



**Implementation Committee Quarterly Meeting  
Estuary Program Offices**

**November 2, 2017  
12:00 pm**

**DRAFT Minutes**

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**Attendees:** Becka Kelly, *City of Morro*; Cara O'Brien, *California State Parks*; John Sayers, *California State Parks*; Tom Edell, *Bay Foundation*; Micaela Mellein, *Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District*; Vince Cicero, *California State Parks*; Doug Tait, *Morro Coast Audubon Society*; Shane Blanchard (guest); Cheryl Zelus, *Natural Resources Conservation Service*; Kyle Walsh, *Land Conservancy of SLO County*; Rachel Pass, *MBNEP Staff*; Ann Kitajima, *MBNEP Staff*.

**1. Introductions and Updates**

- Rachel: Join us for our annual Holiday Boat Parade Party on December 2.
- Doug: The Sweet Springs no pet policy is working well. They feel that their Ambassador program is helping, and there have only been a few incidents of people ignoring the new rule and bringing their pets on site. The East Sweet Springs grand opening will be held on November 12 from 2 to 4 and all are welcome to attend. They will be debuting the new trails, boardwalk, platform, bird blind, and interpretive panels. The Winter Birdfest will be from January 12 to 14. The Christmas Bird Count will be on December 16. They had wild pig sightings in Sweet Springs and have installed wildlife camera to track this activity.
- Becka: The Harbor Department received a \$25,000 grant from the state for boat demolition. They have seven boats to demolish but will need more than the grant amount to complete them all. They have a vessel turn-in program, where people can hand over their pink slips. The launch ramp is getting damaged from all of the boat demolition, so the city is working with the state for funds to redo it. The dredge company is working to remove the last of the 3,000 feet of pipe on the sandspit. They are cutting it up, floating it across to the Rock parking area, and hauling it away. They have heavy equipment on the sandspit right now.
- John Sayers: The Estuary Program is working with USDA, Bob Stafford of CDFW, and the State Lands Commission on the wild pig issue. It is currently waterfowl hunting season, and Brant season starts November 9.
- Tom: The Christmas Bird Count is coming up, and he would love to see more people get involved. Sign-ups are through the MCAS website. No updates from the Bay Foundation.
- Vince: In Morro Bay State Parks, a water main is being replaced. The old pipe is made of asbestos and concrete, and it's starting to leak. The lines will be redone, necessitating the campground closure from December 1 to January 31.
- Micaela: Micaela is a Resource Conservation Specialist with the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District and is attending in Jen Nix's stead, as Jen is soon to leave the area. They recently did some removal of cape ivy on Chorro Flats with the CCCs. They worked on about one acre since the process took longer than expected. There is quite a bit of water in the Flats. The designs for the Los Osos Wetland project are expected to be done by the end of the year.
- Kyle: The Land Conservancy is close to completing a deal for an easement on a ranch located between San Luisito and San Bernardo Creeks. They submitted a grant to the California Coastal Conservancy for an easement off of Turri Road. They expect that deal to close about a year from now.
- Cheryl: No updates for the Morro Bay watershed, but continue to work to develop projects with private landowners.

2. **Public Comment:** None presented.

3. **Presentation:** Cara O'Brien, California State Parks Interpreter

Cara is the SLO Marine Protected Area (MPA) Collaborative co-chair. The organization recently received a \$15,000 grant to develop a kids' activity book focused on the coastal area. The grant begins December 1. A working group has been formed and everyone is welcome to join. The first meeting will be in two or three weeks. The Collaboratives are looking at outreach efforts to share the MPA message. The Collaboratives are also coordinating with law enforcement to get the MPA messages out. The Collaborative has held two Bioblitzes, and is planning on holding another one next year that is open to the public. Open ROV makes remote operated underwater vehicles and is donating two to each Collaborative. These units are currently in development, and we hope to get our units locally early next year. You just need a tablet and the software to operate it. They will be used for two purposes: science and education. On November 27, there will be a wildlife disturbance symposium held in Moss Landing. One of the topics will be aerial and underwater drones. The Collaboratives are planning on starting a Respect Wildlife campaign to spread the message of avoiding animal disturbances.

4. **Agenda Revisions:** None

5. **ACTION:** Consider Approval of August 10, 2017 IC minutes

**Vote:** Tom Edell motion to approve, Kyle Walsh seconded. Unanimous in favor.

6. **ACTION:** Recommendations on Community Grant Applications

The IC reviewed the two grant applications submitted for the fall round of grants.

#### **Curriculum for Elementary-Age Morro Bay Watershed Stewardship**

The proposed project involves the development of watershed curriculum for two grade levels, development of a material list, and purchase of two materials kits. The Bay Foundation and the E&O Working Group agreed with the goal of the project, but were concerned about implementation of the effort. Based on the relatively limited reach of the project and lack of specificity on the final project, the IC voted to deny funding as proposed. They encouraged the applicant to work with Estuary Program staff to develop a more detailed proposal.

**Vote:** Motion by Vince Cicero to deny funding as submitted and encourage applicant to incorporate staff feedback and reapply. Seconded by Tom Edell. Unanimous in favor of the motion.

#### **Education for the Eradication of Sahara Mustard and Spiny Three-Corner Jack**

The proposed project submitted by Celebrate Los Osos requests funding for the printing and mailing of flyers, posters, and counter top cards. The materials would educate the public on invasive species and provide information about two specific invasive plants, the Sahara mustard and the spiny three-corner jack. Staff and the E&O Working Group recommended funding the project, as the project was seen as having value as an educational effort, rather than as a restoration project.

**Vote:** Motion by John Sayers to approve, with the added condition that the Estuary Program would have an opportunity to review the content before it goes to print. Seconded by Vince Cicero. Unanimous in favor of the motion.

7. **ACTION:** Conservation Easement Project Funding Approval

Estuary Program staff requested \$140,000 to contribute toward an easement deal on Kandarian Farms, a 133-acre parcel in Los Osos Valley. A portion of the site would be maintained as ag land, and 66 acres of oak woodland and other native habitat would be protected. Up to \$660,000 would be contributed by the Department of Defense toward the project. Estuary Program staff recommended approving the funding request using the FY12 to 17 allocation of Restoration Funds, thus leaving the FY18 to 22 Restoration Fund allocation for future land conservation in the upcoming five years.

**Vote:** Motion by Tom Edell to approve \$140,000 in funding using the funds allocated for land conservation in the FY2012 to 2017 spending plan. Seconded by Becka Kelly. Unanimous in favor.

**8. DISCUSSION:** Presentation of EPA Semi-annual Report

Staff presented the budget summary from the semi-annual report covering the period of April 1 through September 30, 2017.

**9. DISCUSSION:** Program Updates

Staff provided a status report on the CCMP update process and the Morro Bay Science Exploration Series.

**10. Adjourned** at 1:27 pm to next meeting of February 8, 2018 at 12:00 pm at the Estuary Program offices.

**Attachments sent with Staff Report:**

1. August 10, 2017 IC meeting minutes
2. Community Program grant applications
3. Description and maps for conservation easement
4. Semi-annual report