SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2017

Welcome and Introductions

At 9:41 Enrique Zaldivar 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:

Marcia Hanscom, Ballona Institute and Sierra Club, thanked Mike Bonin regarding a road safety project in Playa del Rey. Hanscom also commented that there is an over emphasis of board members on water which to her means that the Commission and Foundation need to get out of Ballona wetlands which was acquired to protect the wildlife.

Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project, made public comment regarding the Ballona EIR and the need for a fresh water wetland alternative in it, not a saltwater wetland. Knight also commented on opening up Ballona Creek from its starting point in Griffith Park. Knight commented on her trip to the Galapagos Islands and their respect for the wildlife and ecosystems and how that reinforced her vision for the Ballona Ecological Reserve to have it restored ecologically to what it was with just a few small paths for people.

Jeanette Vosburg made public comment regarding an EIR freshwater alternative for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Vosburg's printed public comment was passed around.

Jim Lamm, Ballona Creek Renaissance (BCR), made public comment regarding BCR and highlights from their organization. Lamm commented on three highlights included an up creek art event at LA Collage, a creek cleanup and habitat restoration along Ballona Creek, and the Culver City single use polystyrene food container ban. Brief discussion followed regarding the Culver City single use polystyrene food container ban.

2) Informational Items

a. Order of Agenda.

The order of the agenda was not changed.

b. Reports from the Chair

Enrique Zaldivar gave the chair report. Zaldivar reported the Executive Committee's work on transition due to resignation of the Executive Director.

c. Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee

Guangyu Wang gave the TAC report. Wang reported that the TAC has not met since the last meeting but will meet on June 29th. Wang reported the TAC continues to work on the update of the Comprehensive Monitoring Program and a request from LA County Sanitation and USC Sea Grant for membership to the TAC.

d. Reports from the Executive Director (ED) and Staff

Tom Ford gave the ED report. Ford reported the NEPs are still allocated full funding for the time being. Ford reported on the estuary caucus formed in D.C. Ford reported on the transition of the NEP program officer from Molly Martin to Erica Yelensky. Ford reported on the LMU internship program, UCLA Institute of the Environment senior practicum work to monitor kelps impact on climate change, and UCLA senior honors colloquium course to move the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment to action planning. For also reported on Stone Canyon Creek restoration on UCLA campus.

Ford reported on the Clean Bay Certified Table to Farm program in the City of Inglewood to compost food scraps and be used to grow Community Supported Agriculture. Ford reported on the LA County Department of Water and Power grant to educate middle school students regarding water and energy. Ford reported on Los Alamitos Park treating waste water for irrigation and changing public health code requirements to get this done. Ford reported Cal Poly Pomona work to culture green abalone and a red abalone. Ford reported there is a new Pumpout Nav. app for boaters to find places to discharge sewage. Ford reported on the Clean Bay Certified Restaurant Program and a card to promote the program at restaurants. Ford reported on the kelp forest restoration project, kelp is up 250% in restoration sites. Ford reported the aerial surveys monitoring report is available on santamonicabay.org. Ford reported on the Ballona iceplant removal project and the LAX dune restoration project. Ford reported the Santa Monica Patagonia store employees are contributing to the LAX dune restoration project. Ford reported Malibu Lagoon year 4 comprehensive monitoring report is being finalizedand year 5 will be beginning soon. Ford reported at the Santa Monica Beach dune restoration pilot project plants are flowering and the threatened western snowy plover nested in the site.

Discussion followed

Public Comment: Jeanette Vosburg made public comment regarding the iceplant removal acreage and invasive plants growing in place of the iceplant that was removed.

Marsh Hanscom made public comment regarding the iceplant removal project occurring when the rare skipper butterfly was breading.

Tom Ford presented the BRP revisions and SMBNEP processes.

Discussion followed. Johnathan Bishop requested the presentation be sent to members as a reminder to review. Charlie Caspary requested board members be reminded of WAC meetings when they occur and encouraged board members to attend these meetings. Sam Ziegler suggested the EPA give the board members their expectations and requirements of the revised BRP at the next meeting. Zaldivar suggested discussion at the EC meeting on how to form subcommittees.

3) Governing Board Business

a. Consideration of Approval of April 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The April minutes were approved as amended. M: Bob Godfrey S: Gloria Gray, O: Kevin McKeown, Philip Fries, Chris Newman, Bruce Reznik, Enrique Zaldivar, Debbie Dyner Harris.

b. Consideration of Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and The Bay Foundation regarding the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (As amended June 18, 2015)

Ford introduced this item and went through the proposed changes to the MOA. Jonathan Bishop noted the State Water Board will continue to support the commission and this change to the MOA. Jonathan Bishop also announced that Guangyu Wang will serve as Chief Administrative Director of the SMBRC after June 29, 2017. Laurie Newman noted she will not sign the MOA until it goes before the Foundation board. The MOA was approved as amended. M: Bruce Reznik S: Tim Lippman

c. Presentation on City of Los Angeles Ballona Creek Bacteria TMDL project

Shahram Kharaghani presented the City of Los Angeles Ballona Creek Bacteria TMDL project. Discussion followed.

Public Comment: Marcia Hanscom made public comment regarding bacterial TMDL adjustments for wildlife background levels. Hanscom made comments regarding Malibu Lagoon restoration project.

Jonathan Bishop responded to Hansom's TMDL comment.

d. Closed Session

No closed session was held.

e. Member Comment—Governing Board members may wish to comment on issues not otherwise on the agenda

Bob Godfrey reported on the youth fishing and youth sailing programs as well as the seabass pen. Philip Fries announced he will be retiring so this is his last meeting and Martha Tremblay will take his seat on the Commission board. Jefferson Wagner announced the City of Malibu advanced a ban on plastic sand bags and is moving forward on a plastic ban for food trucks in the City.

f. Announcement of Next Meeting Date (set for August 17, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m. without objection.

Attendance

Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Jonathan Bishop, California Environmental Protection Agency
Charlie Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Debbie Dyner Harris, Councilmember, Los Angeles City Council District 11
Philip Friess, LA County Sanitation District
Hildebrand Gary, LA County Department of Public Works
Robert Godfrey, At-Large Member (Marina Del Rey Anglers)
Gloria Gray, At-Large Member West Basin MWD
Timothy Lippman, Sheila Kuehl, Supervisor, 3rd District, County of Los Angeles
Kevin McKeown, Westside Cities (City of Santa Monica)
Chris Newman, LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division
Bruce Reznik, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Matt Rodriguez, California Environmental Protection Agency, Secretary
Meghan Sahli-Wells, Westside Cities (City of Culver City)
Rod Spackman, Public Member (Business/Economic Interest), Chevron
Wing Tam, LA City Department of Public Works
Michael Tripp, LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors
Roberto Uranga, California Coastal Commission
Jefferson Wagner, Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)
Enrique Zaldivar, LA City Sanitation

Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Laurie Newman, President, The Bay Foundation
Erica Yelensky, US EPA Region IX
Sam Ziegler, US EPA Region IX

SMBNEP Staff present:

Heather Burdick
David Coupe, SWRCB Legal Counsel
Julie Du Brow
Tom Ford
Victoria Gambale
Marcelo Villagomez
Guangyu Wang

Other Attendees, including other Watershed Advisory Council Members:

Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter
Huub Cox, LA City Bureau of Sanitation
Laura Doss-Hertz, The Bay Foundation, board member
Tonya Durrell, LA City Bureau of Sanitation
Marcia Hanscom, Ballona Institute and Sierra Club
Hannah Hart, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
Shahram Kharaghani, LA City Bureau of Sanitation
Leighanne Kirk, West Basin Municipal Water District
Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project
Jim Lamm, Ballona Creek Renaissance
Michael Omary, APD Clean Water Technologies
Renee Purdy, LA Regional Water Quality Control Board
Martha Tremblay, LA County Sanitation District
Jeanette Vosburg, Sierra Club- Airport Marina
Frank Wu, LA County Public Works