Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
July 20, 2017, 12:30 to 2:30 pm
West Basin's Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility
1935 S. Hughes Way
El Segundo, CA 90245

Attendance:

Members/Alternates:
Fran Diamond
Gloria Gray
Bruce Reznik
Sarah Sikich
Enrique Zaldivar

Absent:
Timothy Lippman
Sam Schuchat

Staff:
David Coupe (SWRCB), Guangyu Wang (SMBRC), Marcelo Villagomez (SMBRC)

Guests and Other attendees:
E.J. Caldwell, West Basin Municipal Water District
Tom Ford, The Bay Foundation
Kathy Night, BEEP/Sierra Club
Wing Tam, LA City Bureau of Sanitation
Erica Yelensky (via telephone), US EPA

Meeting called to order at 12:40 p.m.

Enrique Zaldivar chaired the meeting.

Agenda Item 1. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this meeting.

Agenda Item 2. **Informational Items**

a. Consideration of Approval of May 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes

   Approved (M: Reznik, S: Diamond)
   Abstentions due to being absent at prior meeting: Gray, Zaldivar

b. Order of Agenda

No change

c. Reports from the Chief Administrative Director and SMBNEP Staff

Guangyu Wang, Chief Administrative Director (CAD), reported on the transition of duties from the former Executive Director (ED) of the Commission to his position. Wang provided an update on the deployed pH sensors off shore in the Bay and said data has been downloaded successfully and recalibration of the sensors is expected in September 2017. Wang also reported on work he has been focusing recently during the leadership transition, including updating and revising guidelines for the Executive Committee, Commission Conflict of Interest code, Records Retention policy, and working on an amendment to the SMBRA Joint Powers Authority agreement to address the transition of the former ED to the newly appointed CAD.

Wang invited Tom Ford, ED of The Bay Foundation (TBF), and partner of the SMBNEP, to report on TBF activities conducted under the current SMBNEP annual work plan. Ford reported on the successful new summer internship program launched this year with collaboration from the Loyola Marymount University, to advance the work on survey of rocky intertidal habitat, LAX dune restoration, Santa Monica beach restoration pilot project, surveys at Malibu Lagoon, and work on microplastics.

Agenda Item 3. **Executive Committee Business**

a) Establish Governing Board Agenda for August GB Meeting

EC Members discussed potential agenda items for the next and future Governing Board meetings, including updates on recommended Prop funded projects. Wang proposed that he will give an update during the CAD report at the next GB meeting on the recently recommended projects, which he said some are close to execution. Reznik and Sikich proposed a discussion on potential presentations at the GB related to the De-Sal EIR/EIS and Ballona EIR/EIS later in the calendar year.

i) Workshop on Revision of the SMBNEP Bay Restoration Plan

Wang invited Ford representing the SMBNEP partner to jointly introduce the plan for presenting the BRP revision process and conduct workshop at the August GB meeting. Members discussed ways to have the GB engaged in the process, including having workshops, subcommittees, subgroups, and arrangements based on area of interest and expertise by attendees. Members discussed issues related to having workshops during the Governing Board meetings and the need for additional workshops. Ford spoke about EPA expectations on the revision, including conducting an outreach effort to get all and new stakeholders at the table. Members proposed consideration of an outreach committee. Members also discussed the role of the WAC and other mechanisms to have more dialogue with the public.

Wang spoke about the proposed change in the format of the BRP to streamline the current goals, objectives, milestones, etc. Ford cited the experience of two other national estuary programs and the lessons from them. Climate change was discussed as an important area that cuts across disciplines or has its own stand-alone section.

Erica Yelensky said she'll request that the August Governing Board meeting include an EPA presentation on EPA's expectations on the revision process, and will share lessons learned from BRP revisions by other NEPs, especially the San Francisco National Estuary program (SFEP). Members asked questions regarding funding levels to estuary programs, and availability of funding to support the revision process. Yelensky said the SFEP got a state grant to do so.

ii) Approval of New Technical Advisory Committee Member Nomination

Wang introduced this agenda item and spoke about the qualifications of the nominated person, Phyllis Grifman, Associate Director of the University of Southern California Sea Grant Program.

Establishing of the above two items on the agenda for the coming GB were approved (M: Gray, S: Sikich).

b) Closed Session.
There was no closed session at this meeting.

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

There were no member comments or announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m. without objection.