



**Implementation Committee Quarterly Meeting
Estuary Program Offices**

**May 3, 2018
12:00 pm**

DRAFT Minutes

Attendees: Becka Kelly, *City of Morro*; John Sayers, *California State Parks*; Vince Cicero, *California State Parks*; Dave Bowlus, *Community at Large*; Kyle Walsh, *Land Conservancy of SLO County*; Michaela Robbins, *Caltrans*; Dave Bowlus, *SWAP*; Carolyn Geraghty, *MBNEP Staff*; Lexie Bell, *MBNEP Staff*; Rachel Pass, *MBNEP Staff*; Ann Kitajima, *MBNEP Staff*.

1. Introductions and Updates

- Becka: The dredge Yaquina is back, and they are committed to being here only 17 days. They are working in front harbor area only. All fisheries open right now with a lot of fishing activity going on. No fireworks this Fourth of July, but city is planning them for the next year. Will do Family Fun Day at Tidelands. The Morro Bay Maritime Museum, Yacht Club Youth Sailing and Harbor Department are holding a joint marine nautical swap meet, which will likely replace the Harbor Department's annual auction. People can sell water recreation equipment, art, boating equipment, or anything else that is water-themed. The event will be on June 30 and free. The cost to have a booth is \$10. If you have items but don't want to sell them yourself, you can donate them to one of the participating groups. Donations are tax deductible.
- Carolyn: We conducted eelgrass transplanting efforts in February and March. We planted transplanted eelgrass at five sites across the bay. We used two methods, the bare roots method we used before and a new method where we attached the eelgrass to rebar. So far all sites are doing well. The rebar method lets us more easily transplant in muckier areas with tougher access. Our Conservation Planning effort is underway to set priorities and identify projects. We will keep reaching out to others to be involved.
- John: Plover season in full swing with chicks hatching on the sandspit. California State Parks (CSP) is aware of one nest on the strand. The weeds are going crazy this year. The limonium monitoring effort is about to begin. They are spending time going after Emex and Sahara mustard where they can. Also working on pig removal management around the estuary on State Parks property. Pigs have been causing habitat degradation and safety issues.
- Rachel: We are involved in an MPA Collaborative kids' workbook project. Our estuary poetry contest just came to a close, so judging is going on with a winner to be announced soon. Entries could be either haiku or free verse, and our virtual Nature Center was the inspiration. You can see the virtual Nature Center content at www.learn.mbneep.org We will host a poetry reading on May 18 at 7pm at Coalesce Bookstore. Join us on June 14 at 6pm for our Morro Bay Science Exploration talk on the topic of fisheries. The talk will be at SLO Botanical Gardens. Someone from Cal Poly will be presenting results of MPA fisheries research. We also hope to have a speaker to present information on beavers and how they can impact restoration.
- Dave: He is now serving as the treasurer of SWAP, so now representing SWAP on the IC. The SWAP board is working on getting a biological assessment, which was last done in 2004. They are also working to figure out priorities on board. They are seeing impacts on lower part of oaks preserve from pigs. John comments that he has seen some oaks sprouting in that impacted area.
- Vince: CSP is planning a Sandspit ice plant removal project in future after plover season ends. The Baywood Park training area 5-year review is underway, with a final meeting for stakeholders only on June 6 at CSP office. John will be attending. There will be a law enforcement memorial on May 17, which will include a flyover by a helicopter. The plan is for the helicopter to fly in over Morro Creek,

over bay towards tip of spit, and then depart. No rules for setbacks, but CSP is trying to maintain an adequate buffer. Will do some monitoring the day off before the event and then observe during the flight. The event will include a 21-gun salute and will be loud. Trying to direct sound away from the rock since this could be more of a disturbance than the helicopter. CSP will be out observing at the time. Will be on the south side of the rock. City and Coast Guard boats will be out as part of the event.

- Michaela: No updates on projects in the watershed.
- Lexie: The S. Bay Blvd. bridge project County engineer updated Bay Foundation members to let us know that still trying to get the hydrology assessment done so that can finish permit application and start the alternatives analysis. They will share it with us so we have a chance to give feedback. Construction in three years is optimistic. Vince said the project may give restoration project opportunities for local organizations.
- Kyle: The Kandarian Farms project will not be happening. The Land Conservancy is following up on a few alternatives although nothing has panned out yet. Biggest project in the watershed is now the Buckingham Ranch easement, which should close in early fall. The project is through a partnership with Camp SLO and it is looking good to go.
- Ann: The Estuary Program completed a bay-wide map of intertidal eelgrass, using imagery collected in December 2017. When it is finalized, we will make it available. The program recently hired a new Monitoring Technician and is to hire a Monitoring Coordinator.

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

3. **Agenda Revisions:** None.

4. **ACTION:** Consider Approval of February 8, 2018 IC minutes

Vote: Michaela motion to approve, Becka seconded. Unanimous in favor.

5. **ACTION:** Recommend Approval of Fiscal Year 2019 Workplan

Lexie provided an overview of the Workplan, which includes tasks that we anticipate working on, how we plan to spend budget, and how we plan to match budget. The tasks are similar to last year's, with the addition of a few new tasks: State of the Bay analysis for report and event planning and the Mutts for the Bay effort. The Bay Foundation approved the plan at their meeting last night, and the EC will see it next week.

If the EC agrees with the proposed changes to the IC structure, we can easily make changes in the future to the Workplan to reflect this.

Vote: Motion to approve by Dave. Vince seconded. Unanimous in favor.

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

Staff described the proposed projects, shared the reviewer feedback, and presented the staff recommendations.

Documenting Large and Medium-Sized Mammals in the Morro Bay Watershed: Cameras are often stolen, unfortunately. The group did not foresee Dr. Perrine having any trouble getting interested students to participate in the project. The group agreed with the Bay Foundation's suggestion that the cameras and the ancillary accessories stay in the watershed or revert to the Estuary Program. CSP expressed concern about the method of mounting the cameras to ensure that they don't damage oak trees. Dr. Perrine should address this with CSP and obtain the appropriate permit if he plans to install them on CSP property.

Vote: John moves to approve as proposed by staff, with the addition that ask for cameras and ancillary items to be returned to the Estuary Program if Dr. Perrine no longer wants to continue the effort. Specify that the cameras could be used just outside of the watershed (top of a ridge, just outside watershed boundary, etc.). If continue work in watershed after end of project, would allow that. Becka seconded. All in favor.

Oil Spill Containment and Response (OSCAR): Becka described what types of spills that the kits would commonly be used to clean up. Oil and fuel leaks that end up in the bottom of the boat were the most common. Oil absorbent pads can be put in bottom of boat to soak them up to prevent them being pumped out of the boat with the bilge water. When a boat owner is fueling from a jerry can, it can be very easy to spill. Used clean up materials are returned to the city's oil recycling yard. The City gives these supplies away for free and just asks that they be returned once they are used. The City pays to dispose of them. They go to the hazardous materials containment area at the dump. For the spills kits proposed to be purchased, the city would provide the first set of materials to the lease holder, and then the lease holder is responsible to keep it stocked. Harbor Department would check in on them to ensure that they are accessible and stocked.

In general, the spill response program is heavily used, with city staff accepting used absorbents on a daily basis. While they consider this program to be very successful, it is difficult to fund on their own. The City currently has a good stock of supplies, but a big spill could completely deplete the supply.

The group suggested putting an inventory sheet on each spill kit so users know how much supplies it should have. The question came up of whether enforcement deterred people from reporting spills. If they report right away, even if it's their fault, usually no charges are made and they would receive a written warning. If it happens a second time, they might be billed for the clean-up, including the cost to restock cleanup materials, but no fine would be incurred. If someone doesn't own up to a spill and the responsible party is identified, then there will be a fine from the Coast Guard.

Vote: Kyle moves to approve with the proposed staff recommendations. Vince seconds. All in favor. Becka recused herself from the vote.

Science Kits for Public Libraries: The E&O working group wanted to see a project that more directly encouraged people to get outside. Staff would like to see an effort like this move forward because it helps us reach new audiences and because the library is a strong partner in E&O efforts.

Vote: Vince moves to follow the staff recommendation to deny funding and have staff to work with SLO County libraries to develop a pilot project to refine the procedure for these kits. Kyle seconds. All in favor.

7. DISCUSSION: Presentation of Semi-annual Report

Staff described the purpose of the Semi-annual Report and highlighted the budget status.

8. DISCUSSION: Pennington Rainwater Catchment Summary Data

Staff described some of the use statistics that Central Coast Salmon Enhancement developed. Staff will work with CCSE, the California Conservation Corps, and Cal Poly to make improvements to the system that would increase capture efficiency.

9. DISCUSSION: Implementation Committee Restructuring Ideas

Lexie sent a two-page draft proposal with suggested changes on how we manage committees to increase participation and engagement and make it more useful for members. The survey went to the IC, EC and Bay Foundation to get feedback on this draft proposal. We will re-send the link so that more people can respond. If the response continues to be positive, then we will finalize the plan and bring it to August meetings for approval. The next step would be to update bylaws in August meetings. We would start FY19 with the new IC structure.

The IC did not present any additional feedback at the meeting. Members requested that the survey be sent around one more time to try to get additional responses.

10. ACTION: Program Updates

Staff presented updates on the eelgrass restoration efforts and on the upcoming Science Explorations talk in June.

11. Adjourned to next meeting of August 9, 2018 at 12:00 pm at the Estuary Program offices.

Attachments sent with Staff Report:

- Minutes from February 8, 2018 meeting
- FY19 Workplan Draft
- FY18 Semi-annual Report Draft
- Proposed Plan for Implementation Committee Restructuring
- Community Project Application: Large and Medium-Sized Mammals in the Morro Bay Watershed
- Community Project Application: Oil Spill Containment and Response
- Community Project Application: Science Kits for Public Libraries