SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Minutes

April 20, 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, made public comment regarding helping the wetland with recovery as opposed to do a restoration. Knight commented she would like a meeting of scientists to discuss restoration ideas. Knight encouraged members to attend an Audubon walk in the wetlands.

Patricia McPherson questioned public comment procedure including duration and timing.

David Coupe read the statement on the agenda regarding public comment.

Patricia McPherson asked as a public records act request for regulations that include the statement in the agenda under public comment. Patricia McPherson submitted a public records act request regarding close out materials for the Commissions participation in a 2005-2012 joint federal project. McPherson commented on the Watershed Advisory Committee and requested the Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) meeting be implemented as was intended when the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project was created. McPherson commented on litigation against the Coastal Commission, litigation against Los Angeles County regarding Oxford Lagoon, and litigation against CA Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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 that four topics at the at the March 17th TAC meeting were discussed including: 1- a presentation of a Culver City Rain Garden monitoring from John Dorsey and the TAC's recommendation for additional data analysis and submission of data to the So. Cal. regional database, 2- the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment next steps, 3- an update of the comprehensive monitoring program which informs the State of the Bay report, and 4- TAC membership expansion consideration. Bay reported the next meeting is June 29th and will include discussion of data gaps for the next State of the Bay report and planning of a workshop focusing on how to fill these data gaps through implementing the comprehensive monitoring program. Discussion followed. Timing of the State of the Bay was discussed and Johnathan Bishop requested staff to look into discussion with EPA for a one year delay to complete the State of the Bay report in order to better utilize Bight Program data. Sam Ziegler noted he would be happy to work with staff to make the timing of the reporting work better.

Patricia McPherson made public comment regarding the Oxford Basin and requested information from TAC regarding Oxford.

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

Tom Ford gave the ED report. Ford reported about potential budget cuts in the Washington D.C.'s current administration proposed budget cuts for the 28 National Estuary programs. He reported on his trip to D.C., which would include efforts to educate the House and Senate about the importance of our NEP. He also reported on the formation of an Estuary Caucus in D.C. to advocate for the national programs. Ford reported his D.C. schedule would include attending meetings with the Estuary Caucus, the National Estuary Programs Tech Transfer meeting, and an ocean acidification webinar. Ford's ED report included the semi-annual report due to the US EPA at the end of April, and said once that is approved by the EPA it will become available to the Governing Board. Ford reported LMU College of Science and Engineering will support half the cost of 6 student interns to help with projects including LAX dune restoration, Santa Monica Beach restoration, and in rocky intertidal and tidepool systems.

Ford noted several reports coming out soon including an aerial survey report, Palos Verdes kelp restoration project report, and Malibu Lagoon fourth year post restoration monitoring report. Ford discussed partnerships with UC Davis and UCLA to see how kelp forest influences and responds to climate change factors. Ford also gave an update on several projects including abalone restoration, iceplant tarping project, Santa Monica Beach Restoration Pilot Project, and a LA Department of Water and Power grant project regarding water conservation. Ford thanked everyone for their contribution on the SMBRC Fiscal Year 18 work plan.

Finally, Ford announced that on 4/19/2017 the Bay Foundation and the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust entered into a settlement agreement and that one of the agreed conditions in the settlement was that the he submits his resignation as the Executive Director of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission at the June Governing Board meeting, and that his resignation will go into effect 2 weeks subsequent to the June Governing Board meeting.

Discussion followed.

3) Governing Board Business

a. Consideration of Approval of February 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The February minutes were approved as amended. M: Wing Tam S: Charlie Caspary

b. Consideration of Approval of Fiscal Year 2018 Work Plan

Ford introduced the work plan. Guangyu Wang presented the new projects included and the substantive changes to the work plan.

Public Comment:

Kathy Knight commented on the WAC meeting and suggested its format go back to where the public breaks into small groups and discuss, instead of just giving comments and not being allowed to ask questions.

Patricia McPherson made comment regarding the WAC, spoke about the Ballona Wetland Land Trust litigation and claimed falsehoods in the Workplan.

Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust, commented on collaborative work to resolve issues. Lamb also commented on the iceplant removal project and invasive species coming up where the iceplant was removed.

Member discussion on the work plan followed. Bob Godfrey commented on the accuracy of narrative in the work plan regarding the stated objectives of the Marina del Rey copper TMDL. In response Jon Bishop suggested deletion of the phrase after "aquatic life," from the sentence in question. Tom also suggested a few edits in the staffing section to reflect his upcoming resignation as the Executive Director of the Commission.

The work plan was approved with the proposed friendly amendments. M: Rorie Skei, S: Sarah Sikich

c. Closed Session

No closed session was held.

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

Suzanne Goode commented that restoration projects need to be looked at comprehensively and that it takes just as much time to restore as it did to destroy a habitat, and to keep all tools in your toolbox to restore. Dennis Washburn announced congressmen Tony Beilenson passed away and requested the meeting be adjourned in his memory. Suzanne Fuentes asked about Ballona Wetlands and the role of the Commission in that project. Ford responded. Robert Godfrey announce the Marina del Rey Anglers released seabass last month, they have a new batch of fingerlings, and completed the first of four veterans fishing trips. Godfrey announced June 15th is a docent training to support their efforts to take disadvantaged youth and veterans out. Wing Tam announced University Park rain garden construction is complete and monitoring is beginning. Sam Ziegler gave an update on the federal budget including timing and amounts. Members briefly discussed State support for the Commission, with potential additional staff and/ or funding. Dennis Washburn invited members to attend a May 7th party at King Gillette Ranch from 3:00 to 8:00 put on by the Santa Monica Mountains fund, for more information go to www.samofund.org.

e. Announcement of Next Meeting Date (set for June 15, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 in memory with Tony Beilenson without objection

Attendance

Voting Members of the Governing Board:
Jonathan Bishop, California Environmental Protection Agency
Charlie Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles
Phil Markle LA County Sanitation District
Suzanne Fuentes, South Bay Cities (El Segundo)
Hildebrand Gary, LA County Department of Public Works
Robert Godfrey, At-Large Member (Marina Del Rey Anglers)
Suzanne Goode, California Department of Parks & Recreation
Gloria Gray, At-Large Member (West Basin Municipal Water District)
Kara Kemmler, California State Coastal Conservancy
Timothy Lippman, Sheila Kuehl, Supervisor, 3rd District, County of Los Angeles
Laurie Newman, President, The Bay Foundation
Sarah Sikich, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Heal The Bay
Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
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
Dennis Washburn, At-Large Member BWC (Santa Monica Mountains RCD)

Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:
Steve Bay, Technical Advisory Committee, Chair
Sam Ziegler, US EPA Region IX

SMBNEP Staff present:
Heather Burdick
David Coupe, SWRCB Legal Counsel
Tom Ford

Victoria Gambale
Parker House
Marcelo Villagomez
Guangyu Wang

Other Attendees, including other Watershed Advisory Council Members:
Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter
Edward Caldwell, West Basin Municipal Water District
Tonya Durrell, LA Bureau of Sanitation
Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project
Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
Sacquenine Lambrichts, Angels Gate Park Advisory Board
Patricia McPherson, Sierra Club, Grassroots Coalition
Michael Omary, APD Clean Water Technologies
Dave Roberts, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Frank Wu, LA County Public Works