



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
RESTORATION AUTHORITY

Advisory Committee
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2019, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
Elihu Harris State Building
1515 Clay Street, 2nd Floor, Room 11
Oakland, CA 94612

Agenda and attachments available at:
www.sfbayrestore.org

1. Call to Order

Luisa Valiela, Advisory Committee (AC) Chair, called the meeting to order.

AC Member Attendance: Ana Alvarez, Sara Azat, Bruce Beyaert, Carolyn Bloede, Erika Castillo, Steve Chappell, Arthur Deicke, Letitia Grenier, Christopher Gurney, Judy Kelly, Shin-Roei Lee, David Lewis, Chris Lim, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Anne Morkill, Erika Powell, Marina Psaros, Laura Tam, Laura Thompson, Luisa Valiela, Diane Williams, Bruce Wolfe

Staff Attendance: Sam Schuchat, Caitlin Sweeney, Moira McEnespy, Jessica Davenport, Karen McDowell, Linda Tong

2. Determination of Quorum

Linda Tong, AC Clerk, determined there was a quorum.

3. Public Comment

Jenn Hyman, Vice President and Director of Engineering. EKI Environment & Water, Inc., commented that she supports the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority developing a policy on equity. It could be similar to the private sector certification programs for sustainability, with silver, gold and platinum ratings.

4. Approval of Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting Minutes of October 11, 2019
(ACTION)

Decision: There was consensus to approve the meeting minutes for October 11, 2019, with one edit, a note that Keith Lichten should be identified as “Chief of the Watershed Management Division at the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board” as well as Chair of the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) Management Team.

5. Chair’s Report (INFORMATION)

Chair Valiela reported that the Governing Board meeting on December 6, 2019 included the board's approval of the Lower Walnut Creek Restoration Project and the Coyote Hills Restoration and Public Access Project. There were also presentations on an updated Communications Plan by Taylor Samuelson, Public Information Officer, and a draft audit report by independent auditors. Due to low attendance of the Governing Board, the discussion of the equity recommendations presented by the equity consultant, AC Vice Chair, and staff will be continued at the next several meetings.

Chair Valiela reported that the ad hoc subcommittee on the Annual Report had the opportunity to comment on the outline of the Annual Report at the end of October, and that comments on the draft Annual Report will be due at the end of January.

6. Meeting Process Check-In: Ground Rules and Charter Reminder (INFORMATION)

Chair Valiela reviewed the AC Charter, including the decision-making process, and when during a meeting it is appropriate to shift from a consensus-based process to voting. Chair Valiela also reviewed the ground rules.

There was also a discussion of whether to discuss recommendations at one meeting and seek consensus or vote at the following one. Chair Valiela reminded the AC that their role is to advise and not to make decisions for the Authority.

7. Discuss Need for Targeted Project Solicitations in Addition to Annual Request for Proposals (INFORMATION)

Chair Valiela led a discussion and activity about creating buckets in the grant selection process for small and large projects or for different project phases to get a diversity of projects funded. AC members were asked to place green dots next to topics of high priority and yellow dots next to those of lower priority. See Attachment 1 for a summary of the discussion and prioritization exercise.

8. Environmental Justice and Social Equity Bay Plan Amendment (INFORMATION)

Jessica Fain, Planning Program Director, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), presented BCDC's recently approved Environmental Justice and Social Equity Bay Plan Amendment. She noted that sea level rise does not affect all communities the same way; there are some communities that are more vulnerable. The goal of the amendment is to incorporate principles of environmental justice and social equity into the planning, design, and permitting of shoreline projects in and along the San Francisco Bay. For details, see the presentation at <http://sfbayrestore.org/node/386>.

Nahal Ghoghaie, who recently joined BCDC as the agency's first Environmental Justice and Community Outreach Specialist, spoke to the AC about her previous work as a consultant to BCDC, coordinating outreach to community groups for this amendment. As a member of BCDC's staff she will be helping to implement the new policies.

AC members provided the following comments:

- Culture change is now required. In addition to dedicated environmental justice staff, Commissioners and the Executive Director and other staff need to champion it.
- It will be important to get the word out about this amendment to city and county permitting agencies because applicants go to them first. Don't wait until projects apply for BCDC permits, which can be years after starting the process.
- BCDC will need to have a tribal liaison.
- Now that several agencies have gone through the same process of incorporating equity into their work, it would be good to publicize reports that could serve as good references, so that community groups are not overburdened with requests for participation.
- BCDC should make this presentation to the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture.

9. Recommendations on Next Steps for Economically Disadvantaged Communities (EDCs) (ACTION)

Item 9: Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Recommendations to Benefit Economically Disadvantaged Communities (Revised)

Appendix 1: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on EDCs Meeting Notes, February 15, 2019

Appendix 2: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on EDCs Meeting Notes, August 30, 2019

Appendix 3: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on EDCs Meeting Notes, September 19, 2019

Dr. Ana Alvarez, EDC Ad Hoc Subcommittee Lead, provided background on the “why” of focusing on equity. Shoreline flooding will affect communities differently. Low-income and marginalized communities may have more difficulty preparing for, responding to, or recovering from a flood. These communities are disproportionately exposed to hazardous or toxic substances, which may be mobilized by flood waters.

The Authority's work on equity has been going on for a long time, starting with creating a definition of EDCs. Funded projects and proposed project sites line up closely with the map of EDCs on Authority's website. Projects need to involve the adjacent communities. Dr. Alvarez walked through the process that that AC has gone through, from the Environmental Justice panel in 2018 to the present set of recommendations developed by the EDC Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Because the AC reached consensus on the near-term recommendations at the previous meeting, Dr. Alvarez focused on further discussion of the mid-term and long-term recommendations. She grouped them under three headings:

- “Create Guiding Pathway” - seek diverse representative in governance structure; create separate application track for community-based organizations; leverage AA funds to support existing work by EDCs

- “Foster Meaningful Engagement” – integrated community representatives in grant processes; require/encourage applicants to engage EDCs; recognize community-based organizations’ expertise and community-led processes; leverage trust through community gatekeepers
- “Remove Barriers” – extend technical assistance; leverage capacity; extend project planning assistance; reevaluate budgets to build in true costs of meaningful community engagement; establish a communications strategy.

AC members provided the following comments:

- The list of recommendations needs to be repackaged to indicate which recommendations are actions and which are desired outcomes.
- Achieving diverse representation shouldn’t be as hard as it is. We need to increase representation from African American and Native American communities and younger generations.
- How many EDCs are within a half-mile of shoreline project sites? Are there enough to justify the work? We need to assess opportunities before having staff embark on all this work. The distance from an EDC considered “near an EDC” needs to be defined.
- The Authority should combine funding small community-based organizations with providing technical assistance to help ensure success. This will build capacity in organizations that are new to applying for state money.
- Proximity to the shoreline is a barrier for some community-based organizations that want to do education and awareness campaigns related to trash reduction. They want to do projects that are more inland, since trash makes its way to the shoreline.
 - Staff note: The Authority can fund groups located inland as long as the project takes place on the shoreline. We need to talk with the Authority’s lawyers to determine whether the Authority can fund inland trash reduction programs.
- The Authority may be able to leverage its funding with other large efforts with same goal of keeping trash out of the bay, e.g., CalTrans, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- Don’t just give planning grants. Consider planning with implementation.
- Consider art and dance, be culturally competent.
- We need clarity about what it means to build in the “true cost” of community engagement. One of the ways to do this is to compensate community members for participation. The budget for this work would be part of a work plan.
- What happens if you don’t reach these community engagement goals? What is the appropriate level of engagement? We want to encourage this, but don’t want to disqualify projects that get low levels of public engagement even if they put in the effort.
- What is the timeline for incorporating these ideas into Grant Round 4?

- Staff note: A proposed timeline is provided in the staff memo in the meeting packet.
- Chair Valiela proposed the following next steps:
 - Bin the recommendations into actions vs. outcomes.
 - Incorporate items from brainstorming.
 - Have another meeting of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on EDCs.

10. Announcements (INFORMATION)

AC members provided the following announcements:

- Anne Morkill is leaving the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and therefore leaving the Advisory Committee, on March 1. She will take a new position as director of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation.
- Erika Powell, formerly Flood Protection and Resilience Program Manager of the San Mateo County Department of Public Works, will become the County Flood Resilience Program Manager of the newly formed San Mateo Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District.
- Dr. Ana Alvarez announced a celebration honoring Whitney Dotson, retiring board member of the East Bay Regional Park District and environmental justice champion.
- Diane Williams announced that a judge ruled in favor of community members of the Ohlone tribe regarding development of the West Berkeley Shellmound.
- Chair Valiela announced that the science framework for the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program Plan is close to final. The next two years of funding from EPA will focus the WRMP committees on a plan for data management and a funding and implementation plan.

11. Public Comment

12. Adjourn

Note: Agenda items may be taken out of sequence at the discretion of the Advisory Committee.

Any person who has a disability and requires reasonable accommodation to participate in this public meeting should contact Taylor Samuelson no later than five days prior to meeting. Questions about reasonable accommodation can be directed to Taylor Samuelson at (510) 286-4182 or Taylor.Samuelson@scc.ca.gov or at the Restoration Authority:

c/o State Coastal Conservancy
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