



Morro Bay National Estuary Program

Implementation Committee Quarterly Meeting
Windows on the Water - 699 Embarcadero, Morro Bay

August 4, 2016
12:00 pm

DRAFT FINAL Minutes

Attendees: Vince Cicero, *CA State Parks*; John Sayers, *CA State Parks*; Cathy Martin, *County of San Luis Obispo*; Mike Anderson, *CCC*; Brian Meux, *NOAA*; Becka Kelly, *City of Morro Bay*; Jen Nix, *Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District*; Pete Waldberger, *Camp San Luis Obispo*; Tom Edell, *Bay Foundation of Morro Bay*; Lexie Bell, *MBNEP Staff*; Rachel Pass, *MBNEP Staff*; Sara Markham, *MBNEP Staff*; Cynthia Milhem, *MBNEP Staff*; Karissa Willits, *MBNEP Staff*; Ann Kitajima, *MBNEP Staff*.

1. Introductions and Updates

- Becka Kelly: The city has plans for dredging State Park Marina and utilizing their usual disposal site. The RFP goes out this fall for work in February. The Army Core of Engineers planned to visit on August 5 to discuss the plan. September 18 will be the start of Otter Awareness Week, with educational materials available at the Estuary Program's Nature Center, at Morro Rock, and at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History.
- Mike Anderson: The CCCs crews are all out on wildfires right now. They are just beginning their new fiscal year, so they are looking for projects.
- John Sayers: State Parks is keeping an eye on sea lavender and keeping it in check. He also reported on some salt marsh bird's beak that has survived and has slight expanded in area.
- Walter Health: Morro Bay in Bloom's Community Grant funded project is waiting for interpretive panel installation by the city, and the pump needs to be installed. The rating on current pump is too high, so they plan to replace it with a lower one. The purpose of the demonstration project is to encourage others to undertake this type of project, which is why the interpretive panel is so important.
- Rachel Pass: Coastal Cleanup Day is Saturday, September 17 and we will be coordinating our usual Sandspit site. We are recruiting volunteers. Sign-ups are via our website. Community Grant applications are due September 2. The planning for the State of the Bay report and event series is underway, with the report out early next year. Events will take place in April 2017.
- Cathy Martin: The county has recently filled a position in the watershed/regional unit within the Water Resources Division.
- Jen Nix: In conjunction with the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD, the CSLRCD is developing a county-wide stormwater resource plan, which is required in order to be eligible on future State grant funding (SB985) for stormwater capture projects. The CSLRCD is working on a project on John Swift's property, and construction is expected to take place in mid-September. The CCCs will be involved. They are working on a restoration plan for the Morrissey property. They are hoping to conduct additional road erosion reduction projects on PG&E and Cal Poly property
- Brian Meux: Visiting Morro Bay to look at eelgrass and meet with Estuary Program staff. NOAA wants to help understand the decline by supporting research and monitoring efforts.

2. **Public Comment** – None presented.

3. **Presentation:** Morro Bay in Bloom Rainwater Harvesting Project Community Grant Update

Walter Heath of Morro Bay in Bloom provided an overview of their program and their Community Grant project. They are affiliated with the national America in Bloom organization. Morro Bay in Bloom is a 501(c)(3). A member thought Centennial Park would be a good site for a rain garden, based on a tank they had seen at the Estero Community Garden. A member who is a civil engineer designed the restraint system for the tanks. The 600-gallon and 265-gallon tanks are already installed and filled with rain water. They purchased a pump to feed the drip irrigation system to water throughout the park. Their organization holds volunteer work days for two hours every Saturday, rain cancels. Tom Edell commented that it would be great to develop and make available guidance for the public on the definition of a native plant and some recommendations of what they might want to plant in their yards.

4. Agenda Revisions: None

5. ACTION: Consider Approval of May 5, 2016 minutes

Vote: Jen Nix motioned to approve, Tom Edell seconded. Unanimous in favor.

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

Becka reported that the private entity needs more time to move forward on the Feasibility Study for the facility. There are on-going negotiations regarding the power plant property, which could impact the plans for the facility. By the November meeting, we should have more details on this effort and can make a decision regarding the Community Grant application from the Morro Bay Commercial Fisherman's Organization. The IC was in agreement to table the issue until the next meeting.

7. DISCUSSION: Status of Camp SLO partnership for stormwater management

The deadline for the application for an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning grant is the end of September. The RCDs will continue to coordinate with Camp SLO on an effort. The RCD approach is to develop an adaptable tool that the partners can use to implement stormwater projects.

8. DISCUSSION: Updates on funding and monitoring efforts for eelgrass

Staff provided an update on funding status as well as reported on the progress of multiple Cal Poly research efforts.

9. DISCUSSION: Update on Watershed Projects

Staff provided an update on Trout Unlimited's upcoming project to improve fish passage on Pennington Creek, as well as Cal Poly's use of the rainwater catchment system.

10. DISCUSSION: Update on Mutts for the Bay Program

Staff provided an update on the Mutts for the Bay Program, including the stocking of dispensers in the Los Osos area. The issue of used bags being left behind was brought up, as some dispensers do not have a nearby waste receptacle. This might be addressed in a future education effort. This seems to be happening quite a bit at the Broderson trail.

In other E&O updates, the Harborfest will be on October 1, and the Estuary Program will be hosting a booth. The San Salvador replica will be in Morro Bay from September 29 to October 10. The Estuary Program is developing some educational panels for our Nature Center to be displayed during that time.

11. Adjourned at 1:30 pm to next meeting of November 3, 2016 at 12:00 pm at Windows on the Water.

Attachments sent with Staff Report:

1. May 2016 IC meeting minutes
2. Summary of Status of Camp SLO and Stormwater planning