Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
May 18, 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
Timothy Lippman
Rich, Nagel
Bruce Reznik
Sam Schuchat
Wing Tam

Absent:
Sarah Sikich

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

Guests:
None

Meeting called to order at 12:33 p.m.

Fran Diamond 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 March 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes

   Approved without objection. (M: Lippman, S: Reznik)

b. Order of Agenda

   No change

c. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

   Tom Ford reported on the status of various projects, including the invasive iceplant removal project at the Ballona Wetlands. Ford said the program barely

started in an area of 0.88 acres which was targeted for iceplant eradication by tarping and hand-removal. The coastal commission permit regarding this project is under consideration for amendment at the coastal commission hearing scheduled for August 2017.

Ford also reported on the status of the Kelp Restoration project and an annual report that utilizes data from the Central Region Kelp Survey Consortium (CRKSC). He said that despite the effects of El Niño last year, the area off of Palos Verdes where our project is has seen a 250% increase in kelp canopy.

Ford also reported on the Santa Monica Beach Restoration (SAMO) project and said a press conference and release were done. He said the dunes are building well and are starting to re-contour the area. Ford said threatened Snowy Plovers nested at the project site, being the first in a series of nesting pairs in LA County, the first observed since 1949.

Ford reported that another year of monitoring at the Malibu Lagoon project is in process of completion and that preliminary data suggests that the improved conditions attributed to the restoration project continue.

Ford also announced that the Bay Restoration Plan is due for a revision because the last update was done in 2013. He said the revision may include GB membership, NEP structure, as well as BRP priorities and goals that address, for example, water quality, habitats, etc.

EC members and Ford discussed the scope of the work of our NEP and its role, including its coordinating role as well as direct project implementation, support, etc. roles.

Ford also reported that the US EPA 320 funds for the coming fiscal year, 2017-2018 will be funded at the same current level, which is $600,000. Ford reported strong bi-partisan support for continued funding of the National Estuaries Program in Washington, D.C.

Finally, Ford reported on The Bay Foundation collaboration with Loyola Marymount University's Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies with summer interns assisting us on the ground with biological research at our beaches, rocky intertidal and Ballona creek.

Agenda Item 3. **Executive Committee Business**

a) Establish Governing Board Agenda for June

EC Members discussed items for the June Governing Board meeting agenda.

Wing Tam spoke a timely presentation for the EIR on the Ballona Creek Bacteria TMDL project. Tam said this is a multi-agency effort and said the project will partly treat water and will partly divert to the Hyperion plant. Wang said the City of LA will have two staff for the presentation to the governing board in June.

b) Closed Session

David Coupe made a legal announcement to enter into Closed Session pursuant to item 3b(i):

Litigation filed against the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (Gov. Code, § 11126, subd. (e)(2)(A):

Ballona Wetlands Land Trust v. Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BS165860 [Challenging operations of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission]

Closed session began at 12:58 pm.

Closed session ended at 2:28 pm.

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

There were no member comments or announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. without objection.