



**SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION
Governing Board Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, December 12, 2019

Time: 9:30 am–12:00 pm

Meeting Location:

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

Meeting called to order at 9:34 am.

Charles Caspary chaired the meeting. Introductions followed.

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

David Kay commented on the proposed trail system of Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project serving underserved youth in Los Angeles County.

Kathy Knight commented on Ballona Wetlands.

Jeanette Vosburg commented on the upper Ballona watershed and Ballona Wetlands.

Patricia McPherson commented on Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (Ballona Wetlands Draft EIR).

Walter Lamb commented on the updated timeline of Ballona Wetlands Draft EIR, desalination project, Public Records Act, and AB 1511.

2) Informational Items

a) Order of Agenda

Guangyu Wang proposed revising the order of agenda to conduct elections first. Item 3.b. *Election of Watershed Advisory Council Members to the Governing Board* and Item 3.c. *Election of Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board Chair* were moved to follow Item 2.a. Moved: Timothy Lippman. Seconded: Misti Kerns.

Charles Caspary introduced Timothy Lippman to present a commendation to the Del Rey Yacht Club (DRYC) Commodore for providing meeting facility over the years for the Commission's Governing Board meetings.

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b) Report from the Chair

Charles Caspary reported on the November 21, 2019 Executive Committee meeting and informed the Governing Board that the Executive Committee held a closed session to discuss the lawsuit filed by Ballona Wetlands Land Trust.

c) Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee

Steve Bay reported on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC had not met since the last Governing Board meeting on October 24, 2019 and anticipates the next meeting to be held in early 2020.

d) Reports from the Chief Administrative Director and SMBNEP Staff

Guangyu Wang welcomed new Governing Board member alternates, Danielle Le Fer of the California Department of Parks and Recreation and Randy Rodriguez of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Wang introduced Erica Yelensky to provide an update about the SMBNEP performance evaluation. Yelensky thanked SMBNEP staff and Governing Board members for their time and efforts involved in the SMBNEP performance evaluation. Charles Caspary suggested the Executive Committee to schedule a review of the results of EPA's performance evaluation.

Wang gave an update on the Finance Plan and acknowledged the Bay Foundation (TBF) staff efforts and input given by Commission members and other stakeholders. Wang introduced Claire Waggoner to discuss new accessibility requirements.

David Coupe introduced Eric Gillman, California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) attorney, who will be the Commission's new legal counsel.

Tom Ford gave the report on SMBNEP activities carried out by TBF. Ford reported on the ongoing non-native removal activities at Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, dune habitat restoration at Manhattan Beach, Malibu and Santa Monica Beach, Palos Verdes kelp restoration and eelgrass monitoring, activities of the Coastal Research Institute, community composting and gardening project in South Los Angeles, and clean boating education efforts.

Member questions and comments followed. Kevin McKeown inquired about an update on the Ballona Wetlands Draft EIR. Randy Rodriguez responded to McKeown's inquiry.

Tim Pershing responded to McKeown's inquiry regarding AB 1511.

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Erica Yelensky responded to McKeown's inquiry and provided information on US EPA Section 320 NEP grant terms and conditions. Charles Caspary asked Wang to send link to grant terms and conditions to Governing Board members.

Kevin McKeown proposed removing partition between Governing Board members and the public to promote inclusivity.

e) Presentation and Discussion on Los Angeles County Safe, Clean Water (Measure W) Program

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and introduced Matt Frary of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.

Frary presented on the Measure W Program and reported the earliest funding opportunities are anticipated to be available in Spring 2020.

Member comments followed on coordination of Commission meetings with the Watershed Area Steering Committee meetings, regular updates of Measure W related activities, and Commission's input on proposed projects that align with the CCMP. Charles Caspary requested that Governing Board members keep Wang informed of their agencies' submission of project proposals and directed staff to review and make recommendations on proposed projects within the Santa Monica Bay watershed.

f) Update on the Proposed Amendment to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Memorandum of Understanding

Guangyu Wang introduced Claire Waggoner to provide update on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) amendment. Waggoner reported on the comments received and discussed how the MOU can better define the roles and functions of the Governing Board and the Executive Committee and improve public participation. Member comments followed on roles and functions of Governing Board (GB) and the Executive Committee (EC), the communication between GB and EC, availability and timing of EC minutes for GB members, and role of EC member alternates.

Waggoner discussed mechanisms for improving public participation. Member comments followed on development of structure, timing, and schedule for addressing community concerns at GB meetings, accessibility of Commission meetings to the public, and the need for subcommittees.

Public Comment

Walter Lamb commented on creating marine resources and wildlife subcommittees of the Watershed Advisory Council.

Kathy Knight commented on TBF as the SMBNEP Host Entity.

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3) Governing Board Business

a) Approval of October 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Charles Caspary postponed the approval of the October 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes to a subsequent meeting due to time constraints.

b) Election of Watershed Advisory Council Members to the Governing Board

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and proposed holding elections in the following category order: Environmental/Public Interest; Utilities/Industry/Business, and At-large positions.

Environmental/Public Interest Election – Two Positions

Nominations were received for Heal the Bay and Los Angeles Waterkeeper during the nomination period. Wang opened the floor for nominations. Robert Godfrey nominated Marina del Rey Anglers and Kevin McKeown nominated the Sierra Club Los Angeles Chapter. Each nominee was given two minutes to solicit support for the two available positions. A roll-call vote was taken and each Governing Board member voted for two nominees.

Heal the Bay and Los Angeles Waterkeeper were elected as the Environmental/Public Interest members.

Utilities/Industry/Business Election – One Position

No nominations were received during the nomination period. Wang opened the floor for nominations. Rod Spackman nominated Chevron. Wang recommended a voice vote.

Chevron was unanimously elected as the Utilities/Industry/Business member.

At-Large Election – Three Positions

Nominations were received for West Basin Municipal Water District, Marina del Rey Anglers, and Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District during the nomination period. Wang opened the floor for nominations. Kevin McKeown nominated the Sierra Club Los Angeles Chapter and Kelly Clark nominated Friends of Ballona Wetlands. Each nominee was given two minutes to solicit support for the three available positions. A roll-call vote was taken and each Governing Board member voted for three nominees.

West Basin Municipal Water District, Marina del Rey Anglers, and Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District were elected as the at-large members.

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c) Election of Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board Chair

Guangyu Wang introduced this item. One nomination was received for Charles Caspary during the nomination period. Wang opened for floor nominations and none were given. Wang recommended a voice vote.

Charles Caspary was unanimously elected as the Governing Board Chair unanimously.

d) Consideration of Approval of 2020 Governing Board Meeting Dates

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and proposed amending the December 2020 meeting date to Tuesday, December 8, 2020. Charles Caspary motioned to approve the 2020 Governing Board Meeting Dates as amended. Moved: Timothy Lippman. Seconded: Misty Kerns.

e) Consideration of Approval of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Finance Plan

Guangyu Wang introduced this item. Wang summarized the purpose of the Finance Plan and reported that comments were provided as an appendix to the Finance Plan. Wang invited Tom Ford to further comment on input received in and how they will be reflected in the SMBNEP annual work plan for next fiscal year.

Member comments followed on the scope of and effort in developing the Finance Plan and the link between the CCMP Action Plan and Finance Plan. Tom Ford responded to member comments.

The Finance Plan was adopted unanimously. Moved: Rod Spackman. Seconded: Martha Tremblay.

f) Closed Session

No closed session was held.

g) Member Comment

No Governing Board member comments.

h) Announcement of Next Meeting Date (tentatively set for February 20, 2019 at 9:30 am)

The next Governing Board meeting was set for February 20, 2019 at 9:30 am.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

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Attendance:

Voting Members/Alternates of the Governing Board

Jonathan Bishop, California Environmental Protection Agency
EJ Caldwell, West Basin Municipal Water District
Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Kelly Clark, Environmental/Public Interest (Los Angeles Waterkeeper)
Robert Godfrey, At-Large Member (Marina del Rey Anglers)
Kara Kemmler, California State Coastal Conservancy
Misti Kerns, Business/Tourism Interest (Santa Monica Travel & Tourism)
Danielle Le Fer, California Department of Parks & Recreation
Timothy Lippman, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Office, 3rd District,
County of Los Angeles
Kevin McKeown, Westside Cities (City of Santa Monica)
Christopher Newman, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division
Randy Rodriguez, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Rod Spackman, Chevron
Clark Stevens, Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District
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

Non-Voting Members/Alternates of the Governing Board:

Steve Bay, Technical Advisory Committee Chair
Laurie Newman, President, The Bay Foundation
Tim Pershing, Assembly Member Richard Bloom, 50th District
Erica Yelensky, US EPA Region 9

Commission and State Water Board Staff:

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

TBF Staff:

Tom Ford
Kim Riley
Marcelo Villagomez

Other Attendees, including other Watershed Advisory Council Members:

Scott Culbertson, Friends of Ballona Wetlands
Tonya Durrell, LA Sanitation
Marta Flieger, Del Rey Yacht Club
Matt Frary, Los Angeles County Public Works

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Neysa Frechette, Friends of Ballona Wetlands
Miguel Garibay, Los Angeles County Public Works
David Kay, Self
Sharam Kharaghani, LA Sanitation
Kathy Knight, Sierra Club
Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
Patricia McPherson, Sierra Club, Grassroots Coalition
Nancy Shrodes, Heal the Bay
Robert Torres, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jeanette Vosburg, Sierra Club, Grassroots Coalition