



**SANTA MONICA BAY
RESTORATION COMMISSION**
MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

**SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020

Time: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Meeting Location: Remote Meeting Only

Charlie Caspary chaired the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (Commission) Executive Committee meeting and called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. Caspary provided an overview of the meeting protocols. Introductions followed.

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

Cindy Hardin commented on the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, including biodiversity, freshwater and subtidal habitats, and the Ballona Wetlands Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Kathy Knight commented in support of Cindy Hardin and commented on the protection of freshwater habitat and aquifers at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

Patricia McPherson commented in support of Cindy Harding and Kathy Knight, requested the opportunity to present information regarding biodiversity, groundwater diversion, and gas facilities at the Ballona Wetlands at the next Commission meeting.

2) Executive Committee Business

a) Order of Agenda

Caspary amended the order of the agenda to move Item 3 before Item 2.f without objection.

b) Reports from the Chief Administrative Director and Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) Director

Guangyu Wang reported on the timeliness of issues and meeting time constraints for scheduling potential agenda items at this meeting, including further discussion of Ballona Wetlands public access issues following the

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California Department of Fish & Wildlife's (CDFW) memo and the potential formation of a subcommittee regarding municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit implementation. Wang also reported on Commission staff's work activities including the completion and posting of the Semi-annual Report of the Santa Monica Bay NEP, grant management of Proposition 84 projects, support of ongoing litigation, and the timeline developed in collaboration with The Bay Foundation for completing the amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Commission and The Bay Foundation.

Tom Ford reported on the Santa Monica Bay NEP's Semi-annual Report, the Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP), and US EPA NEP priorities to focus on addressing: nutrient reduction, water reuse and conservation, marine litter reduction, and green infrastructure and resiliency. Ford also reported on participation on diversity, equity, and inclusion workgroup with other NEPs and Santa Monica Bay NEP activities carried out by The Bay Foundation including the community engagement in the Boater Education Program and Table to Farm project; advancements in the Malibu Living Shoreline Project and Manhattan Beach Dune Restoration project; restoration at Ballona Wetlands; completion of eelgrass bed sampling; abalone restoration; research regarding microplastics and distribution of mussels; plankton sampling; anticipated redeployment of ocean acidification sensors with Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County; sea level rise adaptation concerns including physical alteration of rocky intertidal habitats; and participation in aquaculture webinar.

i) Update on Informational Items List

Caitlin Gray provided an update on the Informational Items List which was developed to help track and plan informational agenda items for addressing topics related to issues of concern in the watershed. Gray outlined the preliminary priority rank of potential informational items based on feedback received from Executive Committee members and staff recommendations for scheduling future informational items.

Public Comment

Walter Lamb commented on access to the Informational Items List and commented on public access at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve including inclusion in the Informational Items List, a pilot restoration and education event, and greenhouse gas emissions of construction activities and carbon sequestration of proposed restoration.

Members comments followed on additional opportunities for the Executive Committee's input on the Informational Items List, including additional potential topics, prioritization, and timing of scheduling based partners' advancements in these areas.

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c) Adoption of Subcommittee Guidelines

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and invited Caitlin Gray to present on the draft subcommittee guidelines. Gray outlined the purpose of the draft subcommittee guidelines as providing a general framework for the Executive Committee's identification of the need for a subcommittee, establishment of a subcommittee, appointment a subcommittee's membership, and reporting on subcommittee outcomes.

Member comments followed on the Executive Committee's ability to address time-sensitive issues including the discretion to form more than one subcommittee, shift staff resources based on need, and hold special, single-subject meetings. Member comments also included the Executive Committee's ability to modify the subcommittee guidelines in the future.

Public Comment

Walter Lamb commented on the staff resources of subcommittees, including the impact on staff resources and support from The Bay Foundation staff, and a subcommittee regarding issues at the Ballona Wetlands.

The subcommittee guidelines were approved as proposed by roll-call vote. Moved: Jonathon Bishop. Seconded: Timothy Lippman.

d) Consideration of Approval of September 17, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved as published by roll-call vote. Moved: Shelley Luce. Seconded: Kelly Clark.

e) Establish the Governing Board Agenda for the December 8, 2020 Governing Board Meeting

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

Wang introduced this item and reported on the need for the Governing Board Chair election, the recommended nomination period, and the newly-elected Chair's two-year term based on the Memorandum of Understanding.

ii) Consideration of Approval of 2021 Governing Board Meeting Dates

Wang introduced this item, reported on the proposed 2021 Governing Board meeting dates, and modified previous staff recommendation to specify that Governing Board meetings will continue to be convened via remote presence through at least June 2021.

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iii) Update on Restoration Activities and Water Quality Improvement Projects in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed: Reuse, Recycling, and Advanced Wastewater Treatment Efforts by Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs)

Wang introduced this item and outlined staff recommendation to highlight recent advancements in reuse, recycling, and advanced wastewater treatment efforts by POTWs as the topic for the recurring update of activities in the watershed at the Governing Board meeting.

Member comments followed on the presenters for the updates, participation by interested outside parties, and updates on Las Virgenes Municipal Water District's and Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County's projects in the watershed.

Members also commented on additional potential items for the Governing Board meeting including an update and potential next steps on historic DDT dumping in the Bay and the challenge of kelp restoration programs in the northern California coast. Members and staff recommended including preliminary reports on these topics during member comment and the report from the NEP Director items at the December 8 Governing Board meeting.

Timothy Lippman chaired the meeting from 2:19 pm. Charlie Caspary resumed as Chair at 2:22 pm.

The following recommended items were added to the December 8, 2020 Governing Board meeting agenda by roll-call vote: Items 2.e.i, 2.e.ii, and 2.e.iii. Moved: Jonathon Bishop. Seconded: Shelley Luce.

Wang recommended the next Executive Committee meeting be on January 21, 2021 (meeting time to be determined).

f) Closed Session

Eric Gillman announced closed session. Open session adjourned at 2:33 pm.

Closed session adjourned and open session reconvened at 2:41 pm. Eric Gillman reported there was nothing to report from closed session.

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

Martha Tremblay provided updates on the Regional Recycled Water Program including approval to begin the environmental impact review process and an upcoming virtual tour.

Erica Yelensky reported on participation in the Regional Recycled Water Program's previous virtual tour.

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Jonathan Bishop reported on the State Water Resources Control Board's consideration of a policy regarding chronic toxicity testing at its December 1, 2020 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 pm.

Attendance:

Voting Members and Alternates of the Executive Committee:

Jonathan Bishop, State Water Resources Control Board
Charlie Caspar, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Kelly Clark, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Gloria Gray, At-Large Representative (West Basin Municipal Water District)
Timothy Lippman, LA County Board of Supervisors (3rd District)
Shelley Luce, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Heal the Bay
Martha Tremblay, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Claire Waggoner, State Water Resources Control Board

Non-Voting Members and Alternates of the Executive Committee:

Tom Ford, Santa Monica Bay NEP Director
Erica Yelensky, US EPA Region 9

Commission and State Water Board Staff:

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

Other Attendees:

Cindy Hardin
Dan Lucas
Jim Stahl, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project
Leslie Purcell
Patricia McPherson, Sierra Club Airport Marina Group and Grassroots Coalition
Scott Culbertson
Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust