Funding for the LAX Dunes restoration project will likely be acquired through the SMBRA in the near future from Los Angeles World Airports. Currently the Coastal Conservancy is funding The Bay Foundation with an outreach grant for that project. Ford noted that the Arroyo Sequit project is holding despite the heavy weather.

Ford updated the EC on the abalone cultivation center that is being created at Terminal Island. It should be on line in the coming months. He noted that a Marine Protected Area oversight was recently conducted. Ford noted his recent trip to Japan to address the Norwegian Ambassador there regarding restoration activities in the Santa Monica Bay that could be transferred to Norway.

Ford noted that Guangyu Wang is doing an analysis of how the SMBNEP Bay Restoration Plan goals and milestones match up to climate change issues. The BRP will be updated accordingly in coming years.

Ford also noted that he will be heading to Washington DC in late February for a National Estuary Program conference.

Guangyu Wang briefly summarized proposals that have been received to date pursuant to the November 2015 Proposition 84 Request for Proposals and responded to EC member questions.

Ford noted that the final decision/order from the court regarding the BWLT v SMBRC lawsuit will come out in the coming days or weeks and can then be discussed after that time.

Agenda Item 3. Executive Committee Business

- a. Establish Governing Board Agenda for February

Election of the Governing Board Chair and Vice-Chairs

Ford summarized the election process, noting that the nomination period opens the day after this meeting. All members of the Governing Board, whether voting or non-voting, are eligible for these positions.

Consideration of Approval of SMBRA FY 2016 Budget

Ford summarized the project descriptions that represent the budget for the Authority in 2016. He noted that the Authority will consider approval of the budget before the SMBRC Governing Board meeting in February, then it is to be considered by the SMBRC and LA County Board of Supervisors. He responded to EC member clarification questions.

Consideration of Approval of TAC Reappointments

Ford noted the procedures for TAC appointments and reappointments and summarized the duties of the TAC historically and going forward. In particular he noted the need for their scientific and technical expertise to review potential projects in the watershed. Sikich asked about the different types of expertise represented. Director Gray asked about types and number of members. Wang said that members are pursued based on need, expertise, and availability to serve.

Consideration of Approval of IRWMP MOU

Ford noted that the IRWMP Memorandum of Understanding has been recently updated and requires approval by the signatory bodies, including the SMBRC. Wang provided background regarding the changes, including changes to the addition of new IRWMP members.

These items were collectively placed on the agenda without objection. (M: Gray, S: Sikich)

b. Member Comments and Announcements Regarding Matters not on the Agenda

Director Gray raised the issue of closed session regarding the lawsuit and asked if that is something that is likely to happen in the near future. Ford and Valor responded that this determination would be made after the final order from the court is received.

A potential recycled water program was also discussed.

Sikich noted a potential constitutional amendment for a lower threshold for stormwater assessment fees. It needs a 2/3 vote of the electorate to get on the ballot.

O'Leary noted that Damian Skinner has taken a new job with the City of Torrance. He was thanked for his service.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m. without objection.