



**Implementation Committee Quarterly Meeting
Estuary Program Offices**

**February 8, 2018
12:00 pm**

DRAFT Minutes

Attendees: Becka Kelly, *City of Morro*; John Sayers, *California State Parks*; Larissa Clarke, *Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District*; Vince Cicero, *California State Parks*; Doug Tait, *Morro Coast Audubon Society*; Dave Bowlus, *Community at Large*; Carolyn Geraghty, *MBNEP Staff*; Pete Waldberger, *Camp SLO*; Michaela Robbins, *Caltrans*; Lexie Bell, *MBNEP Staff*; Rachel Pass, *MBNEP Staff*.

1. Introductions and Updates

- John Sayers – Sahara mustard and other invasives are a constant issue. State Parks and USDA continue to consider pig management options. Someone from Long Beach that is monitoring salt marsh bird's beak is coming up to Morro Bay next week to look at our population. A portion of the sandspit near Shark's Inlet was restored with 1,024 straw bales and plantings to keep sand from moving into the bay. This project site has been ongoing since 1982, as a result of impacts from WWII training and recreation vehicle use on the sandspit, which limited vegetation growth. The sandspit moves about one to two feet per year.
- Dave Bowlus – Dave is a new SWAP board member.
- Carolyn Geraghty – We are excited to announce that Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve (CCER) implementation funds have been approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP). Also, eelgrass planting is coming up in February and March. If you know of any potential volunteers (we are only looking for a few people), please connect with Carolyn. Currently, the Estuary Program is monitoring our seed transplant experiment and seeing some initial growth.
- Vince Cicero – State Parks is still dealing with downed wood from last winter's storms. About 2,000 tons of woody material was burned, which took two weeks of non-stop work. Another burn is scheduled for next week. Cara O'Brian, the State Parks interpreter for our district, won a statewide ingenuity award for work that included the SeaLife Stewards Program supported by the Estuary Program. The five-year Baywood Park Army Site Review is occurring now. There is a stakeholder meeting on February 26 from 3 to 5pm at the Morro Bay Community Center and a broader public meeting from 6 to 8pm the same day. This review is focused on unexploded ordnance management in the sandspit/State Parks area. State Parks is also involved with the stormwater flow project at the State Park Marina.
- Rachel Pass—The Estuary Program has updated the interactive science kiosk in the Nature Center and put that content online with a grant from the Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust. The Estuary Program will be updating two to three additional displays in the Nature Center this year. The Estuary Program is also working with the MPA Collaborative, led by Cara O'Brien of State Parks and Gordon Hensley of Coastkeepers, to create a kids' activity book focused on MPA education. The Estuary Program is increasing our formal education by expanding our watershed model demonstration reach into more classrooms. Finally, the Estuary Program has a new Bay Cam, focused out toward the sandspit, Morro Rock, and the channel. You can see it at www.mbnep.org/baycam.
- Doug Tait - Mentioned that Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) is working with Celebrate Los Osos to get a grant for a commercial binoculars installation at the new viewing platform in Sweet

Springs East. MCAS is also trying to get California Coastal Conservancy Prop 1 funding for Sweet Springs work and work at the 4th Street Overlook property. MCAS plans to comment on the State Parks plan for Piedras Blancas. MCAS is currently working on planting new plants in East Sweet Springs where nonnative plants were previously removed.

- Lexie Bell - Discussed the upcoming Association of National Estuary Programs meeting in Washington D.C., where directors of NEPs across the country will focus on disaster management and resiliency. Lexie also discussed the Estuary Program's partnership in the project to improve stormwater drainage from the Morro Bay State Park Marina.
- Pete Waldberger –Pete's contract is ending in April, so he won't be representing Camp SLO after this meeting. Paige Farrell will likely be our new representative. The base won 2nd place in a nationwide award for small arms bases for the road erosion prevention project.
- Becca Kelly – Five more derelict boats were removed from the bay over the course of 2017 with funding from a state grant. The Harbor Department will take abandoned boats from owners for free. The Harbor Department also maintains a list of boats that are potential pollution threats that they monitor closely. Snowy Plover fencing will be installed on the sandspit February 26. Morro Bay Beautiful is planning a sandspit cleanup on February 24. Becca will encourage them to track the trash they pick up using the Estuary Program's Trash Tracker form. <http://www.mbnep.org/trash-tracker/> An individual has an interest in having a mobile pumpout business in Morro Bay. The group discussed whether there are enough boats or funding for this service. The city is considering the possibility of applying for Community Project Funding through the Estuary Program for this service.
- Michaela Robbins – no updates
- Larissa Clark –The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) will be holding a half-day workshop on March 15th at the Cal Poly Beef Center on healthy soils on the Central Coast. The RCD is will highlight their work with a local landowner under their Climate Ready Rangelands initiative.

2. Public Comment: None presented.

3. Agenda Revisions: Lexie requested to add approval of a board resolution to the agenda to apply for a grant for a stormwater management project.

4. ACTION: Consider Approval of November 2, 2017 IC minutes

Vote: Vince Cicero motion to approve, Peter Waldberger seconded. Unanimous in favor.

5. ACTION: Monitoring and Research Project Funding Request for Pikeminnow eDNA work – See attachment

Vote: Motion to approve by John Sanders, Michaela Robbins seconded. Unanimous in favor.

6. DISCUSSION: FY2019 Workplan

Estuary Program staff presented the results of a survey sent out to IC members to identify priority workplan tasks and provide feedback on missing topics. The results were presented at the meeting.

7. DISCUSSION: FY2012 to 2017 Restoration Fund Spending Summary – see attachment

Staff presented the summary report of spending from FY2012 through FY2017 of Restoration Funds. The totals include the \$140,000 approved in November 2017 to support a Los Osos Valley conservation easement which was delayed in closing due to state grant funding sources.

8. DISCUSSION: Stormwater Management Project

Staff presented two potential ideas to address stormwater runoff in the watershed: improvements to the parking lot at State Park Marina and stormwater treatment at Baywood Pier on 3rd Street in Los Osos. If committee members have other ideas for stormwater management projects, please let staff know.

9. DISCUSSION: Implementation Committee Restructuring Ideas

The committee discussed the possible restructuring or refocusing of the Implementation Committee meetings to generate a broader base of input, while maintaining input and involvement of current active members. Ideas included the possibility of convening in smaller groups based on member interest, current project involvement, and technical expertise as well as whole-group meetings. Please let staff know any ideas you might have. The item will be discussed further at the May meeting.

10. ACTION: Resolution to Support State Park Marina Parking Lot Improvements Project

Vote: Vince Cicero made a motion to approve, seconded by Becka Kelly. All in favor.

11. DISCUSSION: Program Updates

Staff presented an update on eelgrass activities and encouraged members to attend the climate change presentation on February 8.

12. Adjourned to next meeting of May 3, 2018 at 12:00 pm at the Estuary Program offices.

Attachments sent with Staff Report:

1. November 2, 2017 IC meeting minutes
2. Summary of Restoration Fund Spending: FY 2012 to 2017
3. Funding Request for Pikeminnow eDNA Analysis