



Executive Committee Quarterly Meeting
MBNEP Offices, Morro Bay

Nov 9, 2016
4:00 pm

Staff Report

1. Introductions and Updates
2. Public Comment
3. Agenda Revisions
4. **ACTION:** Consider Approval of August 24, 2016 Executive Committee minutes
5. **ACTION:** Recommendation on Community Grant Application

Project: Of Marshes and Morros Educational Film

Applicant: Simo Nylander

Request: \$5,000

Matching Funds: \$3,000 awarded from PG&E, \$5,000 potential from Kickstarter, \$3,000 from other sources

Total Budget: \$16,000

Summary: This request will fund a short documentary video and audio podcast that focus on past conservation efforts for the Morro Bay estuary, and the need to continue that work today. Through interviews with experts, community members, and others, the film and podcast will identify the threats facing the estuary and efforts to address them. The film will be entered into the San Luis Obispo Film Festival, made available to classroom teachers, and posted online.

Recommendations: The Education & Outreach Working Group reviewed the grant application and recommended approval for the full amount requested. They had some questions and suggestions regarding the grant. They wondered if the timeline was realistic, or if the film would need to be entered into the film festival for 2018 rather than this year. They wanted to include additional distribution efforts to schools, including reaching out to teachers through email and, perhaps, by attending teacher trainings. The Estuary Program has reached out to the applicant for clarification on these questions.

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

In 2012, the Estuary Program developed a five-year plan, approved by the Implementation and Executive Committees, for spending Restoration Fund monies. We are nearing the end of our five-year plan. We are presenting an overview of progress under the current plan. In our February meeting, we will present a proposal for the 2017 to 2021 plan.

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

As previously discussed in the EC, the committee would like to periodically check in regarding the status of items identified in the Program Evaluation (PE) letter from EPA's review in 2015. The letter identifies things for us to work in the next five years. Our plan is to check in annually with a brief status on the list of items. The following are the actions to be accomplished prior to the next PE:

Item Description	Planned Action
Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (CCMP) update: Follow EPA guidance when next updating the CCMP.	Estuary Program will begin the update process in 2018 as part of the Workplan development for fiscal year (FY)19.
Communication Plan: When the next plan is developed, include target audiences, lead parties responsible, and estimated funding needed.	The Estuary Program will update the plan, including these elements in the first quarter of FY18.
Finance Plan: Include more information about accomplishments on webpage to encourage donations.	The Estuary Program is working to develop an approach that makes sense with the flow of the existing website.
Monitoring Plan: Update the monitoring plan so that it aligns with the revised CCMP.	Development of a Monitoring Plan, per EPA guidance, is underway and will be completed by spring of 2017.
Species Protection Plan: Revise the Conservation Planning Initiative to include restoration and protection numeric targets and identify those that tie to CCMP Action Plans.	This effort is underway and is expected to be completed in the spring of 2017.
Reporting on Changes in Conditions and Outcomes.	This is an ongoing effort, which we achieve through data reports, our blog, our social media, our website, etc.
Workplan: Expand the plan to include a list of deliverables for each project. Add further description of accomplishments and success stories.	These changes have already been incorporated in the FY17 Workplan and will be included in future Workplans.
Climate Change: Complete our Climate Vulnerability Assessment Report, update our CCMP with this information, identify how climate change impacts our ability to meet CCMP goals, integrate climate change into future CCMP revisions, and include climate change adaptation actions in future Workplans.	This effort is ongoing. Analysis of climate change impacts on CCMP goals is underway and expected to be completed in spring 2017. The remaining components of the Climate Vulnerability Assessment will also be incorporated into the Conservation Planning efforts.
Eelgrass Restoration: Consider identifying a long-term numeric eelgrass acreage goal.	The effort is ongoing through work in grants, which include monitoring and research to better understand the causes for eelgrass decline and provide information for setting restoration goals.
Nutrient and Sediment Reductions: Continue working with the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) and local Natural Resources Conservation Service to work for reductions in nutrients and sediment.	The Estuary Program is a partner in the CSLRCD's current stream bank stabilization project on Los Osos Creek. This project is part of a larger 319(h) grant for which the Estuary Program conducted three years of monitoring. Other potential partnerships for monitoring and restoration are already in discussion with the CSLRCD.

The full version of the letter is available with the EC meeting materials for February 2016.

8. DISCUSSION: Presentation of EPA Semiannual Report

Twice a year, the Estuary Program submits a Semiannual Report to EPA, which provides the program status on the budgets and tasks laid out in our Workplan. The latest Semiannual Report contains a summary for the second half of FY16, from April 1 to September 30, 2016. As of September 2016, 88% of the 320 funds from the grant that began in FY12 have been spent. This grant has been extended until April 28, 2017. The Estuary Program has met 100% of its match requirement.

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

The Estuary Program staff are putting the finishing touches on the 2017 State of the Bay Report, which presents answers to nine questions regarding the health of the bay and watershed. The report will be printed this fall and released early next year.

Planning is underway for the triennial State of the Bay events, which will occur primarily in April of next year. Potential events include:

- A presentation of environmental report card results accompanied by launch of an estuary-themed beer brewed by Libertine, on April 1, at their Morro Bay location.
- Art show and open house in partnership with the Gallery at Marina Square on April 14.
- Saturday Scientist presentation on macroinvertebrates in conjunction with the Morro Bay Natural History Museum on April 15.
- Presentation of environmental report card results on eelgrass, sediment, and climate change as part of the Science After Dark series, in San Luis Obispo on April 18.
- Presentation of environmental report card results on birds, steelhead, and habitat protection indicators from the environmental report card, date and location to be determined.
- Poetry contest.
- DogFest.
- Earth Day paddle event, which is a day to get people out on the water.
- A bay-friendly gardening event in partnership with SLO Botanical Gardens on April 8.

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

Attachments:

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