

SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2018

Welcome and Introductions

At 9:57 Fran Diamond 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 commented on flow of water into the Ballona wetlands being cut off by Playa Vista.

2. Informational Items

a. Order of Agenda

The order of the agenda was changed on item 3), the approved order was: a) b) c) f) d) e)

b. Report from the Chair

There was no report from the chair.

c. Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee

Steve Bay gave the TAC report. Bay reported that TAC met on 2/28/18 with 2 topics discussed:

a) BRP Revision, where the TAC assisted staff with input on BRP broad goals, and b) a standardized habitat assessment framework for the Comprehensive Monitoring Program.

d. Reports from the Chief Administrative Director and SMBNEP staff

Guangyu Wang gave the Chief Administrative Director report. Wang reported on items discussed at the last EC Committee meeting, which were items on the agenda of today's GB meeting. Wang invited Tom Ford to report on SMBNEP activities. Tom Ford's report included an update on his trip to Washington DC for the yearly SMBNEP meeting, the semi-annual SMBNEP progress report to be completed by the end of this month, and other activities carried out under the current annual work plan.

Guangyu mentioned the semi-annual progress report will be made available to the general public after EPA review.

3. Governing Board Business

a. Consideration of Approval of February 15, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The February minutes were approved with an amendment to correct LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's name on agenda item 3.b.

Approved as amended. Moved: Charles Caspary, Seconded: Sarah Sikich)

b. Consideration of Approval of SMBNEP FY 19 Annual Work Plan

Guangyu Wang introduced this agenda item and addressed feedback received on the Work Plan. Guangyu Wang and Karina Johnston went through the recommended revisions based on the feedback received. Eric Yelensky explained the timeline of the EPA grant award process.

Public Comment:

Walter Lamb commented on the recommended changes to the Work Plan as related to the authority of SMBRC and the Proposition 12 grant funding process.

David Coupe addressed Lamb's comments and a threat by the Land Trust to sue the Commission if the Work Plan was approved. Coupe mentioned that the EC will meet in closed session at the next meeting to discuss the threatened litigation. Coupe offered Governing Board members to contact him directly if anyone had questions.

After member Discussion, the Work Plan with recommended revisions was approved by voice vote. Moved by Jonathan Bishop, seconded by Sarah Sikich. Members Bob Godfrey and Kevin McKeown opposed.

c. Consideration of Adoption of Proposition 12 Grant Award Process

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and reported on the input received at the Executive Committee meeting. Kara Kemmeler explained the eligibility and applicability of this grant funding, as well as the availability of other funding sources for restoration of Ballona Wetlands.

David Coupe commented on the SMBRC's role concerning the Proposition 12 grant award process.

Public Comments:

Cathy Knight commented on the use of the Prop. 12 fund for the Ballona Wetlands.

Helen Coyne-Hoek commented on the prioritization of the fund for Ballona Wetlands.

Walter Lamb commented on the proposed resolution for identifying Ballona Wetlands as a priority.

The resolution was approved unanimously. Moved: Jon Bishop; Seconded: Charlie Caspary

d. Consideration of Approval of Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement between the SMBRC and The Bay Foundation regarding the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary

Wang introduced this item and explained that the proposed amendment was reviewed and concurred by the Bay Foundation staff and legal representative.

The proposed amendment was approved unanimously. Moved: Kevin McKeown; Seconded: Charlie Caspary

e. Consideration of Election of a Tourist Representative to the Watershed Advisory Council

Wang introduced this item and invited Kevin McKeown to introduce the Santa Monica Travel and Tourism, the organization that submitted the WAC member application.

The Santa Monica Travel and Tourism was elected unanimously. Moved: Kevin McKeown;
Seconded: Kara Kemmler, Sarah Sikich

f. Update on Revision of the SMBNEP Bay Restoration Plan

This item was presented before item d and e.

Guangyu Wang introduced this item. Karina Johnston and Tom Ford gave an overview of the draft BRP goals that SMBNEP staff developed with the help of the Technical Advisory Committee.

g. Closed Session

No closed session was held.

h. Member Comment

There was no member comment.

Attendance

Voting Members/Alternates of the Governing Board:

Jonathan Bishop, State Water Resources Control Board
Charlie Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Espinosa Cesar, LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors
Fran Diamond, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Debbie Gloria Gray, West Basin Municipal Water District (At Large Member)
Robert Godfrey, Marina del Rey Anglers (At Large Member)
Suzanne Goode, California Department of Parks & Recreation
Kara Kemmler, California State Coastal Conservancy
Kevin McKeown, Westside Cities (City of Santa Monica)
Christopher Newman, LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division
Sarah Sikich, Public Member (Environmental/ Public Interest), Heal the Bay
Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Clark Stevens, Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District (At Large Member)
Jefferson Wagner, Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)
Enrique Zaldivar, LA City Bureau of Sanitation

Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Steve Bay, Technical Advisory Committee Chair
Luis Gail, US EPA Region IX
Laurie Newman, President, The Bay Foundation
Timothy Pershing, Office of Richard Bloom, State Assembly Member, 50th District

SMBNEP Staff present:

Emily Blum
David Coupe, SWRCB Legal Counsel
Julie DuBrow
Tom Ford
Karina Johnston
Jack Topel
Marcelo Villagomez
Guangyu Wang

Other Attendees, including other Watershed Advisory Council Members:

EJ Caldwell, West Basin Municipal Water District

Helen Coyne-Hoerk, Marina del Rey resident

Richard Harmel, public

Kathy Knight, Ballona ecosystem Education Project/Sierra Club

Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust

Nils Nehrenheim, City of Redondo Beach

Chung Nguyen, LA County Dept of Public Works

Erica Yelensky, US EPA Region IX