

**MEETING OF
THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Contact: Lia Protopapadakis (310-216-9826)

*Note: Tasks for staff before the next meeting are underlined.

**Password to get online is IggyLion1

Friday, March 5, 2010

9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Loyola Marymount University, Malone 460 C (The Hill)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Rich convened the meeting at 9:30am.

2. Approval of Agenda and 6/15/09 Meeting Minutes

Rich noted that he needed to leave at lunchtime, hopefully after Dan Pondella's presentation. Steve Bay will fill in as vice chair at that time. The TAC approved the agenda. The TAC approved the meeting minutes with one correction.

3. Chair and Staff Reports

Shelley gave the Chair report. The Governing Board thought that the State of the Bay Conference went very well. The only criticism they had was that it felt a little rushed and that we don't hold it often enough. The State of the Bay Conference will continue to be held every 5 years for a variety of reasons. However, staff would like to hold more conferences and workshops and welcome ideas from the TAC about potential topics.

Burt Jones suggested a conference on hypoxia and ocean acidification for local researchers and invited outside experts.

Staff Report: Shelley gave an overview of staff's expectations for the TAC in the upcoming year.

- The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee reauthorized the Clean Water Act, which includes \$1.2 Million per year for each NEP in exchange for increased reporting requirements. Shelley plans to use it on research, projects, etc. The bill still needs to pass the Senate.
- President Obama is developing a National Ocean Policy. The NEP's have good experience in ecosystem based management and marine spatial planning. Staff may request the TAC's comments on particular sections of that policy. If this is the case, staff will develop a briefing for the TAC to stimulate the discussion. *Joe Gully noted that the OPC has started thinking about marine spatial planning beyond Marine Protected Areas.*
- SMBRC with the help of the MTAC will continue to play a role in the MLPA in particular MPA monitoring.
- Staff is working with Dave Caron and Burt Jones on applying for a NOAA grant to study HABs off our coast. SMBRC's interest is related to the effort to develop nutrient TMDLs for estuaries. Steve Bay noted that SCCWRP had done one study already related to this question. *Joe Gully commented that LACSD would like to better understand the role of*

POTWs in HAB development. They specifically have questions about tracking Nitrogen. He offered to help with funding if the project was appropriate and Burt offered to talk with him more offline.

- SMBRC will be publishing the second issue of the Urban Coast. The plan is to publish a new issue every 6 months. The theme for this issue is LID. There is still room for articles. Staff will forward the TAC the call for papers. The journal is also accepting ½ page or 1-column articles from students. Sean may be asking individual TAC members to review specific articles. TAC members encouraged Rich to submit a summary of the MARINE workshop to develop an index for measuring rocky intertidal health.
- Eric Strauss, will be coming to LMU in the fall. His background is in Urban Ecology. SMBRC would like to host an event for him and introduce him to the TAC and vice versa.
- Lia added that SMBRC will likely add sustainable seafood to the Clean Bay Restaurant Program.

Karen thought that the MPA monitoring issue ties nicely with the overall assessment of habitat health that we started in the State of the Bay Report and that this may be a good topic for a series of workshops focusing on different habitats. Rich commented that the MARINE group has been trying to answer this question for 5 years for rocky intertidal and they just could not come to agreement. He described their recent breakthrough made with help from Steve Weisberg (SCCWRP). The exercise they went through could be a good one to apply to each habitat in the bay. However, it requires a lot of data. For some habitats, such as sandy beaches, the necessary data isn't available. *Joe thought index development for the CMP may be a good topic for SMBRC's first symposium after the State of the Bay Report.* However, how should the TAC best address this question? Should they provide guidance, direction, or something else? Steve suggested that staff develop a strategic plan for addressing how to develop indices for the CMP for the next TAC meeting. Mas added that workshops on topics related to State of the Bay stories planned for 2015 beyond just the habitat assessments would be useful when we begin writing the 2015 Report.

Dan's MTAC Report: The MTAC met on Feb 8th and primarily discussed MPA monitoring. The MTAC's goal is to coordinate with the Monitoring Enterprise as much as possible. The MTAC is still discussing membership and will start by looking into replacing Linwood Pendleton (now at Duke University) with another socio-economist.

Steve noticed that the MTAC is still using the same name. Dan noted that the MTAC has changed its name to the Marine Resources TAC, but the change hasn't been formally adopted. This will happen at the next MTAC meeting.

Joe wondered if the MTAC felt it would be appropriate to comment on the scientific merits of the Preferred Alternative. The TAC discussed the pros and cons of commenting, and when and who should do it. Concerns about stepping into the policy terrain and shirking a responsibility to the data were raised. Rich wondered if the TAC should re-insert the data and science at this level of the process. *Joe argued that scientists had a responsibility to see that their data is used appropriately.* Rich noted that the appropriate time to comment may be during the CEQA process, but that this is not something that the TAC can do over email. The TAC requested that

staff put this on the agenda for the next MTAC meeting in April and depending on the outcome of that discussion, putting it on the agenda for the TAC in June.

4. Presentation by Karina Johnston: Ballona Wetlands Baseline Monitoring and SMBRC's Intern Program

Karina gave a presentation on the monitoring protocols she is using to conduct baseline monitoring in the Ballona Wetlands. The TAC had some useful feedback for her regarding appropriate methods to use, given how they expect to use the information and who is collecting it (volunteers).

5. Discussion with Lia and Marc Beyeler: Concept for integrated coastal restoration and restoring linked habitats

Lia and Marc Beyeler gave an introduction to a new way of thinking about restoration called "integrated restoration." The goals are to build on existing knowledge and restoration but to combine these geographically in order to obtain multiple benefits. SMBRC hopes to develop a restoration project that links the ongoing kelp restoration on Palos Verdes, with intertidal restoration, abalone restoration, and possibly water quality improvement. Focused effort in one area may attract funding and provide "economies of scale." Lia and Marc plan to develop a framework and project outline for the Coastal Society Conference in the middle of June and intend to bring it to the TAC beforehand. Then they will develop a full project proposal and find funding for it. After the project is completed, the site will be monitored and the project will be evaluated. The hoped for timeline is 12-24 months.

After lunch the TAC began discussing the things Lia and Marc should consider as they move forward. Overall, they were supportive of the concept. The questions raised include:

- How similar or different is this to integrated watershed planning?
- Is this a proof of concept? If yes, you need an alternative for comparison.
- What scale is this approach appropriate for? Is the approach geographically scaleable (bay to bight)? The Framework should define a minimum and maximum scale. Picking the right scale is important; it needs to retain conservation value.
- How does this tie with Marine Spatial Planning and off shore energy?
- Consider links between habitats, restoration projects, management and address these links (MTAC can help).
- Will this be used as criteria for selecting projects, or prioritizing projects? Using integration as a criterion will change what you prioritize.
- Could apply this framework at multiple levels: projects, priorities (rationalization), and planning (funding guidelines).
- Can help us move away from emergency restoration strategies toward investment restoration strategies (ie, this area has big value, put money in it).
- Other good sites to consider on PV are Abalone Cove.

6. Presentation by Dan Pondella: Draft Final Report – The Status of Nearshore Rocky Reefs in Santa Monica Bay

Staff expects revisions to the current draft. Before the next TAC meeting, staff will make a decision about asking the TAC for formal approval and if yes, then how.

Dan gave an overview of the report. Products developed include: GIS layer of subtidal rocky reefs developed by combining substrate layers from several sources. Interesting findings include:

- Biomass on reefs with persistent in kelp is higher than on reefs with only intermittent kelp coverage.
- Fishing doesn't cause loss in diversity, although it does cause other problems, such as species density.
- Small rocky structures along the Topanga coastline (such as Big Rock) contain tons of fish in stretches of coast where habitat is poor.
- Small reefs have low site fidelity.
- The Bay appears to be losing reefs.
- There is eelgrass growing off Hermosa Beach and on the King Harbor break wall.

Questions and recommendations the TAC had:

- *Joe: Is the scale relative or absolute? Seems to be relative to Southern California Bight, unlike the BRI, which is scaled to an absolute value and fixed concept of function.*
- Why is there a peak in Kelp Bass observations in the 70's? Dan responded that this is typically explained as a response to the PDO. However, after reviewing literature from the time, Dan believes this is due in part to restoration of reefs in the area.
- Mas suggested Dan identifies the potential of a reef. Then compare the study reefs to this concept.
- *Joe mentioned that LACSD's special projects program was created to assist projects such as this. They could help fund an index development for the invertebrates using the data Dan has collected.*
- Steve wondered if there will be sufficient coverage of the bay to allow for an update to the SoBR habitat assessment, especially in relation to the question of reef loss.

Dan has plans for a project with NOAA to look at sedimentation and turbidity on the Palos Verdes Shelf.

7. State of the Bay 2015: Setting data priorities early and discussing a idea for a habitat health index

Mas requested that staff give the TAC a presentation at the next meeting regarding data collected and used in the report and where we got it from. Questions to ask include, how can we improve the analysis? He urged staff to send this out 2 weeks in advance.

Burt suggested identifying emerging issues that should move into the main document. Ask questions such as what do we need to look at or study to do this? Also ask what topics are new emerging issues, such as water sources (could update the data in the pie chart comparison).

Mas noted that SCCWRP wanted to increase their participation in the State of the Bay Report.

The Habitat Conditions section was a big step forward for the TAC and SMBRC, but should be improved. Some habitat assessments were data driven, while others were made using best professional judgment. The next report should use more robust analysis. Staff will do a

preliminary analysis assessing the status of data for each habitat and indices, where available. Staff can expand this to other stories areas too.

Known areas with poor data include, pelagic habitats and sea grass beds, beach replenishment and impacts on nearshore habitats (potential integrated restoration project, but data is needed).

Steve recommended spending a significant portion of the next meeting discussing this item.

Joe Gully offered to have someone from LACSD talk about BRI development at the next meeting.

8. Communications (Members may discuss correspondence or other Committee responsibilities.)

Karen: Point Dume is in bloom. Grunion greeters are preparing for the summer grunion runs.

Burt: SCOOS is preparing their 5-yr proposal (due in Sep/Oct). In the bay there will be 3 radar sites to observe surface currents and temperature, and HAB measurements taken at the Santa Monica Pier. They want to provide useful products to groups like SMBRC. He will keep staff informed and let staff know if the TAC can provide feedback on anything. *Joe wondered if they were also looking at subsurface currents, since these currents matter more for some issues.* Burt responded that they could add this to the gliders.

9. Public Comment (This need not be related to any item on the agenda. *Remarks are limited to three (3) minutes.*)

Joe: LACSD is selling upward looking ADCP's. There will be a showing at the end of March or April. If they are not sold by mid April, they will go to auction or the salvage yard. They also are planning to deploy thermosters to help identify the connection between kelp growth and temperature on S. PV and Rocky Point. Burt asked if they were putting any offshore for comparison. Finally, Joe announced that LACSD is hiring a senior lab tech biologist (potentially will go outside).

Sarah announced that Charlotte's job at Heal the Bay is still open. Burt and Joe both offered to forward the announcement on.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm

Attendance

TAC Members

Rich Ambrose (Chair)
Steve Bay (Vice-chair)
Mas Dojiri
Burt Jones
Karen Martin
Dan Pondella

Staff Members

Shelley Luce
Guangyu Wang
Lia Protopapadakis
Sean Bergquist
Karina Johnston

Public

Marc Beyeler (UCSC)
Joe Gully (LACSD)
Sarah Sikich (HtB)
Roy Houston (LMU)