



Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

June 29, 2018, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Yerba Buena Room, First Floor
San Francisco CA 94105

1. Call to Order

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

AC Member Attendance: Dr. Ana Alvarez, Brian Benn, Bruce Beyaert, Erika Castillo, Steve Chappell, Francesca Demgen, Nahal Ghoghaie, Beth Huning, Zahra Kelly, Roger Leventhal, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Anne Morkill, Gaylon Parsons, Erika Powell, Marina Psaros, Mita Prakash, Ameer Raval, Diane Ross Leech, Ana Maria Ruiz, Gary Stern, Laura Thompson, Luisa Valiela

Staff Attendance: Matt Gerhart, Caitlin Sweeney, Jessica Davenport, Kelly Malinowski, Anna Schneider

2. Determination of Quorum

AC Clerk Anna Schneider determined that there was a quorum.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Announcements

Luisa Valiela announced that the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture will be leading a tour of restoration project sites for the AC on August 24. She shared an announcement from the SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC): “BCDC continues to make progress on the San Francisco Bay Plan amendment that will address BCDC’s permitting process for habitat restoration projects, including the requirements for ‘minor fill’ and public access. Please contact Shannon Fiala, Planning Manager, at shannon.fiala@bcdca.gov or (415) 352-3665, or visit their project webpage, if you would like more information.” She also announced the fourth San Francisco Estuary Geospatial Workgroup Meeting. This free event will take place at the Estuarine and Ocean Sciences Center (formerly RTC/Bay Conference Center) in Tiburon on August 15.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2018

Decision: There was consensus to approve the minutes.

6. Chairs' Report from the April 11, 2018 Governing Board Meeting

Chair Valiela reported that the Governing Board (Board) approved \$650,000 annually over five years for the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) project. The funding is contingent on raising \$600,000 annually from other funders, such as Santa Clara Valley Water District, East Bay Regional Park District, and the State Coastal Conservancy. The Board approved the 2018/19 budget, staff work plan, and Metropolitan Transportation Commission investment policy for SFBRA funds. The Board generally supported staff's proposed changes to the grant guidelines, request for proposals and application; final drafts will be presented for Board approval in September. The Board endorsed Fall Statewide Water Bond.

7. Recommendation to the Governing Board on Performance Measures

AC Member Roger Leventhal, Subcommittee Lead, presented updates from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Performance Measures and reviewed the proposed recommendation to the Board. The AC discussed and resolved several issues related to the proposed set of performance measures.

Decision: There was consensus to provide a revised version of the Recommendation on Performance Measures to the Board.

The AC agreed on the following revisions to the Performance Measures Table:

- Under "Types of Projects Funded," include dollar value, as well as number of projects.
- For the performance metric "Percentage of projects providing benefits to economically disadvantaged communities (EDCs)," add a note stating, "The definition of EDCs adopted by the Governing Board will be used to determine which projects qualify."
- Under the "Youth Involvement" heading, add a second metric, "Number of youth engaged." Add a note stating that "Youth includes young adults, up to age 25. Youth engagement includes job training, as well as volunteer work. There may be some overlap with the metric 'Number of unique volunteers participating'."
- Under the "Public Access" heading, add a metric for "Number of public access enhancements" Add a note stating, "Includes trail improvements that enable access for people with disabilities, interpretative displays, benches, trash cans, and other public access enhancements."
- Change the heading "Volunteer Hours" to "Volunteer Involvement" because it also includes number of unique volunteers participating.

The AC agreed on the following clarifications to the recommendation related to qualitative reporting (page 1, bullet 2).

- Include reporting on the types of benefits provided to EDCs.
- Report on community engagement and volunteer involvement through the narrative and with photos.

The AC agreed on the following addition to the “Measures and Metrics Requiring Further Development” in the memo summarizing the work of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee:

- Add a sentence under “Local and Regional Water Quality Benefits” stating. “A measure related to trash removal and shoreline cleanup should be developed based on what applicants propose to measure. The Restoration Authority should create a standard metric after funding a few projects that have this component.”

The AC authorized the Chair to review and consider approving additional non-substantive edits to be provided by AC member Brian Benn before finalizing the recommendation.

8. Environmental Justice Panel Discussion

AC Member Nahal Ghoghaie moderated the panel. Speakers included Anthony Khalil, Literacy for Environmental Justice; Douglas Mundo, Shore Up Marin; and Phoenix Armenta, Resilient Communities Initiative. AC Member Ameer Raval took detailed notes on the discussion, which are included as Attachment 1 to the minutes.

9. Update from Staff on Proposed Revisions to the Grant Program Documents

Matt Gerhart, Restoration Authority Program Manager, reviewed the three issues raised by staff, how AC input influenced staff’s recommendation to the Board, and the Board’s response. With respect to acquisitions, the staff took the AC’s recommendation to expand the requirements for grantees applying for funds for acquisition projects. The Board was comfortable with the proposal to add acquisitions to the list of types of eligible projects. The staff also worked with AC members to revise the explanation of what types of mitigation would be eligible for funding. To further explore the issue of funding the use of dredged material in restoration projects, the staff and two AC members are convening a series of meetings with participants in the working groups of the *Long-Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region (LTMS)*. This research may result in a white paper but will not affect this year’s grant program documents.

10. Update from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Communications

AC Member Anne Morkill, Subcommittee Lead, provided a brief update. The subcommittee met in June and notes from that meeting are available in the AC meeting materials packet. As next steps, Taylor Samuelson, Public Information Officer for SFBRA, will develop a draft outreach strategy for review and comment by the ad hoc subcommittee over the summer. Taylor will then revise the strategy based on subcommittee input and present a proposed strategy to the full AC at the October 5 meeting.

11. Future Agenda Topics

AC members requested the following as future agenda topics:

- Proposition 68 funding for San Francisco Bay restoration; and
- Improving diversity on the AC through the next round of recruitment.

12. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Environmental Justice Panel Notes

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Advisory Committee Meeting
June 29, 2018

Participants

- Douglas Mundo
- Phoenix Armenta
- Anthony Khalil

- Douglas Mundo, Canal Welcome Center and Co-Director of Shore-Up Marin
 - Terrie Green, Co-Director of Shore-Up Marin
 - **Shore-Up Marin:** multi-racial environmental justice (EJ) coalition advocating of equitable inclusion of LIC in planning and community preparedness focused on Marin City and County
 - Emergency preparedness, sea-level rise, climate adaptation
 - Water, air, soil quality
 - Social equity
 - Started as EJ coalition because there was a gap in Marin (mostly environmental organizations)
 - Support local agencies and governmental institutions that want to do something for our communities
 - Try to find common ground to help each other (government and EJ) accomplish respective missions
- Phoenix Love Armenta, Coordinator for Resilient Communities Initiative
 - **Resilient Communities Initiative:** multicultural social justice coalition to develop climate resiliency plan for communities most vulnerable
 - To address climate change, we must start with most vulnerable
 - Includes Shore-Up Marin, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, Breakthrough Communities, Rooted in Resilience etc.
 - Past experience
 - Hiroshima, Japan experience with folks impacted by radiation
 - Folks living next to uranium mines in India
 - Started working locally as a community organizer, homeless advocate; involved in politics working for a city council member
 - You're most powerful working outside the system as an advocate
- Anthony Khalil, Literacy for Environmental Justice
 - Bayview Hunter's Point: rich story on how communities prepare and prevent impacts from climate change
 - Hidden history of Bayview Hunter's Point: Indigenous ancestors who were original stewards of land
 - Resilience is about creating, not just bouncing back or adapting

- Particulate matter map
- Community-based assessment on contaminants adjacent to waterways that communities are a part of
- Era of ecological restoration and climate preparedness
- How to measure success
 - Workforce development
 - Environmental stewardship
 - Ecological literacy
- **Example: The Eco-Center at Heron's Head Park**
 - Legacy persists today
 - There is no longer power plant here and and thriving wetland
 - Greenest building in all of SF
 - Traditional ecological knowledge
 - Make resilience relevant
- Yosemite Slough – largest wetland restoration program known currently in SF
- Future stewards and advocates
- We are faced with the largest redevelopment ever in the City. Opportunities for workforce development and other community benefits
- Strategic Growth Council Urban Greening Grant: economic development doesn't always translate to benefits for EJ communities
- **Question: What does a strong EJ community component look like in a Measure AA grant?**
 - Douglas
 - Authentic community engagement process does not always happen
 - Planning to succeed, not failing to plan. Failing to include EJ communities is failure
 - Resilient by Design efforts had too short a time to adequately engage diverse communities
 - Marin Audubon Society project: local projects with more time support deeper community engagement
 - Need to shift paradigm, be consistent and persistent to engage communities to establish a foundation of partnership, trust, and empowerment
 - Empowerment means capacity-building for underserved communities; those that haven't been in planning processes. Offer tools that they need to help transform communities where we live, work, and play
 - Business as usual needs to change towards a transformative process
 - Phoenix
 - California Adaptation Forum experience where RCI folks were only EJ representatives raised their hands as equity as part of their job
 - WE ALL operate in inequitable paradigms all the time

- How many black folks are represented on the SFBRA Advisory Committee? None. This was brought up last year but has not been rectified
- We all need to adopt an equity framework and everyone in power to adopt
- Is meeting accessible to folks with disabilities? Are materials being translated?
- RCI Equity Checklist is an important first step
- Do you have power to change that disparity and inequities that exist within projects?
- Approach needs to go deeply into the communities that are most impacted
- Anthony
 - Bay Area Air Quality Management District has made progress and a step forward for programming and projects that seek to take lead from and are informed by local constituents
 - Matter of life and premature death
 - CalEnviroScreen 3.0 shows our communities are communities at risk
 - How do you measure awareness? How do you measure resilience?
 - Inequitable life expectancy – ecological restoration is a form of reparations
 - Ability to invest in communities of color is a form of reparations of environmental burdens we've had to bear
 - Lens of funded projects: has to be through allocating capacity. **How do we build capacity?**
 - Power and jurisdiction over land use and sites: mandate local decision-makers and agencies and local institutions pursue funding through SFBRA. By the time that certain agencies get with it and the value of restoring habitats, the Board can create a lot more efforts to influence agencies to pursue those funding opportunities
 - Agencies think they need to engage community-based organizations and small non-profits because there is an impetus in a transactional way, but need to value habitat restoration and need encouragement to do so.
 - Only way meetings are accessible is if the meetings come to communities in their own neighborhoods. With Resilient by Design, there was disconnect, but there was exchange in a safe, trusted space
 - Allocation of funds: larger institutions can get out capital projects quicker. Mechanisms can be backed into proposal process that funding is not dependent on certain activities, but build on trust that most impacted communities get to determine the projects that get funded

- This body can convene stakeholders and diverse coalitions: when a well-respected body weaves the right community folks together it builds trust
 - Transparency, equity, and inclusion can be achieved through mechanisms like a “stakeholder matchmaker”
 - Phoenix
 - Communications is rarely invested in and how you communicate to people in terms of framing message, the way things look, and the distribution channels you get the message out
 - Application looked very grueling. Need for applicant to visualize and aspects of project very early on
 - RCI coordinates various organizations and supports organizations to write grants. Phoenix is fundraising to just apply for grants
 - We are asked all the time to review papers and free EJ consultation
 - Technical assistance is needed, too
 - Douglas
 - Ownership, power, authority has been mentioned
 - Partnership with key stakeholders
 - Any project we are interested in implemented needs cultivation of buy-in of community. The community won't endorse an initiative if they don't see themselves as key stakeholders.
 - Require community endorsement to ensure community buy-in happens and ensure you are reaching out to real community leaders
 - Douglas has been working in community for 17 years but has not heard of over 100 groups that have identified they want to do something for his community
 - Communities are under stress and people are worried about housing and other survival issues, so it is challenging to make restoration projects relevant to them.
 - Communities will ask, “How is a project going to impact my life and my community?”
 - A restoration project that involves beautification could have unintended consequences that might accelerate gentrification and displacement
 - Building partnerships with the right organizations is key recommendation
- Questions/Comments
 - Need to diversify workforce of agencies so that agencies are not always asking for outside expertise. Thoughts?
 - Project labor agreements requirement: the unions need to be first at the door during grants
 - What does PLA really mean? Does it mean resources for engaging community in the process?
 - Douglas fully in support to bring diversity in the projects. Opportunities for employment and getting engaged and ownership and feel like they

- were able to co-create a restoration project and benefit the community for sea level rise etc.
- We have construction workers, gardeners, etc. How do the job opportunities go to disadvantaged communities?
 - Special admissions in career pathways is critical to diversify workforce.
 - Communities need to be paid for every contribution and minute of their time they contribute through stipends, etc.
 - Programming and projects need to focus and prioritize career and educational pathways.
 - Pollution mapping project with Air Board is working with scientists as principal investigators, technical know-how to navigate and demystify the process of entering with these organizations
 - Special admissions: track for folks that are not just gifted, but those that are most engaged in local constituency. Residency happens back in the neighborhood you come from
- Technical assistance to apply for a grant: what could that look like? Mentorship opportunities?
- More time to apply for grants. 2 months is not enough. More lead time is key. Reach out to EJ organizations and share opportunities for grants
 - Need support working through the process e.g. budget process for Proposition 1 and work with Nahal who sat with Phoenix to go through it
 - Grant application process is cumbersome: Pre-proposal approach can lessen the application preparation burden. This can tone down the proposal process
 - Understanding the need for general capacity and EJ groups may be starting a little bit behind
 - Front-loading the funding and general funding for capacity-building
- Community engagement vs. projects. Community stakeholder matchmaker idea is interesting and is that something missing from the Measure AA process?
- Measure AA implementation could create a pipeline for job creation for environmental restoration skills, get into government, do policy work
 - It's not just about pipeline, but people of color often have difficulty adapting to work environments that have different cultural norms.
 - Community engagement specialists can connect to communities.