

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
September 26, 2017, 12:30 to 2:30 pm
West Basin's Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility
1935 S. Hughes Way
El Segundo, CA 90245

Attendance:

Members/Alternates:

EJ Caldwell
Fran Diamond
Timothy Lippman
Bruce Reznik
Sarah Sikich
Enrique Zaldivar

Absent:
Sam Schuchat

Staff:

David Coupe (SWRCB), Guangyu
Wang (SMBRC), Marcelo Villagomez
(SMBRC)

Guests:

Tom Ford, The Bay
Foundation
Walter Lamb, Ballona
Wetlands Trust
Kurt Weissmuller,
California Department of
Justice
Wing Tam, LA County
Erica Yelensky (via
telephone), US EPA

Meeting called to order at 12:35 p.m.

Enrique Zaldivar chaired the meeting. Introductions followed.

Agenda Item 1. Public Comment

Walter Lamb asked to speak on items 3a and 3b.

Agenda Item 2. Informational Items

- a. Consideration of Approval of July 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes
Approved (M: Diamond, S: Zaldivar)
- b. Order of Agenda
No change
- c. Reports from the Chief Administrative Director and SMBNEP Staff

Guangyu Wang, Chief Administrative Director (CAD), reported on the work of the TAC during the summer, which focused on updating the Comprehensive Bay Monitoring Program (CMP). He said the September TAC meeting was cancelled, but TAC work groups continue to make progress in updating several components of the CMP. Wang also reported on scheduling of the WAC meetings to inform the BRP revision. Wang also reported on the work and progress of the pH sensor project in conjunction with the County of Los Angeles Sanitation District, and said the sensor is due for annual recalibration and then to be redeployed late in October to a new location in deeper waters. Wang also gave an update on the Prop 84 projects and said progress has been made with grant agreements for some projects with the trash insert project in Palos Verdes cities close being finalized, others are in negotiation like the Culver City storm infiltration system project, and others have been delayed due to the need to reallocate funding like the Ladera Park and Gates Canyon Park projects.

Wang also informed the Committee the release of the Ballona EIR/EIS and said there might be misconceptions about the type and level of involvement of the SMBRC in the process. David Coupe, Commission's legal counsel, expanded on the misconception issue and said the Commission is not an agency participating in the EIR/EIS process, and reminded members about the SMBRC legal nature, which is non-regulatory. Fran Diamond asked about the possibility of a statement of the role of the SMBRC on the website. Sarah Sikich asked if an agenda item on this topic would be useful or an update on the subject at the Governing Board meeting clarifying the role of the SMBRC.

Wang invited Tom Ford, ED of The Bay Foundation, and partner of the SMBNEP, to report on the progress of the current SMBNEP work plan implementation. Ford spoke about the BRP revision timeline and process, and underscored the search for more groups to give input in the BRP revision process. Ford also reported on the summer intern program, a joint effort with LMU, and said interns have worked in areas such as vegetation mapping, micro topography, rocky intertidal, LAX dunes vegetation mapping, and microplastics in sediments. Ford reported on the monitoring results of the Culver City Rain Garden project and the annual Coastal Cleanup Day. Ford also reported a number of reports completed, including an annual report on Iceplant at Ballona, a report on community stewardship project, one on the Santa Monica beach pilot project, an annual report on Malibu Lagoon post-restoration monitoring, one on water and energy efficiency funded by LADWP, and a boater pump out report on waste discharge by boaters, and an upcoming report on kelp restoration and abalone restoration.

Zaldivar said the city is working on a bio-diversity index and asked for possible involvement by the SMBNEP. Ford agreed to get in touch with Mas Dojiri to discuss this. Sikich said Heal the Bay supports an aquatic bio-diversity index.

Public Comment

Walter Lamb spoke about the role of the SMBRC and referred to documents that he said points to where the role confusion came from. He spoke about a participatory agreement on Ballona as well as an Annenberg Foundation agreement with the SMBRC. Lamb recommended discussions to continue.

Agenda Item 3. **Executive Committee Business**

a) Establish Governing Board Agenda for October GB Meeting

i) Workshop on Revision of the SMBNEP Bay Restoration Plan

Wang detailed plans for a BRP revision workshop during the next Governing Board meeting and said it was doable with proper public notice based on discussion with legal counsel. Wang said because of the time needed for the workshop, there will not be time for scheduling presentation requested by the County on the Oxford Basin restoration project. EC Members gave input to Wang to better plan the workshop with the limited time and room space, including workshop staffing ideas to draw resources from the SWRCB or TBF staff. Diamond and Sikich asked for advanced instructions to members via email, given the tight schedule, explaining exactly what to expect at the first workshop. Lippman suggested preparation and sharing of targeted questions to guide the topics of discussion and to allow GB members to provide more valuable and relevant input. Ford added that the expectation would be that members work through the entire BRP at the first workshop to identify new priorities in general and at later meetings to have more topic focused groups based on interest and expertise. Ford reminded EC members that some priorities are requirements from EPA and would remain as priorities in the revised plan, e.g. water quality improvement.

ii) Approval of SMBRA 2017-2019 annual budgets

Wang introduced this agenda item and pointed to the detailed information provided in the staff report on this item. He also pointed out that this budget has already been approved by the Governing Board of the Authority.

iii) Approval of amendment to SMBRA Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement

Wang introduced this agenda item and explained the reason for the change in the JPA agreement to reflect the new Chief Administrative Director title.

Approval of agenda items for GB (M: Lippman, S: Sikich)

b) Development of recommendations for SMBNEP governance structure improvement

Wang invited Ford to add to this item. Wang said the BRP revision requires a review of the NEP's governance, and good ideas in restructuring will be considered, for example, what the Governing Board's composition for the next five to ten years should be, what the role of the Executive Committee, or how the GB serves both functions, as a State Commission and Management Committee of the NEP. Ford added that all are on the table during the revision of the BRP and following the EPA guidelines, we will ask whether we have the right people, the right partners, the right structure, the right committees, etc.; and, do we have the right relationships, group or committee power structures, responsibilities, roles, etc.

b) Closed Session.

Closed session started at 1:55pm and ended at 2:52 pm.

c) Member Comments and Announcements Regarding Matters not on the Agenda

There were no member comments or announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 pm without objection.