

MEETING MINUTES

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Advisory Committee Meeting November 4, 2022, 10 am – 12 pm

Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale St., Yerba Buena Room, 1st Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

Agenda and meeting materials are available at:

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: Sara Azat, Erik Buehmann, Erika Castillo, Arthur Deicke, Letitia Grenier, Lee Huo, Shin-Roei Lee, Jessica Martini-Lamb (Chair), Lisa Horowitz-McCann (Vice-Chair), Ana Maria Ruiz, Luisa Valiela

Staff attendance: Jessica Davenport, Karen McDowell, Catie Thow, Sara Haugen

Catie Thow, Clerk of the Advisory Committee, called the roll and determined there was not a quorum.

3. Public Comment

Sara Haugen, Project Manager, gave a summary of networking sessions held in October 2022. A total of four networking sessions were held one for each region of the Bay with participants representing community-based organizations, nonprofits, consultants, and agencies. The sessions resulted in several consultations with organizations on projects and consultations on the current call for AC applications.

- One AC member asked how much time was between networking sessions and if they were hybrid.
 - Staff stated that most of the networking sessions were about one week apart and all were held completely virtually. Future networking sessions may be held in person.

Jessica Davenport, Deputy Program Manager, encouraged AC members to share the AC call for applications and highlighted that AC members could share personal testimonies on their participation in the AC with the Public Information Officer by the November 10th deadline.

Karen McDowell, Deputy Program Manager, shared that the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (OC) is looking for two new members, one from the West Bay (San Francisco County or northern half of San Mateo County) and one at-large seat which must be filled from either San Francisco, San Mateo, Napa, Solano or Sonoma counties. OC members cannot be public employees or have a conflict of interest. Karen encouraged AC members to share the call for OC applications which are due by November 14th.

4. Approval of Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2022
(ACTION)

Item 4: Draft Meeting Minutes for September 16, 2022

Sara Azat made a motion to approve the minutes and Erik Buehmann seconded. There were no abstentions or objections. The minutes were approved unanimously with no corrections.

5. Chair's Report from October 14, 2022 Governing Board Meeting
(INFORMATION)

Item 5: AC Members and Term Expiration Dates

Chair Martini-Lamb gave a summary of the October 14, 2022, San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (Authority) Governing Board meeting, at which the Board approved its 2023 meeting schedule. During this meeting, Public Information Officer Taylor Samuelson shared the Draft One-Page Summary of Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and the updated Authority Projects Map and List. The Board approved staff's recommendation to disburse up to \$796,100 to the Port of San Francisco for Phase Two of the Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project. The Board also approved the formation of an ad hoc subcommittee to appoint OC members, an amendment of the AC stipend policy, and a new funding mechanism for the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team to reimburse the Regional Water Quality Control Board for staff time. Board members heard staff presentations on the Grant Round 6 Overview and the Yearly Update on Implementation of Equity Recommendations. They also received a presentation on Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Guidance for Local Governments from staff of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

6. Aligning Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP) Indicators, State of the Estuary Report (SOTER) Metrics, and Authority Performance Measures
(INFORMATION)

Heidi Nutters, San Francisco Estuary Partnership

April Robinson, San Francisco Estuary Institute

Item 6: Presentation on Indicator Alignment across WRMP, SOTER and Authority Performance Measures

Heidi Nutters provided a summary and an update of the WMRP, which was funded by the Authority in December 2021. The goal of the WRMP is to provide a robust, science-driven, collaborative regional monitoring program that includes: a monitoring site network, open data sharing platform, and a comprehensive science framework. Currently, the WRMP is working on creating a monitoring site network and developing and aligning performance metrics to be consistent with the current Authority performance metrics while asking the following questions:

- How do we tell the story of the Authority?
- What performance metrics are priority?
- How can we align with related programs to amplify the message and tell our story to a broader audience?

April Robinson provided a summary of the process and timeline for aligning WRMP indicators with the Authority performance measures. WRMP staff are first focusing on aligning restoration acreage metrics to improve a fundamental performance metric and explain inconsistencies in past mapping and reporting. WRMP staff aim to have performance metrics highlight the benefits realized through restoration and the contributions of restoration to a healthy estuary. In addition, these performance metrics will be included in the 2024 State of the Estuary Report (SOTER) and will be part of a data platform displaying this information. The SOTER will also include performance metrics on fish habitat, shoreline resilience, and the benefits of the estuary towards people, all of which may be of interest to the Authority.

- One AC member asked if the map on slide 17 included a disadvantaged community component.
 - April clarified that purple represents disadvantaged communities.
- Another AC member commented on grant proposal applications not requesting money for monitoring and therefore do not include monitoring details. They would like to know if the WRMP can guide grant applicants in aligning their project monitoring with regional monitoring efforts.
 - Another AC member liked the idea of encouraging data consistency for Authority projects to fully understand how the tidal wetlands that the Authority funds are developing.
 - Another AC member pointed out that the WRMP aims to answer the high-level questions on the overall state of tidal wetlands in the San Francisco Bay and project permits require monitoring. These data could be shared or used by others like the Authority.
- Chair Martini-Lamb asked about the timeline for aligning performance metrics.
 - Heidi stated the WRMP's grant from the Authority will be conducted in two phases. The first phase focuses on aligning the performance metrics and runs from July 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023, and the second phase will begin on January 1, 2024 and will run for 18 months. Field data collection is not anticipated to begin until the second phase of the grant.

- Chair Martini-Lamb stated that in the future the AC may form an ad hoc subcommittee to review WRMP performance metrics. In the meantime, AC members who also serve on WRMP committees could serve as a bridge between the AC and the WRMP to increase the flow of information.
 - Heidi stated that there are several AC members that overlap with the WRMP Steering Committee and several organizations that overlap. WRMP staff could help facilitate the sharing of information between AC members and the AC and Authority leadership.
 - Vice Chair Horowitz-McCann, who also serves on the WRMP's Peoples and Wetlands Work Group volunteered to be a bridge between the WRMP and the AC and offered to give updates at future AC meetings.
- April stated that alignment with performance metrics with the SOTER would need to have to happen in the first half of 2023 to ensure updates can be made by the release date in 2024.
- One AC member asked if Authority staff are preparing messaging for the five or ten years of Measure AA reporting.
 - Staff stated that the Authority is currently at the five-year mark of Measure AA and the Public Information Officer is doing messaging on this topic. The ten-year report would provide a great opportunity to provide details on the alignment of performance metrics. In the interim, the WRMP could monitor Authority projects using the California Rapid Assessment Method to glean data that could be used in a ten-year progress report.
- One AC member asked when the Measure AA will reach the ten-year mark.
 - Staff stated that ten years of Measure AA will be in 2027.
 - The AC member followed up by stating that the 2024 SOTER will be the only SOTER happening before the ten-year mark.
- Heidi stated that the WRMP is hoping to align with the data collected as part of the permit-driven monitoring that takes place to reduce cost borne by project implementers. The Authority could work on aligning monitoring of the projects it funds with the WRMP monitoring site network effort to further alleviate the monitoring burden at the project level.

7. Grant Round 6 Summary (INFORMATION)

Jessica Davenport, Deputy Program Manager

Item 7: Grant Round 6 Summary Memo

Attachment 1: Grant Round 6 Summary Table

Jessica Davenport gave a summary of the Grant Round 6 Summary Memo which included a summary of application evaluation, expected projects to recommend and an update on the geographic distribution of funding. In total, 8 applications were reviewed totaling \$33 Million. In the evaluation process, staff and AC members reviewed

proposals and associated updates based on the Request for Proposal's eligibility criteria, prioritization criteria, and the project's likelihood of success as well as the Measure AA prioritization criteria. Projects expected to be recommended by staff are listed below:

- North Bay
 - Goat Island Tidal Marsh Restoration and Public Access Project
 - Incremental Cost of Beneficial Reuse of Dredge Sediments at the Montezuma Wetlands Restoration Project
 - Suisun Marsh Fish Screen Rehabilitation Project: Phase 2
- East Bay
 - Newark Baylands – Acquisition, Interim Management and Restoration Planning
 - Berkeley North Basin Project
- West Bay
 - Strategy to Advance Flood Protection, Ecosystems and Recreation along San Francisco Bay-SAFER Bay Project

Jessica stated that all regions are on track to meet their Measure AA 20-year targets for geographic allocation of funds.

- One AC member asked if the Authority has had acquisition projects before and if the Newark Baylands Project is a mitigation project.
 - Staff stated that the Authority has approved funding for one acquisition projects (the Camp 4 Ranch Acquisition Project, Phase 2 of the San Pablo Baylands Collaborative Protection and Restoration (CPR) Project) and that the Newark Baylands Project is not a mitigation project.
- An AC member pointed out that one of the major assumptions of Measure AA was that more money would equal greater tidal wetland restoration projects but notes we are only tracking the geographic distribution and the monetary progress towards Measure AA goals. AC member would like to know if staff are preparing a message in case more money does not equal more tidal wetland restoration projects.
 - Staff member stated that projects in the East and West Bay regions tend to have smaller acreage numbers because those areas are highly urbanized and large parcels are rare. In addition, projects in those areas tend to be much more expensive per acre. Staff, however, will emphasize the value of community engagement in highly urbanized areas as an opportunity to provide a greater number of people access to restored tidal wetlands. These projects will fold into a portfolio of Authority-funded projects that serve different purposes. Some projects aim to restore a greater number of acres while other projects aim to provide access to a greater number of people. Staff anticipates sharing this message with the Governing Board and anyone else involved in Measure AA messaging.
- Chair Martini-Lamb asked if planning projects will help address the need for acreage for Measure AA goals.

- Staff stated that the Authority funds many planning projects that ultimately lead to implementation projects. SFBRA is also funding the WRMP which aims to measure the success of tidal wetland restoration in the entire estuary.

8. Project Update: Restoring Wetland-Upland Transition Habitat in the North Bay with STRAW (INFORMATION)

John Parodi, Point Blue Conservation Science

Item 8: Presentation on Restoration Wetland-Upland Transition Habitat in the North Bay with STRAW

John Parodi presented an update on the Restoring Wetland-Upland Transition Habitat in the North Bay with STRAW Project. He provided the context of this project within Point Blue Conservation Science's Students & Teachers Restoring A Watershed (STRAW) Program. The program aims to empower students, support teachers, provide education, reconnect communities and restore the environment. Since 1992 the program has engaged over 40,000 students and completed over 700 restorations. The program uses culturally relevant teaching techniques like embracing diverse learning behaviors, using bilingual educators and intergenerational events to make learning more effective and successful. STRAW also runs a Community College Conservation Internship program to support the two million Californians in community college and introduce more people of color to careers in natural resources. When planning restoration projects, STRAW utilizes tools such as the Climate Smart Riparian Planting Tool to plan for future changes in climate and make sure restoration projects implemented today are resilient into the future. The project aims to include community in all aspects of traditional restoration of the marsh transition zone, including hosting planting and weeding days, monitoring visits and reporting.

- One AC member asked about getting access to the shrimp riparian habitat model planner.
 - John responded that this model is still in beta mode and is housed by Point Blue and could be shared. Point Blue also has planning and modeling tools on the STRAW restoration section of their website.
- Another AC member asked how many students go on to work on conservation or restoration.
 - John responded that anecdotally he knows many students from the K-12 program have gone on to work in conservation. From the community college program, they collect data on who is interested in continuing in the conservation field and those numbers could be made available.
- One AC member asked if the STRAW program's transition zone restoration is covered under land manager permits.
 - John responded by saying that they do work under the land manager permits or their restoration falls under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as categorically exempt.

- One AC member asked if Stemple Creek work was funded by the Authority since it does not flow into the San Francisco Bay.
 - John stated that the Stemple Creek project work was not funded by the Authority and was used as an example for the presentation. With Measure AA funds STRAW works in at San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Shollenberger Park, and Bahia Wetlands.

9. 2023 AC Meeting Schedule (INFORMATION)

Catie Thow, Sea Grant Fellow

Item 9: Proposed 2023 AC Meeting Schedule

Catie Thow presented the proposed 2023 meeting schedule and stated that AC meetings are scheduled around Governing Board meetings to allow for sufficient staff preparation time between meetings. All future AC meetings are expected to be hybrid with the main location at the Bay Area Metro Center. Alternate locations are expected to change based on host availability. Due to Brown Act requirements, AC members will need to be in-person at the Bay Area Metro Center or a specified alternate location in 2023.

10. Announcements (INFORMATION)

One AC member spoke of an email that went out looking for volunteers and interested parties to meet regarding to shoreline issues on the gray to grayish scale. AC member would like more information on this in future meetings to follow up on the progress of events and suggested reaching out to Adrian Covert, Bay Area Council (AC member), on this topic.

11. Public Comment

No public comments received.

12. Adjourn

Chair Martini-Lamb adjourned the meeting at 11:59AM.