

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**May 20, 2022, 10 am – 12 pm**

Agenda and meeting materials are available at:

[www.sfbayrestore.org](http://www.sfbayrestore.org)

**1. Call to Order**

Jessica Martini-Lamb, Chair of the Advisory Committee (AC), called the meeting to order.

**2. Determination of Quorum**

AC member attendance: Ana Alvarez, Sara Azat, Erika Castillo, Steve Chappell, Arthur Deicke, Letitia Grenier, Christopher Gurney, Lee Huo, Shin-Roei Lee, Rebecca Schwartz-Lesberg, Roger Leventhal, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Greg Martinelli, Lisa Horowitz McCann, Mike Mielke, Marquita Price, Ana Maria Ruiz, Luisa Valiela, Diane Williams, Beckie Zisser

Staff attendance: Jessica Davenport, Karen McDowell, Erica Johnson, Catie Thow, Taylor Samuelson

Catie Thow, Clerk of the Advisory Committee, called the roll and determined there was a quorum.

**3. Public Comment**

There was one public comment in support of saving the trail associated with Pond A18, part of the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project.

**4. Approval of Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2022  
(ACTION)**

Arthur Deicke moved the motion and Rebecca Schwartz-Lesberg seconded. There were no abstentions or objections. The minutes were approved unanimously with no corrections.

**5. Chair's Report from April 22, 2022 Governing Board Meeting (INFORMATION)**

Chair Martini-Lamb explained Nahal Ghoghaie has stepped down from the AC because she has taken a job with the U.S. Water Alliance. We are waiting to hear from BCDC about whether they will nominate a replacement. Chair Martini-Lamb also stated that this will likely be the last fully remote AC meeting.

Chair Martini-Lamb gave a summary of the April 22, 2022 Governing Board Meeting. The Board approved the Shoreline Park – Burlingame Project and the Tiscornia Marsh Restoration and Sea Level Rise Adaption Project and approved sending a letter of support for the Newark Baylands Project. The Board also approved the staff recommendation to forgo issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Grant Round 6. Staff and AC reviewers will rely on the Round 5 list of projects when developing a list of projects to recommend in the coming fiscal year (FY22-23). Chair Martini-Lamb shared that the AC was not able to take a formal position on the staff recommendation to forgo the RFP for Grant Round 6 due to the loss of a quorum when several members recused themselves.

## 6. Community Grants Program Update (INFORMATION)

Jessica Davenport, Deputy Program Manager

**Item 6:** Memo on Community Grants Program Progress

**Attachment 1:** Community Grant Recommendation Summary Table

Jessica Davenport gave a summary of the second year of the Community Grants Program. For the second year of the program, staff updated the application process to clarify the timeline between application submission and potential receipt of funding. In addition to implementing the Community Grants Program, staff held four virtual networking sessions in September of 2021, one for each region of the Bay Area. The networking sessions were intended to encourage new connections between community-based organizations and restoration-focused agencies, facilitate conversations about partnership opportunities, and spread the word about the Authority's grant programs

The Authority allotted \$400,000 for the Community Grants Program for Fiscal Year 2021-22, with maximum grant awards of \$100,000 each. Thus far, staff have received two eligible grant proposals in FY2021-2022 and the Authority has funded one of them, Bay Restoration: Youth Engagement and Service Learning in East Oakland. The second proposed project, the San Leandro (Lisjan) Creek Shoreline Community Project led by Brower Dellums Institute for Sustainable Policy Studies and Action, has been approved for development into a staff recommendation that staff anticipates bringing to the Governing Board for authorization later this year. For FY 2022-23, staff propose raising the maximum grant award from \$100,000 to \$200,000 per project and allocating \$600,000 for the program in the Authority's annual budget (to be presented to the Governing Board at its June 24, 2022 meeting).

- One AC member asked about the reason for one project that was being considered for the Community Grants Program being on hold.
  - Staff member explained it was because the project manager and the applicant were not able to fully develop a project that would meet the Authority's eligibility requirements.
- Another AC member pointed out the large amount of trash and other contaminants traveling in the Alameda County Flood Control Channel that enter San Francisco Bay. The AC member asked if much is known about mobilization

of contaminants as sea level rises and whether agencies are willing to look into this issue.

- Another AC member stated that the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) is evaluating how sea level rise is affecting groundwater and the associated mobilization of contaminants. The Water Board is looking into how this problem affects economically disadvantaged communities.
- One AC member asked if the increase in Community Grants Program funding was asked for by applicants or was a staff decision.
  - Staff member stated that this decision was largely informed by the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Equity. In addition, providing larger grants would allow the community-based organizations to conduct projects over a longer time period and would ensure adequate funding for community engagement, paid internships, and workforce development.

## **7. Proposed Process for Advisory Committee Engagement in Yearly Update on Equity Work (INFORMATION)**

Jessica Davenport, Deputy Program Manager

### **Item 7: Proposed Schedule for Advisory Committee Engagement in Preparation of Yearly Update on Equity Work**

Jessica Davenport presented the proposed schedule for preparation of yearly update on equity work. Staff will work with the ad hoc subcommittee on equity to obtain feedback. Advisory Committee members will have the opportunity to engage in the Authority's equity work through reviewing grant applications, participating in networking sessions, and working with grantees of our Community Grants Program.

- One AC member noted that their organization is working to be available to community-based organizations to support them in developing and implementing projects.
- Another AC member requested clarification on networking sessions.
  - A staff member stated that participants first introduce themselves and their organizations and types of partnerships they are seeking, then community-based organizations that have received funding from the Authority, either through a Community Grant, or as a partner on a larger project, share their experiences.

## **8. Proposed Recommendations to Advance Equity for Grants and Programs in 2022 (ACTION)**

Lisa Horowitz McCann, Chair of Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Equity

### **Item 8: Proposed AC Recommendations to Advance Equity for Grants and Programs in 2022**

Lisa Horowitz McCann, Chair of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Equity, presented on the work of the subcommittee. The ad hoc subcommittee developed recommendations to

deepen the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority's existing commitment to equity and build on equity considerations and actions to date. The three recommendations are:

1. Increasing the cap for projects funded by the Community Grants Program;
  2. Direct staff to engage the AC in evaluating equity goals, perhaps developing a dashboard for identifying and tracking progress on equity goals; and
  3. Direct staff to hire a consultant to develop a long-term framework (e.g., Coastal Conservancy's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Guidelines, Greenlining Institute Guidebook) that includes values, guidelines, actions, best practices and indicators or metrics to evaluate progress and effectiveness.
- One AC member stated that conventional grant rounds should also be considered for equity improvements.
  - Another AC member suggested the equity subcommittee be involved with hiring the consultant.
  - One AC member asked if the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (OC) works on evaluating the Authority's equity work including the proposed recommendations document.
    - A staff member explained the role of the OC in reviewing projects selected for Measure AA funding and prioritization criteria which includes equity guidelines. Staff member stated that the OC supports the work of the ad hoc subcommittee.
  - One AC member asked how the Governing Board (GB) members are appointed.
    - Staff member answered that the ABAG makes the selection and then approves. After approval GB members serve for four years.

Marquita Price moved the motion and Beckie Zisser seconded. There were no abstentions or recusals.

Ayes: Sara Azat, Erika Castillo, Steve Chappell, Arthur Deicke, Letitia Grenier, Christopher Gurney, Lee Huo, Shin-Roei Lee, Rebecca Schwartz-Lesberg, Roger Leventhal, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Greg Martinelli, Lisa Horowitz McCann, Mike Mielke, Marquita Price, Ana Maria Ruiz, Luisa Valiela, Diane Williams, Beckie Zisser

## **9. Pathway to a Tribal Engagement Policy (INFORMATION)**

Erica Johnson, Project Manager

**Item 9:** Memo on Development of a Tribal Engagement Policy

Erica Johnson, Project Manager, presented the Tribal Engagement Policy Development memorandum. Staff decided to develop a Tribal Engagement Policy with the goal of working with Tribes to provide equitable access to the Measure AA grant program. Staff plan on directly engaging Tribes of the San Francisco Bay Area region before recommending any policies or best practices for adoption by the Authority. Authority

staff have prepared the memo in advance of reaching out to Tribes in order to take advantage of other agencies' listening sessions. Recommendations compiled from other California agencies' tribal listening sessions include:

1. Set aside funds for Tribes
2. Support capacity building for Tribes
3. Build capacity of the Authority
4. Promote culturally relevant restoration work

Erica Johnson also presented a proposed timeline for developing a tribal engagement policy; however, this is subject to change due to Tribal needs. Example restoration projects with strong tribal leadership and partnership would also be included in this policy.

- One AC member commented on the need for people and entities to practice good tribal engagement to prevent Tribes from becoming overwhelmed. AC member suggested partnering with the Intertribal Friendship House in Oakland to engage with tribes and help form connections.
- Another AC member pointed out that there are federally recognized and state-recognized Tribes, and unrecognized Tribes. AC member suggested making a policy that incorporates all recognized and unrecognized tribes.
  - Staff member responded stating this was something they will be incorporating.
- Another AC member commented on other ethnicities with indigenous lineage and the importance of including them in this conversation.
- One AC member suggested working with Tribal liaisons and initiating government-to-government consultations.
- Another AC member pointed out that indigenous bones are held at UC Berkeley with at least 37 tribal languages spoken historically and suggested using DNA testing from bones to trace indigenous lineage of tribes in the area.
- A staff member stated that they would like to follow whatever protocol Tribes recommend. SCC can have the highest level of staff, our Executive Officer, consult with tribal government representatives.
- One AC member noted that there are more Tribes in the Bay area than those listed in the memo.
  - Staff responded by saying Tribes are not listed in the memo, however Tribal languages are listed in the memo with the purpose of being more inclusive.
- One AC member commented on the necessity of a flexible Tribal policy timeline.
- One AC member stated that the Water Boards are working on a tribal engagement policy and would be happy to provide lessons learned.
  - Staff members will follow up with the Water Boards.

## **10. Annual Report and Communications Update (INFORMATION)**

Taylor Samuelson, Public Information Officer

**Item 10:** *FY 2021-2022 Annual Report (Final Draft)*

Taylor Samuelson, Public Information Officer, presented the draft Annual Report. The report follows mostly the same format as the previous year. Changes from last year include reporting on project highlights by region instead of reporting on every project and including community grants on the map. In the future the Annual Report will be primarily digital, with only a small number of printed copies. The Authority will continue to sponsor coverage of the Authority by the OpenRoad television series, as well as coverage by Estuary News Magazine and Knee Deep Times.

- One AC member asked if the digital Annual Report will be a static document or a dashboard.
  - Staff stated it will most likely be a dynamic article.
- One AC member likes the idea of using a Story Map and linking to the SFBRA project page.

#### **11. Announcements (INFORMATION)**

- One AC member stated that NOAA and the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD) will host an Art and Science Fellow. The Fellow would like to connect with community groups within the next year.
- Another AC member stated that the US EPA will offer \$29 million in two grant rounds, one with match and another without match. The grant without match is meant to attract underserved communities and targets community-based organizations and Tribes.
- One AC member stated that Sonoma Water is a member of Bay Area Water/Wastewater Workforce Reliability (Baywork) which is meant to support women in the water trades. They are looking for women interested in mentoring for an upcoming event.

#### **12. Public Comment**

There was one public comment supporting zero emission vehicle use in State Parks and the development of regulations to support zero emission vehicle use on trails in general.

#### **13. Adjourn**

Chair Martini-Lamb adjourned the meeting at 12:03pm.