

**MEETING MINUTES OF
THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Contact: Lia Protopapadakis (310-216-9826)

Monday, March 16, 2009

Loyola Marymount University, Malone, 460 C – The Hill

1. Welcome and Introductions

Rich Ambrose convened the meeting at 9:45am.

*** Introduce New TAC Member, Dr. Rainer Hoenicke**

Rainer Hoenicke, acting Director of the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), gave a brief description of his history with SMBRC and his role with the SFEI. The TAC also welcomed Dave Caron, who had not been able to attend most of the 2008 meetings. Burt Jones was unable to attend because his gliders are actively sampling (see 12/10/2008 meeting notes for more info) and he has been collecting data around the clock.

Shelley noted that the EPA is conducting the 3-year program evaluation of the SMBRC this year, and recognized the hard work Guangyu has put into preparing the paperwork.

2. Approval of Agenda and 12/10/08 Meeting Minutes

The TAC approved the agenda and the 12/10/08 Meeting Minutes with minor spelling and grammar edits from Mas Dojiri and Steve Bay.

3. Chair and Staff Reports

Rich reported on the December Governing Board meeting (they approved the Bay Restoration Plan) and on the February meeting (he and Lia gave a presentation on the Marine Life Protection Act to the board).

Shelley reported on the status of our Prop. 84 project evaluation in light of the State's freeze on bond money. Staff continues to evaluate the projects, but is not planning to bring a final recommended project list before the governing board until the Prop. 84 money is available, because projects may change by then. Staff is also looking for alternative ways of funding some projects.

Guangyu added that Carman White (on today's agenda) also presented the PV Shelf contaminated sediment remediation alternatives to the Governing Board in February.

4. State of the Bay Report: Review and Discuss Draft

Lia described the progress staff has made on the State of the Bay Report. She asked for TAC feedback on the draft, especially length of the sections and stories. Their feedback is below:

Highlights—Mas suggested staff send this section to the TAC for editing and additional data sources.

Snapshots— This section should be expanded. The TAC liked the approach the Puget Sound NEP took in their report of using a simple, color coded bar (●■■■) with a circle-ended arrow (●→), where the circle placement denotes the status and the arrow direction denotes the trend.

Focus: Water Quality— The TAC thought that it was fine if the water quality section ended up shorter than the natural resources section.

Focus: Natural Resources—The TAC agreed to remove the story on intertidal restoration as there is nothing to report. Rich suggested adding a comment on the need for intertidal restoration in the ‘Snapshot’ section.

Staff noted that the ‘Seafood Contamination’ story, as currently framed, is not new. In the Bay Restoration Plan this story falls under ‘Benefits and Values to Humans,’ but the TAC decided to discuss those stories in pop-out boxes or sidebars throughout the report to highlight the cross-cutting nature of these stories. Therefore the TAC recommended moving the story into a pop-out box, the location of which was put off until the story developed further.

Looking Ahead—The TAC merged all the topics that related to ‘Adaptation to Climate Change’ into one to give section more focus. The group decided to remove ‘Water Budget’ as a topic.

Rich suggested the policy focused topics (MPAs/MLPA and Once-through Cooling/Desalination) go into the next State of the Bay Report, when we have some data to report on. Mas asked that desalination be included because, despite data gaps, these projects are proceeding.

TAC members asked for staff to create an online workspace where everyone could edit in real time. Lia and Carla agreed to look into it. Mas asked about a timeline to complete the Report. Lia offered to post it on the workspace too.

5. Direction and Membership of MTAC Subcommittee

Lia described the history of the MTAC and the discussion about its future. She reminded the TAC that they requested a recommendation from the MTAC on a new directive. The recommendation is as follows:

Focus:

1. Advise SMBRC on questions regarding Santa Monica Bay ecosystems, their functions, and how different policies might impact these ecosystems.
2. Review and provide feedback on relevant funded projects.

Specific Tasks:

1. Complete the Data Gaps project
2. Consider future MPA monitoring research
3. Oversee a staff-analysis/literature-review on economic valuation of ecosystems in Santa Monica Bay (*This task came from staff, not the MTAC and was not discussed by the MTAC*)

Shelley explained that the MTAC was valuable because of their exclusive focus on marine resource questions and because they could tackle short-term projects because they had more frequent meetings.

The TAC discussed the need for a subcommittee focusing on monitoring and implementing the Comprehensive Monitoring Plan. Lia noted that staff intends to raise

this question after the State of the Bay Report is complete. *Joe Gully raised a concern that indicators identified in the CMP have yet to be developed.*

The TAC asked about staff's new idea for an Ecosystem Services project. Shelley elaborated on this, offering to hold a symposium to determine the state of the science, and then fund any needed projects. Dave mentioned that he is working on a proposal that includes a study of the economic impact of harmful algal blooms on coastal economies. Linda suggested staff contact the National Marine Sanctuaries Programs for existing economic studies. *Joe Gully commented that the value of a waterbody as receiving waters should not be overlooked and the dischargers should be included in any study valuing coastal use of marine ecosystems.*

The TAC approved a directive to the now Marine resources Technical Advisory Committee, which reads:

1. Advise SMBRC on questions regarding Santa Monica Bay marine resources, and marine resource management and assessment.
2. Review and provide feedback on relevant funded projects.

Rich asked whether there should be changes or additions to the membership. Karen volunteered to join if there were tasks specifically related to beaches. Rainer stressed the need for an economist and Linda said she could make a few suggestions.

6. Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies: Research Priorities

The Center is a joint venture between Loyola Marymount University and the SMBRC to assist in identifying and acquiring funding, support student research, encourage inter-university collaboration, and disseminate research for projects focusing on Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds. The Center has its own advisory board, but that staff would, as always, look to the TAC for advice on research and projects for the Santa Monica Bay.

The research priorities would be used to give the center direction and will go into the Center's 2009-2010 Work Plan. He asked for comments on the staff generated list (see Attachment 2).

The TAC made several suggestions including: carbon sequestration by wetlands, cost effectiveness of small decentralized drinking water cisterns over large reservoirs, using student research for economic valuation, synthesis projects, such as watershed modeling, indicator development, bio-indicators for wetlands, low-impact development, and data management. *Joe noted that LA County Sanitation District was making progress on the Redondo Beach pier bacteria source ID study and recommended adding tool and method development for indicators identified in the CMP*

To assist with funding, Mas recommended better defining the Centers research capabilities and clearly distinguishing what could be completed in-house and what could not. Rich suggested organizing the list by how the topics will be addressed (Student research, collaborative research, in-house projects, etc). Rainer suggested asking private industry to create an endowment and noted that the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project began in this way, with a grant from Hyperion.

7. Presentation by Carman White, EPA Region 9 Superfund Palos Verdes Shelf Project Manager: Palos Verdes Shelf Contamination Cleanup Options

Carman White presented on the feasibility study that included development and evaluation of the cleanup options. Discussion followed. TAC members were curious about the odd results from the body-burden study, placing the more contaminated fish north of the heavily contaminated area. Dan raised a concern that they would spend a lot of money to cap an area that was not contributing to the fish contamination and made a plug for the completion of a fish tracking study before selecting the cap site. Another question raised, was on the eco-toxicity of DDMU, one of the products of anaerobic reductive de-chlorination of DDT. DDMU is beginning to show up in fish tissue and it might be amplified by capping.

8. Communications

Steve announced that the EPA and SCCWRP are holding a free conference on beach water quality on April 20 and 21 at SCCWRP. He also publicized the SoCal Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry's (SETAC) annual meeting to be held on May 6-7 at SCCWRP. The theme of this year's meeting is emerging contaminants and endocrine disrupters. He thought there will be a workshop on the Palos Verdes shelf contamination, too.

Mas mentioned that NOAA's mussel watch program met at SCCWRP and announced plans for revamping the mussel watch program. The idea was to focus more attention on emerging contaminants and only measure legacy pollutants every 5-10 years. They are considering using Southern California as a pilot project.

Guangyu publicized the MSRP symposium on the restoration projects they have completed that will be held in Ventura at the end of the month.

9. Public Comment

Public Comment was taken in the course of the discussion and is distinguished by *italic text* or described below.

10. Adjournment

The TAC adjourned at 3:20pm

Attendance

Members

Rich Ambrose, UCLA (Chair)
Steve Bay, SCCWRP (Vice Chair)
Dave Caron, USC
Mas Dojiri, LASD EMD
Linda Fernandez, UCR
Rainer Hoenicke, SFEI
Jenny Jay, UCLA
Karen Martin, Pepperdine
Dan Pondella, VTRG

Public

Charlynn Rachell, LADWP
Joe Gully, LACSD
Charlotte Stevenson, HtB

Staff

Shelley Luce
Karina Johnston
Guangyu Wang
Carla Navarro
Lia Protopapadakis