SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2017

Welcome and Introductions

At 9:42 Fran Diamond 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:

Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project, said the Ballona Wetlands EIR EIS may be coming out soon and she hopes board members will go out to see the wetlands. Knight also announced that LA Audubon has a tour the first Saturday of each month. Knight mentioned a video is available of the Ballona Watershed perimeter flyover which shows opportunities to add parks and capture rainwater. Knight said a Tongva decedent she spoke with told her restore the water and wetlands will restore themselves.

Jim Lamm, Ballona Creek Renaissance, announced that a post rain winter creek cleanup last Saturday collected almost a ton of trash, mostly plastic and polystyrene. Lamm said at the last Culver City Council meeting the first reading of a proposed polystyrene ban was made with a late amendment, and another reading of the ban will occur at a future meeting. Lamm mentioned he enjoyed participating in the WAC meeting.

Robert Roy Van de Hoek, Ballona Institute, introduced his background and spoke about endangered species and recovery plans versus restoration. Van der Hoek announced recovery should be the goal for Ballona Wetlands not restoration.

2) Informational Items

a. Order of Agenda.

The order of the agenda was not changed.

b. Reports from the Chair

No report was given.

c. Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee

Steve Bay gave the TAC report. Bay reported on three items discussed at the last meeting on December 7th. The first was about Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and TAC's recommendation to take the subject up at the next meeting and help staff develop a roadmap for the projects and a potential addendum to the BRP. The second was about Comprehensive Monitoring Program which hasn't been updated since 2007 and which is critical for the State of the Bay reports; TAC recommends holding a workshop to kick start the planning for the updates to the program. The third was about developing and strengthening collaboration with LMU and the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies; TAC agrees this would be very valuable and offers opportunity for further collaboration to help with the comprehensive monitoring and preparation of the State of the Bay Report. Bay announced the next TAC meeting is March 17th. Discussion followed.

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

Tom Ford gave the ED report. Ford reported the Annual Report is not here due to printing issues but will be posted online tomorrow at the Commission and Foundation webpages. Ford then gave several highlights of the report. Ford announced printed copies of the report will be available at the April meeting. Ford reported on 2016 collective work of the National Estuary Programs. Ford reported that we are paying close attention to the EPA

priorities under the new Administration. Ford also reported on several meetings he has attended and presentations given including one regarding monitoring stations, one with EPA and state partners, and one Beach Ecology meeting at Pepperdine University. Ford announced a steelhead trout was found in Arroyo Sequit. He also reported on the abalone project, the Santa Monica Beach Restoration Pilot Project, Malibu Lagoon monitoring, a Foundation board of directors meeting, and spoke about a confidential meeting with Walter Lamb, Laurie Newman, and attorneys. Ford reported on collaboration with LMU, future of the Coastal Research Institute at LMU, annual work plan, and WAC meeting. Ford announced the work plan is required to be submitted to the EPA by the end of April, a draft will be sent to all members in the coming weeks. Ford said the Bay Restoration Plan is due for a revision. Ford thanked and gave a formal farewell to Scott Valor and Molly Martin.

Public comment:

Marcia Hanscom, Ballona Institute, gave public comment regarding Malibu Lagoon and said that the birds are missing at the site, that there were no baseline bird surveys, no scientific surveys, and said removing all flora and fauna is not restoration. Hanscom encouraged board members to start to listen to the public and have conversations with them outside of the board meetings.

Member Discussion:

Susan Goode addressed public comments on the Malibu Lagoon project, and stated monitoring reports are conducted and available on The Bay Foundations website, which are science based. Goode said the Lagoon has higher dissolved oxygen, less sedimentation, higher benthic invertebrate and fish biodiversity. She said we're beginning to see a change in bird species from less urban adapted to more fish eating birds, and now that mudflat development is occurring reeds are coming back and rails are there. Goode said water is needed to restore wetlands but also that the topography needs to be correct, in which case bulldozers are necessary. Goode said the Malibu Lagoon is functioning beautifully and that science proves it.

Fran Diamond proposed a presentation about the Malibu Lagoon. Laurie Newman suggested a tour to the Lagoon for Commission members. Discussion followed. Ford announced that not all of governing board can attend a tour at the same time if in quorum because it breaks the laws of the state. Lauren Piezer Mains suggested small group tours and suggested adding the Santa Monica Beach project as 2nd stop to the tour. Kevin McKown asked if there was a baseline account to birds in the lagoon. Goode responded and said the Santa Monica Bay Audubon has been doing bird surveys there for decades which are available on their webpage. Members discussed tours in small groups.

3) Governing Board Business

a. Consideration of Approval of December 15, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The December minutes were approved. M: Gloria Gray S: McKeown

b. Appointment of Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority Governing Board Member

Guangyu Wang introduced the agenda item and announced one nomination for the Governing Board position to the Authority, Charles Caspary. Wang then opened the floor for nominations. No nominations occurred at the floor and nominations were closed. A vote by acclamation took place. Charlie Caspary was appointed to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority's Governing Board.

c. Presentation and Discussion: SMBRC Watershed Advisory Council February 2017 Meeting Update, and Draft Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program FY 2018 Work Plan

Wang provided a summary of comments received at the SMBRC WAC meeting. Ford spoke about the comments and more broadly about the development of the annual work plan, its structure and categorizations (i.e. promote, facilitate, implement, lead, etc.), and spoke about the role the NEP plays in getting the work done

Discussion followed. Ford said that the WAC information given at the meeting and submitted online will be published and addressed individually to inform the Board and the public about how the feedback gets to the work plan. Bob Godfrey said he would like to see assembly bill 1414 mentioned in the plan since it is state law and has been ignored for a long time.

Public Comment:

Walter Lamb gave public comment regarding the WAC meeting and said the WAC is not advisory. He asked for subcommittees. Lamb offered funding for iceplant removal at Ballona. Kathy Knight gave public comment regarding the WAC meeting and the desire for more open communication and interaction. Hanscom asked about the different organizations within the NEP and asked for a forensic audit of the $25 million which was appropriated for the restoration or acquisition of the land. She asked where all the money spent on Ballona was. Hanscom asked for more transparency to the public.

David Coupe, legal counsel to the Commission, reported that the comments regarding operation of this Board is similar to what is in the lawsuit from BWLT against the Commission, and there was a 2 page memo regarding that lawsuit and any board member is free to reach out to him at any time to answerany questions. Coupe announced the EC will continue to be informed as well.

Member discussion followed regarding the work plan. Dan Murphy requested an attendance list from the WAC meeting to see who was able to contribute. Murphy asked for discussion at least for the idea behind the resolution that was put up at the WAC meeting. Charlie Caspary requested that for education of Governing Board provide definition of criteria (implement, support, etc.) along with submittals so everyone knows.

d. Presentation: Post-Construction Monitoring at the Culver City Rain Gardens- Dr. John Dorsey, Loyola Marymount University

Ford introduced Dr. John Dorsey. Dr. Dorsey and Jamie Burkhard presented information regarding the monitoring of the Culver City rain gardens. Discussion followed. Bob Godfrey said that this is great and can help reduce TMDL pollutants in Marina del Rey. Kathy Knight asked about the danger of chemicals going into the ground and ending up in our drinking water aquifers. Dr. Dorsey answered that of what goes into the garden some gets degraded by microbial community in the soils and further studies are needed to explore this. A copy of the presentation is available upon request.

e. Closed Session

No closed session was held.

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

Wing Tam requested a presentation at the April meeting regarding a Ballona Creek bacterial TMDL project, which involves several partners and is going through an EIR process. Jefferson Wagner asked for a letter of support for a proposed ban of plastic sand bags in the City of Malibu, burlap or cotton can be used instead. Gloria Gray reported a series of workshops by LA Sanitation, Department of Water and Power, and other key stakeholders in West Basin addressing water quality and possibly expanding recycled water as it relates to Hyperion. Gray also mentioned a series of workshops on water recycling as it relates to water reuse. Wing also announced the University Park rain garden ground breaking today at 1:00 and by April 35 rain gardens will be installed. Bob Godfrey said he's observed more and more oysters through the years in the marina and last week with very low tides there were very large oyster and notes that might be an indicator of water quality in the marina.

g. Announcement of Next Meeting Date (set for April 20, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 without objection.

Attendance

Voting Members of the Governing Board:
Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles
Debbie Dyner Harris, Councilmember, Los Angeles City Council District 11
Philip Friess, LA County Sanitation District
Gloria Gray, At-Large Member West Basin MWD
Robert Godfrey, At-Large Member (Marina del Rey Anglers)
Suzanne Goode, California Department of Parks and Recreation
Gary Hildebrand, LA County Department of Public Works
Kara Kemmler, CA State Coastal Conservancy
Timothy Lippman, Sheila Kuehl, Supervisory, 3rd District, County of Los Angeles
Kevin McKeown, Westside Cities (City of Santa Monica)
Dan Murphy, LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division
Bruce Reznik, LA Waterkeeper
Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Rod Spackman, Public Member (Business/ Economic Interest), Chevron
Clark Stevens, At-Large Member BWC (Santa Monica Mountains RCD)
Wing Tam, LA City Department of Public Works
Michael Tripp, LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors
Jefferson Wagner, Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)

Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:
Ben Allen, State Senator, 26th District
Steve Bay, Technical Advisory Committee
Steven Johnson, Public Member (Environmental/ Public Interest) Heal the Bay
Molly Martin, US EPA Region IX
Laurie Newman, President, The Bay Foundation
Timothy Pershing, Assembly Member Richard Bloom, 50th District
Lauren Pizer Mains, State Senator Ben Allen, 26th District
Sam Ziegler, US EPA Region IX

SMB NEP Staff present:
Heather Burdick
Julie Du Brow
Tom Ford
Victoria Gambale
Marcelo Villagomez
Guangyu Wang

Other Attendees, including other Watershed Advisory Council Members:
Jamie Burkhard, Loyola Marymount University
Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter
Tonya Darrell, LA Sanitation
John Dorsey, Loyola Marymount University
Cesar Espinosa, LA County Beaches and Harbors
Marcia Hanscom, Ballona Institute and Sierra Club
Hannah Hart, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project
Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
Jim Lamm, Ballona Creek Renaissance
Dave, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City Council member, SMBRC alternate
Robert Roy Van de Hoek, Ballona Institute
Frank Wu, LA County Public Works,