



Executive Committee Quarterly Meeting
MBNEP Offices, Morro Bay

Aug 24, 2016
4:00 pm

DRAFT FINAL Minutes

Attendees: John Flaherty, *Central Coast Outdoors*; Joel Neel, *Bay Foundation*; Trudy O'Brian, *Fishing Interests*; Becka Kelly, *Implementation Committee Chair*; Marshall Ochylski, *LOCSD*; Bruce Gibson, *San Luis Obispo County*; Ethan Bell, *Environmental Interests*; Tim Duff, *CA Coastal Conservancy*; Jennifer Epp, *Water Board*; Suzanne Marr, *USEPA*; Lexie Bell, *MBNEP Staff*; Ann Kitajima, *MBNEP Staff*.

1. Introductions and Updates

- Ethan Bell – Stillwater is working with the city of San Luis Obispo on a Stormwater Resource Plan. They are close to getting the necessary permits for the pikeminnow management effort on Chorro Creek, slated for this fall.
- Trudy O'Brien – Shrimp and squid boats are in the harbor right now.
- Becka Kelly – Harborfest is on October 1 and is a free event. The request for proposals is out right now for the dredging project for the harbor navigation channel. It will be out for the next 60 days for work in February.
- Bruce Gibson – More than 1,000 households have connected to the Los Osos sewer and the first water has been sent to the Broderson leach fields. There will be a public meeting next week for the homeowners in Phase III, which starts in September. In the spring, all connections will be complete.
- John Flaherty – The Outdoor Writers Association of California will be here October 4, so they will be leading excursions for them. They've been seeing a lot of wildlife, especially terns, in the back bay. They feel they've been getting more business due to travelers changing their plans due to the fires.
- Lexie Bell – The Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve project to address the avulsion channel is moving forward. We have approval to dig the test pits to get data for the design engineering. Carolyn Doehring, our new Restoration Projects Manager, started in July but is currently in Australia for a month.
- Jennifer Epp – Looking at the agendas for the upcoming Water Board meetings, they are primarily focused on ag order updates since the current order expires in the spring of 2017. The plan is to do a minor revision in the spring, and the next revision will be a longer term project. The Executive Officer issued a revised Monitoring and Reporting Program for the agricultural order which includes surface water and groundwater monitoring requirements for 2017. On the December agenda is an update to the 303(d) list. A draft is currently available on their website. Jennifer will share this with the group.
- Tim Duff – They are working with the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District on the Morrissey acquisition property to restore floodplain and habitat. There may be a statewide park bond on the ballot in 2018 that, if passed, would fund their bigger projects.
- Suzanne Marr – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is moving ahead on mitigation for major disasters, so there may be opportunities to partner on climate adaptation. She recommends that we coordinate with the Water Board and Coastal Commission to see what other local efforts are on-going that could coordinate with the Estuary Program. FEMA is holding a workshop in SLO County. Lexie is on the Advisory Council.
- Marshall Ochylski – Basin Management Committee is working on the sustainability of basin. The Committee just completed their first annual report. They requested a boundary modification, but it was denied by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). They are working now on how the Committee can give updates to the Area Plan on future development and sustainability

decisions. They are also meeting monthly to work on a financing plan for infrastructure improvements.

2. Public Comment – None presented.

3. Agenda Revisions – None proposed.

4. **ACTION:** Consider Approval of May 11, 2016 Executive Committee (EC) minutes
Vote: Joel motioned to approve the minutes. Bruce seconded. Unanimous in favor.

5. **DISCUSSION:** Morro Bay in Bloom Rainwater Harvesting Project Community Grant Update

Staff presented an overview of the Morro Bay in Bloom Centennial Park Rainwater Harvesting project. There was some discussion about the economic viability of this type of project, although a primary goal of this grant-funded project was as a demonstration.

6. **DISCUSSION:** Update on City of Morro Bay Boat Yard and Haulout project

Staff provided information on the City of Morro Bay Boat Yard and Haulout project. The city is hoping that Terry Simons will move forward with this effort, but if he does not, the city plans to move forward. The next City Council meeting is September 1, where this item will be discussed. The EC agreed to table the discussion of the related Community Grant application until the November meeting.

7. **DISCUSSION:** Status of Camp San Luis Obispo partnership for stormwater management

Staff provided a summary of the Camp San Luis Obispo stormwater management efforts. The EC may be seeing a grant application from some partners for small stormwater management projects that could benefit from a fairly modest amount of funding.

8. **DISCUSSION:** Updates on funding and monitoring efforts for Eelgrass

Staff provided an update on upcoming eelgrass monitoring, research, and restoration efforts. Suzanne mentioned that the Army Corps of Engineers dredge permit will need to be renewed, and in their conversations, EPA recommended that they talk to the MBNEP and Cal Poly to coordinate monitoring efforts.

9. **DISCUSSION:** Update on Watershed Projects

Staff provided an update on Trout Unlimited's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association-funded project to improve fish passage on Pennington Creek, as well as monitoring efforts related to Cal Poly's Rainwater Harvesting project at the Beef Center.

10. **DISCUSSION:** Update on Mutts for the Bay Program

Staff provided an update on this project. The name has been changed to Mutts for the Bay because the "Mutt Mitts" name is a propriety brand name. The MBNEP is planning an educational campaign about proper use of bags and further education on the connection to clean water. Some new dispenser stickers and other materials are being developed.

11. **DISCUSSION:** Executive Committee Function and Logistics

Staff presented the findings from the survey recently completed by EC members. The survey had 13 respondents. The findings of the survey were as follows:

- Nearly all respondents were in agreement with the date and time, so that will remain unchanged.
- All respondents said they received the meeting materials with adequate time to prepare.
- All respondents said either ‘yes’ or ‘mostly yes’ to the question of whether the meetings run smoothly.
- Most suggestions on how to improve how the meetings function related to the need for a better speakerphone.
- EC bylaw – Approves requests for funding through the Restoration Fund: All respondents answered ‘Yes’, that this was a function of the EC.
- EC bylaw – Releases staff resources to assist other organizations: Three-quarters of respondents said they didn’t know. The EC agreed that they do this when they approve the Work Plan. Members flagged this item for additional clarification.
- EC bylaw – Supervises the Director through the Bay Foundation representative: The responses were mixed. The Bay Foundation is the actual employer of all Estuary Program staff and thus oversees all personnel issues. So in that sense, the Bay Foundation supervises the Director. Marshall felt that many people don’t understand the Bay Foundation versus the MBNEP versus the EC, etc. and could be confused by this. This item was flagged for clarification.
- EC bylaw – Monitors and evaluates Director performance: The responses to this question were mixed. This item was also flagged for clarification
- EC bylaw – Provides leadership and overall direction: All respondents agreed with this bylaw.
- EC bylaw – Resolves disputes among committees and working groups: This is likely a legacy from when the program was formed, but it’s possible that we could want to do this in the future. So the consensus was to leave it in the bylaws as it is.
- EC bylaw – Provides chairs for Implementation Committee (IC) working groups: Again, although this is not a current function of the group, there may be a need for this in the future. Thus, the bylaw will stay as is.
- EC bylaw – Approve the annual Work Plan: All respondents said ‘Yes’.
- EC bylaw – Searches for and screens applications for the Director position: The results were mixed, but the group felt they wanted to have feedback into the selection process, so this bylaw will stand.
- For the question of whether any of the purposes should be removed or changed, two comments suggested that the EC should provide input on the Director’s performance and assist with recruitment. One comment said that some purposes are only fulfilled as needed but are still important to keep.
- To the question “What is going well?”, answers varied: “We have a **broad range of interests** represented...a **spirit of cooperation** and professionalism...meetings are always run very **efficiently**...well run and elicit **good discussion** and suggestions from members...staff does a fine job **accomplishing the mission** of the program within the budget constraints...you all did the **leadership transition well**...I am very glad there is still a **two-part leadership model** for staff...I think the EC functions well...It continues to **provide good input to the direction of the program**.”
- For the question of what improvements would make us more effective, survey comments included orientation for new members, review of the EPA Program Evaluation letter on a regular basis, and better coordination between members and alternates. Other suggestions came up at the meeting: a more formal orientation process for new members, Trudy needs an alternate, Bruce would like an alternate (although this would require a change to the bylaws because his position does not designate an alternate), and more awareness to avoid acronyms and jargon.
- The group directed Lexie to update the bylaws with the help of a working group. This group will consist of Jennifer and Marshall.

12. Adjourn to next meeting of November 9, 2016 at 4 pm at the MBNEP offices.

Attachments to August Staff Report:

1. May EC meeting minutes
2. Summary of Status of Camp San Luis Obispo and Stormwater Planning