

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
November 17, 2016, 12:30 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/Rich Nagel
Rita Kampalath
Bruce Reznik
Enrique Zaldivar

Absent:
Joan Cardellino, Timothy
Lippman

Staff:

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

Guests: EJ Caldwell, Molly
Martin (via teleconference),
Kathy Knight, Wing Tam

Note: Agenda Items are listed in the order in which they were taken up. Called to order at 12:32 p.m.

Enrique Zaldivar chaired the meeting. He invited board members to introduce themselves.

Agenda Item 1. Public Comment

Kathy Knight commented about the Native American people historically on the Ballona Wetlands and a particular sacred spot therein.

Agenda Item 2. Informational Items

- a. Consideration of Approval of September 15, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Approved as amended (correct date added) without objection. (M: Kampalath, S: Nagel)

- b. Order of Agenda

No change

- c. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

Tom Ford reported on the Westwood Greenway project's success and applauded the efforts of community contributors. He also updated the Executive Committee (EC) on other projects, including the Arroyo Sequit fish barrier removal project.

Ford noted that the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority approved its MOU with Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) and expects the project to move forward in early 2017.

He noted that he will be working on Climate Change Assessment issues with the Technical Advisory Committee among others as part of an ongoing study pursuant to the Clean Water Act Section 320 grant requirements. He also commented on ongoing reporting requirements to the US EPA.

Ford noted a meeting of The Bay Foundation on November 30th.

Ford commented on updates to the Bay Restoration Plan, stating that updates will look at all aspects of the SMBNEP. He will provide regular updates in the coming year as assigned staff works on it with US EPA staff in order to present to stakeholders for review.

Ford briefly discussed funding for an ocean acidification study and ongoing efforts as part of the project addressing the issue. He noted studies looking at whether kelp forests can buffer acidification in the ocean waters around them.

He noted that the NEP Re-authorization was recently signed by President Obama, and includes competitive grant provisions for which the SMBNEP will apply. He expects funding for this fiscal year to be the same as last year.

Agenda Item 3. Executive Committee Business

- a. Establish Governing Board Agenda for December

Election of Executive Committee Members (SMBRC Chair & Vice-Chairs)

Ford noted that the election procedures are conducted annually. He explained the process and the roles of EC members.

Approval of 2017 Governing Board Meeting Calendar

Ford noted that the meeting dates are the third Thursday of even-numbered months and the schedule is made in advance in order to coordinate with our host, the Del Rey Yacht Club.

Consideration of Support of Malibu Historic District

This item was requested by Michael Blum of Sea of Clouds. Ford stated that he and his organization have been working on this designation due to the cultural and historical values of the Malibu Surfrider beach region. Ford noted that a state or national recognition of the proposed district does not limit the ability of regulatory and oversight agencies to conduct their business.

The items were placed on the agenda without objection. (M: Nagel, S: Kampalath)

Closed Session

The EC went into Closed Session at 1:18 p.m. to discuss existing litigation filed against the SMBRC by the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust.

The EC came out of Closed Session at 2:16 p.m. and reconvened Open Session at 2:17 p.m.

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

Members made various announcements about upcoming events.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m. without objection.