

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

Contact: Lia Protopapadakis (310-216-9826)

Monday, September 24, 2009

Loyola Marymount University, Malone, 460 C – The Hill

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Rich Ambrose convened the meeting at 9:40am.

**2. Approval of Agenda and 6/15/09 Meeting Minutes**

Agenda approved, with the note that we will break at 1pm to call Dan Pondella to discuss his rocky reef analysis; meeting minutes approved with one addition from Karen Martin.

**3. Chair and Staff Reports**

Rich didn't have anything to report. Shelley announced the progress on the Bay Journal and described some of the articles that will be included in it. It will be published in November. Lia noted that the Governing Board (GB) unanimously passed a resolution supporting MPAs and encouraging our continued involvement in the future monitoring of MPAs in the Bay. Guangyu mentioned that the Executive Committee (EC) met earlier in the week to discuss the State of the Bay Report; they are very excited about it and the new direction, in particular the habitat assessment section.

**4. State of the Bay Report: Review and Finalize Draft**

The TAC discussed making several key changes to the Draft State of the Bay Report including:

- Adding an Executive Summary/At-a-Glance section that contains the main messages.
- Focusing the Wastewater Treatment story on the recent secondary treatment conversions and creating a timeline for the historic actions taken by LA City and LA County separately.
- Keeping the Sediment Remediation story under the Natural Resources section, but adding a sidebar on human health and contaminated seafood.
- Changing the title of the Open Space Preservation story to Habitat Protection to make the connection between open space preservation and habitat protection clearer
- Splitting the Looking Ahead section into “Challenges” and “Promising Directions.” Staff would develop policy recommendations for the Governing Board based on the Report, after its publication.
- Changing the section titled “stormwater capture and recycling” to “sustainable local supply” and adding a sidebar on Desalination and the unintended consequences of reclamation, water conservation, and desalination.
- Adding a discussion of once-through-cooling and ocean intakes to the Pelagic Habitat and Fish, Fishing and Fishery Management stories.
- Adding a sidebar on public access to the story on Open Space/Habitat Preservation

The TAC discussed each section in detail starting with the Accomplishments section.

- From the conference phone, Dan Pondella described the method he used to characterize the health of rocky reefs in the bay. He noted that the model doesn't include invertebrate or marine algae info, but correlates well with the invertebrate info. The ultimate goal of this work is to get at causes for reef deterioration and solutions. It will also potentially help track MPA progress. The TAC discussed the report on its own merits and how it would fit into the SoBR. Rich suggested reclassifying the results for the State of the Bay Report only to correspond with an absolute scale not a relative scale. The TAC noted inconsistencies between Dan's writeup and the SoBR and agreed to use Dan's report as the basis for the SoBR, but that it should be edited heavily to match the framework of this section.
- Below are comments from members of the public. The rest is being incorporated into the next draft of the State of the Bay Report.
  - *Joe commented that throughout, the report makes the mistake of claiming that recycling water will improve water quality, where in fact it concentrates the bad stuff and creates a disposal concern. He added that source reduction needs to happen in lock step with reclamation in order to maintain water quality standards. (The TAC addressed this as described above.)*
  - *Charlotte commented that we don't discuss once through cooling in the report. This would have to be added if we also discussed desalination. (The TAC addressed this as described above.)*
  - *Bob Godfrey noted that the black sea bass protection occurred a while ago. Guangyu clarified that while the protection occurred a while ago, the effects of that protection has only been seen recently.*
  - *Bob Godfrey also noted that while the white sea bass growout pen in MDR has released over 100,000 white sea bass with tags, none have been recovered in the SMB. All the recovered tags have come from Catalina. The grow-out program has been operating for 15 years. There are 12 facilities in the bight, 2 in the Bay (MDR and King Harbor). He mentioned that his group was looking to move into Halibut husbandry instead of white sea bass, because they range less widely.*
  - *Charlotte noted that there was a report published in 2005 that attempted to determine the status of fish populations in Santa Monica Bay, which concluded that for most species not enough information existed to make a determination. Bob added that this shouldn't be a surprise given that commercial fishing doesn't exist in the bay and commercial fishermen will trap whatever they can sell and recreational fishermen don't report their catch.*
  - *Joe commented that the term "feminization" used in the "Contaminants of Emerging Concern" is loaded. Only 1 fish in 472 had eggs in testes. However, many did show signs of endocrine disruption such as egg producing hormones in the blood. Joe will send us the press release from the study they conducted with SCCWRP. He will work on a paragraph with Steve that uses less loaded terms but includes a more expansive statement on what endocrine disruption means.*

## **5. State of the Bay Report Conference: Discuss draft agenda**

Guangyu mentioned that the EC had many good ideas for the conference in particular about speakers. However, they also suggested having a track that deals specifically with the State of the Bay Report. The TAC disagreed with this suggestion saying that the entire conference is about the State of the Bay Report. They did agree that there should be time devoted to summarizing the report. They suggested this could be accomplished in the opening plenary with perhaps 4 members of the TAC presenting. They also noted that we need to be very tight with our message.

For a keynote speaker that could draw a crowd, Rich suggested Jane Lubchenco, the current NOAA administrator. The timing is good as the White House will be releasing final recommendations on ocean policy and she's a good speaker. Lorna recommended Glen McDonald, the current chair of UCLA's Institute of the Environment.

## **6. Communications**

No one had anything to add.

## **7. Public Comment**

As always public comment is taken during the course of the discussion and is indicated by *italics*)

*Bob Godfrey thanked us for allowing him to attend and explained a little about the Marina Del Rey Anglers history. They run a few teach kids to fish programs that they have converted to catch and release and run the halibut derby, which they are also planning on converting to catch and release.*

## **8. Adjourn**

Rich adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm

### **Attendance**

#### TAC Members

Rich Ambrose (Chair)  
Mas Dojiri  
Rainer Hoenicke  
Karen Martin (arrived late)  
Dan Pondella (30 min call)

#### Staff Members

Shelley Luce  
Guangyu Wang  
Lia Protopapadakis  
Sean Bergquist  
Karina Johnston

#### Public

Lorna Apper  
Joe Gully (LACSD)  
Charlynn Rachell (LADWP)  
Charlotte Stevenson (HtB)  
Robert Godfrey (MDR Anglers)