
Staff Report

1. Introductions and Updates
2. Public Comment
3. Agenda Revisions
4. **ACTION:** Consider Approval of May 19, 2021 Executive Committee (EC) minutes (see attached)
5. **ACTION:** Executive Committee Membership and Vice Chairperson Approval

A number of seats on the EC are up for approval. Staff contacted each of the current members whose terms were ending to gauge their interest in continuing. The status is as follows:

- Environmental Interests: Ethan Bell is interested in continuing for another three-year term. Ethan also serves as the EC Chairperson. His two-year term ends in February 2022.
- Tourism/Recreation Interests: John Flaherty is the member and Virginia Flaherty is the alternate. Both are interested in continuing for another three-year term.
- Science and Research: Kristin Hardy is retiring from the EC and as the Vice Chairperson. Dr. Crowe White, formerly the alternate, will be representing the Science and Research seat. Dr. Emily Bockmon will be serving as the alternate. She formerly served as the member during Kristin Hardy's family leave a few years ago.
- Local Fisheries: Trudy O'Brien is the member and Jeremiah O'Brien is the alternate, and both are interested in continuing for another three-year term.
- At Large Government Agency: This seat was filled for several years by the California Coastal Conservancy. Due to Sam Schuchat's retirement, the organization has decided to take a hiatus from serving on the EC, although they would like to continue to be informed of the EC's work. Thus, a new (or temporary) At Large Government Agency representative and alternate needs to be identified. Staff are reaching out to appropriate partner organizations and gauging interest. A proposed agency and representative will be presented at the November EC meeting. EC members can share suggestions with staff. Factors to balance for an appropriate fit include engagement with the estuary and our issues, funding sources, geographic scope, collaboration with other agencies and partners, and experience with consensus processes.

Staff recommends approving the representatives and alternates for the seats listed above to serve three-year terms.

Additionally, with Kristin's departure, the EC is in need of a new Vice Chairperson. Jason Curtis of the Bay Foundation volunteered to serve as the Vice Chairperson if approved.

6. **DISCUSSION:** Potential Changes to EC Membership

Over the past several years, it has been difficult to recruit a consistent representative for the Agricultural Interests seat. Many factors must line up for someone to be interested: willingness and

time to attend recurring Committee meetings; interest in baywide topics, not just agriculture (our agriculture-related work is somewhat limited); willingness to collaborate with the Water Board and other regulatory agencies; and interest in providing a representative voice (not just personal opinion). Given the challenge of finding someone that meets all of these factors, Estuary Program staff proposes that the seat category be widened to “Watershed Landowner” or something similar. This would still include possible agricultural folks as well as other landowners (including public entities). Given the large percentage of public ownership of land in our watershed, this broader approach would be more inclusive of the many types of landowners with whom we partner.

Any change to the committee membership would require a vote by the EC and the Bay Foundation to amend the EC bylaws. At this time, we are looking for initial feedback on this idea. The Bay Foundation discussed this change at the July Board meeting and was supportive. A vote could be scheduled for the November meeting.

7. **DISCUSSION:** Community Project Update

The Estuary Program has three active Community Projects at this time. Staff checked in with each project team.

- **Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District Monarch and Pollinators Program:** CSLRCD has been moving forward with project implementation. CSLRCD held two volunteer days at the Sweet Springs site and got 700 plants in the ground, including coastal buckwheat, mock heather, *Horkelia cuneate*, yarrow, and wallflower. The next round of planting later this year should include coast live oak, toyon, coffeeberry, and black sage. They also began working with a graphic designer on educational signage for the site. The work is expected to be completed in the fall/early winter.
- **Dr. Nikki Adams Microplastics Monitoring Project:** Dr. Adams and her team conducted sampling for three months at Coleman Beach, Windy Cove, and Pasadena Point. They detected microplastics in their samples, with slightly higher amounts at Coleman and Windy Cove as compared to Pasadena Point. Monitoring will continue through next spring.
- **Watershed Demonstration Station Project:** The California State Parks (CSP) project involved designing of a station to illustrate watershed principles. Staff is coordinating with the CSP volunteer to provide support in constructing the station. It will be accompanied by curriculum and a workbook. The CSP staff and docents have been working with Estuary Program staff to develop these resources.

Staff are working with partners to develop potential projects for the fall round of applications.

8. **DISCUSSION:** Program Evaluation (PE) Letter update (see attached)

In past years, staff provide an update on the status of activities to address the challenges identified by EPA in the PE letter. The attached summary describes activities underway or planned to address these challenges. Challenges for us to address include reporting measurable outcomes from projects, completing our CCMP update, expanding outreach to a more diverse audience, and addressing water reuse and hazard mitigation.

9. **DISCUSSION:** Program Highlights

- **Nature Center Reopens:** The Nature Center reopened on June 15 with practices in place to encourage safe visitation by the public. New exhibit signage was installed under the large mural, and work is ongoing to convert the tank to a saltwater exhibit.
- **New Grant for Pikeminnow Management:** Good news! The Estuary Program was awarded a Prop 1 grant from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife to support our pikeminnow management effort. Work will start later this calendar year.

10. Adjourn to next meeting of November 17, 2021 at 4:00 p.m., to be held remotely via Zoom.

Attachments:

- Minutes from May 19, 2021 EC meeting
- PE letter status update