



Executive Committee Quarterly Meeting
MBNEP Offices, Morro Bay

November 9, 2016
4:00 pm

DRAFT Minutes

Attendees: John Flaherty, *Central Coast Outdoors*; Joel Neel, *Bay Foundation*; Jeremiah O'Brian, *Fishing Interests*; Marshall Ochylski, *LOCS*D; Bruce Gibson, *San Luis Obispo County*; Ethan Bell, *Environmental Interests*; Holly Sletteland, *Environmental Interest*; Jennifer Epp, *Water Board*; Suzanne Marr, *USEPA*; Lexie Bell, *MBNEP Staff*; Ann Kitajima, *MBNEP Staff*.

1. Introductions and Updates

- Ann Kitajima – The dates for the 2017 EC meetings were sent out via email. Ann provided clarification that EC meetings will typically proceed, even if a quorum is not present. The meeting allows an opportunity for discussion, and then the vote would take place via email. We will be sure to provide clarification on this the next time we do a quorum check.
- Ethan Bell – Stillwater just obtained the federal permit for conducting the pikeminnow management work on Chorro Creek, so planning is underway on how to adapt the project given that the field season is nearly over.
- Jeremiah O'Brien – Jeremiah is sitting in for Trudy, whose work schedule did not allow her to attend. He said that the commercial fishing industry was doing well. Salmon and albacore seasons have concluded, and the Dungeness season is about to begin.
- Bruce Gibson – The sewer connection and groundwater basin work continue. The Estuary Program is working with the county on a septic retrofit rebate program.
- John Flaherty – The Winter Bird Festival registration has opened and some events are already sold out. He also commented on all of the new eelgrass shoots that he's seeing, in particular on Grassy Bar Oyster Farm lease areas.
- Lexie Bell – There is an open Ag Interest seat, so various potential candidates were discussed. We could consult the CSLRCD for suggestions. We will send out the EC Member List to the committee. We are starting a project with Cleath-Harris to update the basin yield model to include climate change impacts and reduced rainfall. This work started with the Climate Ready Estuary work funded by EPA. Suzanne recommended writing this up for EPA. We plan on using 320 funds for a rebate program for septic repurposing in Los Osos. We are awaiting the County to determine how to administer the program. Suzanne commented that this was a really innovative idea that has not yet been done by any other NEP and that the clear information we provided made it easy to get approval from EPA.
- Jennifer Epp – The next Water Board meeting will be in Watsonville in December. Topics include the region-wide permits for groundwater discharge to surface waters and a draft Ag order release with comments due January 3 and related public workshops coming up. The Integrated Report is nearly complete and will be released in mid-November. She thanked the Estuary Program for their comments on data and sites in the watershed. Suzanne said we should be sure to mention in EPA reporting that we commented on the 303(d) update process.
- Holly Sletteland – Sudden Oak Death has been identified in the county for the first time. 40% of tested samples came back positive. A quarantine will be imposed in the county, probably in the spring. Efforts will be focused on educating the public on detecting and managing the disease. Holly will share links for online resources.
- Marshall Ochylski – Marshall greatly enjoyed the Volunteer Appreciate event back in October and praised staff's efforts. The Basin Management Committee is meeting monthly to update the water conservation plan and determine how to fund the Basin Management Plan. The county is potentially going to redistribute recycled water in Los Osos so that people come and fill up a

tank to use for irrigation. The details are still being worked out. A discussion of a new EC chairperson will be deferred to the next EC meeting. In the meantime, Marshall, Jennifer, and Lexie will meet to discuss the EC bylaws.

2. Public Comment – None presented.

3. Agenda Revisions – None proposed.

4. **ACTION:** Consider Approval of August 24, 2016 Executive Committee (EC) minutes

Vote: Joel motioned to approve the minutes. Bruce seconded. Unanimous in favor.

5. **ACTION:** Recommendations on Community Grant Application

There was some discussion about ensuring that the video remain in the public domain. The suggestion was made to show the film at environmental group meetings, which will give it more air time and reach a broader audience.

Vote: Bruce made a motion to approve the grant application. Holly seconded.

Marshall wanted to see two clarifications: 1) Specify in the contract that the video must remain in the public domain, and 2) If the video receives any monetary compensation, the grantee will pay back the grant to the Bay Foundation. The percent of compensation was left up to Staff.

With these two clarification, the grant application was approved unanimously.

6. **DISCUSSION:** Review Restoration Five-Year Plan: 2013 to 2017

The five-year plan was created in 2012 and approved by the EC and Bay Foundation. In the plan, \$600,000 was budgeted for spending from 2013 to 2017. When considering a plan for moving forward with Restoration Fund spending, the Water Board minutes were vague as to the timeline. Suzanne recommends mentioning in EPA reporting the use of Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program funding from the Department of Defense (DoD) because EPA likes to see the nexus of federal funding sources (DoD and EPA). Jennifer asked why it was a five-year plan rather than a shorter or longer time period. The idea when developing the plan was to choose a time frame that wasn't so short that staff was expending a lot of energy to frequently update a plan. The plan is completely up to us and was not dictated by the Water Board, so it's up to us to decide on the timeframe.

At our February EC meeting, we will talk about the plan for FY18 to FY22.

7. **DISCUSSION:** Program Evaluation Letter Review

The EC had asked to review the Program Evaluation letter a few times a year to assess our progress. We created a summary table in the staff report. The EC asked for the highlights, and Lexie mentioned the Climate Change being integrated into the CCMP. She also mentioned the eelgrass restoration work. We have an experimental planting effort planned, with the hope that the results will allow development of numeric restoration targets.

8. **DISCUSSION:** Update on State of the Bay report and events

Staff shared the dates and events planned for State of the Bay in April 2017. Additional details will be shared as we get closer. The report card is nearly complete and will be distributed early next year.

9. Adjourn to next meeting of February 8, 2017 at 4 pm at the MBNEP offices.

Attachments to August Staff Report:

1. August EC meeting minutes
2. EPA Semiannual Report
3. Summary of Restoration Fund Five-Year Plan: 2013 to 2017
4. Community Grant Application