

SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION AUTHORITY
Board Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2017

Meeting Location:

Del Rey Yacht Club
13900 Palawan Way, Marina del Rey CA 90292

The meeting was convened at 12:00p.m. Gloria Gray chaired the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions took place.

Order of the Agenda

There was no change to the order of the agenda.

Public Comment:

Walter Lamb spoke about the LAWA-SMBRA contract and suggested the Foundation pursue that contract directly with LAWA. Lamb expressed concern regarding potential conflict of interest if executed.

Patricia McPherson submitted a Public Record Act request. She supported Lamb's statements. McPherson also spoke about the SMBRA being accountable to the SMBRC regarding Ballona Wetlands.

Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2016:

The minutes from November 17, 2016 were approved with no changes (M: Caspary, S: Lippman)

Executive Officer Report

Tom Ford, Executive Officer, gave an update on the status of the LAWA-SMBRA MOU, which is in legal reviews by involved entities. Tom then answered MOU-related questions regarding Coastal Commission permits secured for the project, the link of the project's goal to the Bay Restoration Plan, and other questions. Marcelo Villagomez, SMBRA staff, distributed meeting minutes from the SMBRA administrative staff, comprised of County of Los Angeles and the SMBRC staffing to the Authority. Villagomez also distributed the latest audited financials reports of the SMBRA, which are also posted online, and describe the scope of the budget and financials audited, which are the aggregate of SMBRA grants. He said the audits were clean, with one recommendation to turn invoices for payments sooner. The audit reports presented contained summary and individual grant detail. Ford described the projects and purpose of the grants. Caspary asked about the risk of funding cut of the federal WPDG grant. Ford said the 3 years funded are secure. Guangyu Wang stated that one of the three existing grants, the Boater Education grant, will no longer be part of the SMBRA and The Bay Foundation was applying for the next round of funding. Gray made some recommendations to the audit reports to underscore and expand the JPA purpose and indicate that these audits, based on the federal fiscal year, are done

annually. Gray also asked about the assets on the statements as well as what makes professional services and contracts. Ford explained that they were sensors purchased to monitor the Malibu Lagoon's health. Villagomez explained how the contracts are structured. With regards to the recommendation on the audit, to submit invoices promptly, the SMBRA is up to date as of the time of this meeting. Ford mentioned two years of findings are included in the audit report so that the Board and stakeholders are aware of progress made and whether prior recommendations were addressed.

The Board postponed acceptance of the audit report because it was not agendaized at this meeting but was presented as part of the Executive Officer report. The audit report will be brought back for Board acceptance at the next SMBRA Board Meeting.

Election of SMBRA Chair

Ford introduced this agenda item and said the former SMBRA member and Chair, John Sibert from Malibu termed out of office and was no longer part of the Commission nor the SMBRA. Discussion followed. Charlie Caspary was nominated by Gray to be Chair of the SMBRA. This item was approved (M: Gray, S: Lippman).

Member Comment

Frank Wu spoke about the SMBRA annual budget process and the time it takes to approve and recommended to bring the annual budget before the SMBRA Board of Directors as soon as possible. Wu said this body would need the approval and then the Commission and the County Board of Supervisors. Ford said the draft budget would go to the EC before the Commission and given the time it takes for approval, two-year budget made the most sense, and the Board concurred.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Attending members: Charles Caspary, Gloria Gray, Timothy Lippman, Frank Wu

Absent members: Sarah Sikich

SMBRA Staff: Frank Wu (LA County Public Works), Tom Ford (SMBRC), Guangyu Wang (SMBRC), Marcelo Villagomez (SMBRC)

General public:

Cathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project

Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust

Patricia McPherson, Sierra Club