

**SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020

Time: 9:30 am–12:00 pm

Meeting Location:

Remote Meeting Only

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (Commission) Governing Board meeting was called to order at 9:38 am. Introductions followed.

Charles Caspary chaired the meeting.

1) Comments from Members of the Public on Items not on the Agenda and Public Testimony on All Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

2) Informational Items

a) Order of Agenda

There was no change to the order of the agenda. The order of the agenda was approved by voice vote. Moved: Cung Nguyen. Seconded: Danielle LeFer.

b) Report from the Chair

Charles Caspary reported on the canceled March 19, 2020 Executive Committee meeting and coordination with Commission staff to develop the April 16 Governing Board meeting agenda.

c) Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee

Guangyu Wang introduced Dan Pondella as the newly nominated Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair. Dan Pondella introduced himself and reported the TAC had not met since the last Governing Board meeting on February 20, 2020.

d) Reports from the Chief Administrative Director and SMBNEP Staff

Guangyu Wang reported on Commission staff's work activities including the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Work Plan, the proposed Amendment to the Commission's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the LA County Safe Clean Water Program, accessibility and ADA compliance, and remote meeting preparation.

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Tom Ford reported on SMBNEP activities carried out by The Bay Foundation (TBF) and adjustments to the COVID-19 emergency; postponement of the Coastal Research Institute summer program, community engagement programs, and community-based restoration projects; ongoing work including operation of abalone labs and continued progress on the Manhattan Beach Dune Restoration Project, LA Living Shoreline Project, Dockwalker program; and the preparation of the SMBNEP Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Work Plan.

Member comments followed on effects of reduced public activity on beaches.

3) Governing Board Business

a) Consideration of Approval of October 24, 2019 and February 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Enrique Zaldivar proposed adding Wing Tam under *Attendance*. The meeting minutes were approved as amended by roll-call vote. Moved: Kevin McKeown. Seconded: Enrique Zaldivar. Abstained: Kenny Kao, Roberto Uranga, and Enrique Zaldivar.

b) Consideration of Approval of SMBNEP Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Work Plan

Wang introduced this item and discussed the efforts to develop the draft SMBNEP Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Work Plan (draft) with member and public input.

Wang proposed to revise Action 21 next step 1 to add Municipal Water District (MWD) to the Lead Entity column (page 47 of the draft); Action 39 next step 2 to add “participating and tracking” and clarification that the halibut FMP is developed by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to the Objectives column, and to add “tracking progress” to the Description/Milestone Summary column (page 71 of the draft); and Action 39 next step 3 to replace MDRA with Lighthawk in the Lead Entity column (page 72 of the draft).

Erica Yelensky proposed to remove the next steps that are not included in the SMBNEP Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Work Plan (indicated with grey cells and the text “Not Part of FY21 Work Plan”) from the SMBNEP Planned Activities table of the draft.

Public Comment

Walter Lamb commented on the proposed Amendment to the MOU, public participation, SMBNEP Annual Work Plans, and the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.

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Member comments continued. Danielle LeFer proposed to revise Action 12 next step 3 to remove State Parks in the Lead Entity column (page 34 of the draft). Cung Nguyen, Erica Yelensky, and Jonathon Bishop commented on Action 12 next step 3. Clark Stevens proposed to revise Action 12 next step 3 to move Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM) from the Partner column to the Lead Entity column (page 34 of the draft).

Bob Godfrey commented on Marina del Rey Anglers' (MDRA) involvement in Action 39 and support of hatchery for raising halibut for release in Santa Monica Bay. Wang and Ford responded with approach for incorporating activities in the draft.

The SMBNEP Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Work Plan was approved as amended with the proposed changes by Guangyu Wang, Eric Yelensky, and Clark Stevens by roll-call vote. Moved: Kelly Clark. Seconded: Shelley Luce. Absent: Misti Kerns, Wing Tam, and Enrique Zaldivar.

4) Other Businesses

a) Closed Session

No closed session was held.

b) Member Comment

Kevin McKeown commented on beach clean-ups during COVID-19 emergency and effects of limited public activity. Tom Ford responded on measuring effects of limited public activity and invited Shelley Luce to provide additional information. Shelley Luce and Jonathon Bishop recommended socially-distant neighborhood clean-ups to reduce trash pollution on beaches. Tom Ford recommended the public reach out to lifeguards or the appropriate beach management professionals to handle deceased wildlife on beaches. Dan Murphy discussed beach closures and maintenance. Rod Spackman discussed Chevron's beach cleaning efforts.

Cung Nguyen commented on LA County Department of Public Works' development of a trash campaign, shared flyer, "Trash Travels, the Journey Begins with You", and informed members and the public that LA County Department of Public Works remains open as an essential service agency while complying with social distance measures.

Bob Godfrey commented on MDRA's postponement of youth fishing program and release of 3,000 hatchery-spawned white seabass.

c) Announcement of Next Meeting Date (tentatively set for June 18, 2020 at 9:30 am)

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Caspary announced the next Governing Board meeting (tentatively set for June 18, 2020 at 9:30 am) and the next Executive Committee meeting (tentatively set for May 21, 2020 at 11:30 am).

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Attendance:

Voting Members/Alternates of the Governing Board

Jonathan Bishop, California Environmental Protection Agency
EJ Caldwell, West Basin Municipal Water District
Charlie Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Kelly Clark, Public Member, Environmental/Public Interest (Los Angeles Waterkeeper)
Megan Cooper, California State Coastal Conservancy
Bob Godfrey, At-Large Member (Marina del Rey Anglers)
Gloria Gray, West Basin Municipal Water District
Kenny Kao, South Bay Cities (City of Redondo Beach)
Misti Kerns, Public Member, Tourism Business/Economic Interest (Santa Monica Travel & Tourism)
Danielle LeFer, California Department of Parks & Recreation
Timothy Lippman, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Office, 3rd District, County of Los Angeles
Shelley Luce, Public Member, Environmental/Public Interest (Heal the Bay)
Kevin McKeown, Westside Cities (City of Santa Monica)
Dan Murphy, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division
Cung Nguyen, LA County Department of Public Works
Randy Rodriguez, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Rod Spackman, Public Member, Business/Economic Interest (Chevron)
Clark Stevens, At-Large Member BWC (Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains)
David Pederson, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Wing Tam, LA City Sanitation
Matthew Teclé, Councilmember Mike Bonin's Office, Los Angeles City Council District 11
Martha Tremblay, Los Angeles County Sanitation District
Michael Tripp, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors
Roberto Uranga, California Coastal Commission
Dennis Washburn, At-Large Member BWC (Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains)
Enrique Zaldivar, LA City Sanitation

Non-Voting Members/Alternates of the Governing Board:

Dan Pondella, Technical Advisory Committee Chair
Laurie Newman, President, The Bay Foundation
Erica Yelensky, US EPA Region 9

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Commission and State Water Board Staff:

Eric Gillman, State Water Board
Caitlin Gray, Commission
Claire Waggoner, State Water Board
Guangyu Wang, Commission

TBF Staff:

Tom Ford
Karina Johnston
Marcelo Villagomez

Other Attendees, including other Watershed Advisory Council Members:

Vince Bacalan, US EPA Headquarters
Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation
Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
Karen Mogus, State Water Board
Shahla Farahnak, State Water Board