



**SAN FRANCISCO BAY**  
RESTORATION AUTHORITY

**MEETING MINUTES**

**San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Advisory Committee Meeting**

**February 26, 2021, 10 am – 12 pm**

Zoom Teleconference

Agenda and meeting materials are available at:

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

**1. Call to Order**

Luisa Valiela, Advisory Committee (AC) Chair, called the meeting to order. Chair Valiela gave an overview of how to use the Zoom platform to participate in the meeting.

**2. Determination of Quorum**

AC Member Attendance: Myla Ablog, Ana Alvarez, Sara Azat, Chris Barr, Carolyn Bloede, Erika Castillo, Steve Chappell, Adrian Covert, Arthur Deicke, Gregg Erickson, Letitia Grenier, Christopher Gurney, Lee Huo, Shin-Roei Lee, Roger Leventhal, David Lewis, Sally Lieber, Chris Lim, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Lisa Horowitz McCann, Mike Mielke, Marquita Price, Ana Maria Ruiz, Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg, Luisa Valiela, Diane Williams, Beckie Zisser.

Staff Attendance: Josh Bradt, Jessica Davenport, Erica Johnson, Karen McDowell, Taylor Samuelson, Caitlin Sweeney, Linda Tong.

Linda Tong, AC Clerk for the meeting, determined there was a quorum.

**3. Public Comment**

Jessica Davenport gave a brief a summary of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (Authority) Governing Board meeting that occurred on February 12, 2021. The Governing Board appointed and reappointed members of the AC and approved the text of the Annual Report. The Governing Board then heard presentations on the Encinal Dune Restoration and Public Access Project (East Bay Parks); Potential Use of Biosolids in Wetland Restoration (consultants and Regional Water Board); and the Annual Levy Report on the tax revenue collected from Measure AA.

Jessica Davenport also let the AC know that all Governing Board member terms expire at the end of March. A call for Governing Board members was released by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) in early January and appointments will be made at the March ABAG Board Meeting. Two Governing Board members (Vinnie Bacon and Kate Sears) are no longer elected officials and they went off the Board after the December meeting. The other five members are eligible for reappointment but will need to reapply and compete with other applicants.

There are no Governing Board member term limits in the Authority's statute, but many elected officials have term limits of their own.

**4. Approval of Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2020 (ACTION)**

**Item 4:** Draft Meeting Minutes for November 13, 2020 and Appendix A: Presentation Summaries

**Decision:** There were no comments, and the meeting minutes for November 13, 2020 were approved.

**5. Chair's Report from December 4, 2020 and February 12, 2021 Governing Board Meetings (INFORMATION)**

**Item 5:** Biographies of AC Members

Chair Valiela congratulated reappointed AC members: Dr. Ana Alvarez, Chris Barr, Erika Castillo, Letitia Grenier, Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg (now representing the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture), David Lewis, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Lisa Horowitz McCann, Ana Maria Ruiz, and Luisa Valiela.

Chair Valiela welcomed new AC members: Marquita ("Keta") Price of East Oakland Collective (working on racial, economic, and climate justice for BIPOC communities along the Oakland shoreline); Lee Huo of the SF Bay Trail (working on balancing public access with restoration projects); and Nahal Ghoghaie, returning as BCDC's representative.

Chair Valiela gave a summary of the December 4, 2020 Governing Board meeting. The Governing Board appointed Oversight Committee members, approved the Long Beach Restoration Design Project and Hayward Marsh Restoration Project, and accepted the audited financial statements from Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The Governing Board also heard an update on the Montezuma Wetlands Restoration Project (the AC received this presentation in November 2020), and received a report from the Executive Officer on a new internal policy to allow for Advancing Funds. Details are in the Executive Officer's Report for the December Governing Board meeting.

**6. Recommendation on AC Chair and Vice Chair for 2019-2021 (ACTION)**

**Decision:** The nominee for the new AC Chair, Jessica Martini-Lamb, and the nominee for the new AC Vice Chair, Lisa Horowitz McCann, were approved by consensus.

Staff will recommend that the Governing Board make the appointments at its April 16, 2021 meeting.

**7. Report from Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the Annual Report (INFORMATION)**

**Item 7:** Draft Annual Report

Arthur Deicke, Lead for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee, described the process of how AC members provided comments on the draft Annual Report. Taylor Samuelson, Public Information Officer, summarized the themes and changes made to the draft Annual Report, and shared that the final version will be available in April 2021.

The Annual Report will feature sections on racial equity and adapting to COVID-19. Governing Board Chair Pine's introductory message will include a reiteration of solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, and a discussion of equity recommendations staff have started to implement, such as developing the Community Grants Program. The message will also describe how staff adjusted to working remotely and continued to get money to projects during COVID-19, while acknowledging how the pandemic has brought to light additional inequities that need to be addressed through the Authority's work to create a healthy and accessible Bay for all.

The Annual Report will include a new map that shows projects by fiscal year, and the report will provide regional updates rather than project-specific updates since there are more projects getting started. There will be more improvements to future annual reports, such as standardized regional funding and campaign goals charts for easier year-to-year comparisons, and infographics and charts that show project progress.

- An AC member commented that the map in the Annual Report could be more interactive if posted on the web, e.g., the projects listed on the map could link to project descriptions in EcoAtlas.

Karen McDowell provided an overview of the financial section of the Annual Report. The Authority has authorized most of the funds that have been collected.

- An AC member commented that there is a limited audience for these annual reports, but the most common question they get asked about the Authority is how much money the Authority has spent on projects so far. Staff responded that the one-pager that comes out before the annual report could include that dollar amount. That information could also be posted and updated routinely on the website, possibly under the Projects page that includes a link to the EcoAtlas dashboard.
- An AC member asked about the staffing costs going up from Fiscal Year 2016-2017 to Fiscal Year 2019-2020. AC Chair responded that the Oversight Committee oversees the financials of the Authority, but there can be a discussion about staff support for projects in a future AC meeting. Staff explained that costs have risen as the number of projects being managed has increased. Staff also mentioned that, under the Resources tab on the Authority website, there is a staff work plan that describes staff duties.

## **8. North Richmond Shoreline Living Levee Project Update (INFORMATION)**

Josh Bradt, Project Manager

Andrew Clough, Deputy General Manager, West County Wastewater District

**Item 8:** Presentation on North Richmond Shoreline Living Levee Project

Andrew Clough, Deputy General Manager of West County Wastewater District, described the North Richmond Shoreline Horizontal Levee planning project. The goal is to develop a nature-based shoreline resilience plan that includes creation of new transitional habitat in front of the wastewater treatment plant, public access

improvements, and shoreline protection for adjacent communities. The project will look at a five-mile section to explore a regional approach to nature-based shoreline protection, but the outcome of this planning process might be to move forward with a stand-alone project, i.e., address the 0.65-mile alignment in front of the treatment plant. It will be a challenge to engage all the stakeholders together; there are many property landowners, and all of them will have different issues and want to engage or disengage at different times. The grantee will need a long-term approach to stakeholder engagement.

- An AC member commented that they represent the San Francisco Bay Regional Coastal Hazards Adaptation Resiliency Group (CHARG, an organization of flood managers working on reducing flood risk in the Bay Area) and could be a resource for this project.
- An AC member suggested that the project team work with the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District. She noted that project components like muted marsh could cause mosquito issues, so they will want to work through this with the adjacent neighborhoods.

Josh Bradt, Authority Project Manager, provided some context to this project by describing the history of community engagement and leadership in Richmond. The Black community in Richmond has been subjected to economic and environmental injustice for many decades, but there have been some environmental successes over the years, as well. In 2016, the San Francisco Estuary Partnership got a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to create a regional transition zone mapping methodology and to apply that methodology to the North Richmond area for a community visioning sea level rise adaptation project. The North Richmond Community Shoreline Vision Project highlighted eight potential projects, including this Living Levee project. This project was also further developed through the Resilient by Design community visioning process.

- An AC member asked how staff can create long-term community relationships in other communities around the Bay. Staff replied that the Authority should work on identifying groups with those relationships and find ways to fund their work. Chair Valiela commented that the Community Grants Program seems like a step in the right direction.

## **9. Estuary Blueprint Update Process (INFORMATION)**

Darcie Luce, Environmental Planner, San Francisco Estuary Partnership

### **Item 9:** Presentation on Estuary Blueprint Update Process

Darcie Luce, Environmental Planner with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, gave an overview of the process for updating the Estuary Blueprint, a regional planning document (formerly called the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan) required by the Clean Water Act. The Estuary Blueprint Update addresses the question, “Where do we want to be in 2050 in terms of estuary health, and how do we get there?” The planning document encompasses four themes: living resources, water, resilience, stewardship. A

steering committee is working on the update, and some of the goals of the effort are to update habitat goals, incorporate equity, and integrate the Bay and Delta.

- An AC member asked whether the Estuary Blueprint Update will address “legacy” and current pollution issues, e.g. the Selby slag pile and the recent Chevron oil spill off Richmond. Darcie Luce shared that the Blueprint will address pollution through water quality actions and other measures. If AC members have ideas on the top three priority actions that should be taken now to ensure a healthy, resilient Estuary in 2050, contact Darcie Luce.

#### **10. Restoration Authority Grant Programs Update (INFORMATION)**

Jessica Davenport, Deputy Program Manager, gave an update on the Competitive Grant Round for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The Authority received 18 applications across all four regions of the Bay Area, and the total funding requested was approximately \$25 million. AC members and staff have completed reviewing proposals and asking follow-up questions. Staff developed a preliminary list of funding recommendations and will notify applicants by the end of February. The funding recommendations list will be presented at the April 16, 2021 Governing Board meeting.

Jessica Davenport also provided an update on the Community Grants Program, Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Five applications were received for the Community Grants Program, but only three projects were eligible; two were not eligible because the applicant was not a community-based organization (CBO) located in an Economically Disadvantaged Community. Two AC members and two staff reviewed applications. Staff developed a preliminary set of projects to recommend for funding and will notify applicants by the end of February. Staff had also hosted informal networking sessions in mid-December, one for each of the four regions, to help CBOs and restoration-focused organizations connect with each other and with Authority staff.

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

Jessica Davenport announced that Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer of both the State Coastal Conservancy and the Authority, is retiring. Two members of the Conservancy’s board and the Chair of the Authority’s Governing Board will lead the search for a new Executive Officer.

Karen McDowell, Deputy Program Manager, announced that the State of the Estuary Conference is planned to take place virtually on September 27 and 28, 2021.

An AC member announced that the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture is meeting with Bay Area Congress members and their staff this week and next week, focusing on advocacy and funding.

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

There were no additional public comments.

#### **13. Adjourn**