



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
RESTORATION AUTHORITY

SUMMARY MINUTES

**San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority
Independent Citizens Oversight Committee**

May 23, 2023, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, 1st Floor, Ohlone Room (107)
San Francisco, CA 94105

For additional information, please contact:
Sara Haugen, Clerk of the Oversight Committee: (510) 286-4093

Agenda and attachments available at:
www.sfbayrestore.org

1. Call to Order

Dr. Terry Young, Chair, Independent Citizens Oversight Committee

2. Determination of Quorum

Oversight Committee Member Attendees: Arthur Deicke, Jim Fiedler, Doug Wallace, Dr. Terry Young

Sara Haugen, Clerk of the Oversight Committee, determined there was a quorum.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Introductions and Announcements

Members and attending staff introduced themselves.

Karen McDowell, Deputy Program Manager invited members to attend the June 2 Authority Board Tour.

5. Approval of Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2023

Item 5: *Draft Meeting Minutes for April 6, 2023*

Arthur Deicke added a correction to the spelling of his last name. He recommended that it be clarified in Section B that Chair and Vice Chair selections become effective after the meeting is adjourned. Staff will edit the minutes with these corrections.

Jim Fiedler moved to approve the minutes with Arthur's corrections; Doug Wallace seconded. There were no objections, and no abstentions. The minutes were approved unanimously.

6. Leveraging and Funding Restoration in San Francisco Bay

Amy Hutzal, Executive Officer

Amy Hutzal shared information on how the Authority's funding fits into the larger picture of funding for sea-level rise adaptation and habitat restoration in the San Francisco Bay Area. There have historically been bond and federal funds dedicated to this work, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Federal Emergency Management Agency, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) will provide funding through USACE in annual appropriations and for beneficial use of dredged sediment and regional restoration projects. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is another source of funding, and now the San Francisco Bay will become an authorized region with increased funding expected in the upcoming budget.

The Authority co-hosted a Funding Forum over Zoom to help explain the different sources of funding available, with opportunities to speak with agency staff directly. Staff will forward the recap email to the Committee.

The Committee discussed other potential funding sources to leverage alternative sources of sediment and soils and informing the public about funding for regional restoration. A member asked if an abstract with this larger funding picture could be included in future annual reports. The Committee also discussed the role of foundation and private funding, which typically is directed toward acquisitions and implementation on a case-by-case basis, depending on the property and relationships.

A member asked how to summarize the way the Authority leverages its \$25 million. Amy Hutzal explained that the Authority taps into the various funding sources on a regional and per project basis. There are several regional and subregional plans the Authority follows along with partners doing the restoration. The timing for leveraging other funding sources often depends on the stage, scale, and readiness of the project or regional effort, as well as the partners involved. The Authority funding can often serve as the matching funds for federal grants, and as the vote of confidence for projects seeking further funds. Staff is also involved in several coordination efforts, which contribute to greater success of projects and provides leveraging on a regional level. Measure AA has helped demonstrate the commitment of the residents of the Bay Area to restoration to attract funding to the region. Further interagency coordination to inform the grantees of funding opportunities and efforts like the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) will be important for leveraging funding moving forward.

7. Project Selection with respect to Landscape-scale Ecological Characteristics

Jessica Davenport, Deputy Program Manager

Jessica Davenport presented on how the Authority's project selection criteria address increased complexity of the habitat matrix, improved habitat connectivity and wildlife

corridors, and transitions zones for wildlife refugia and marsh migration. There are multiple projects and subregional strategies that were selected based on their landscape-scale impacts that have been funded, with others coming soon. The selected projects usually fit into a watershed-level plan, study, or strategy.

The Committee discussed how the Authority can demonstrate when a project is targeting important ecological goals. Staff will consider how to better communicate how regional reports and goals inform the Authority's project selection to the public. Project reviewers are trained each year on the prioritization criteria and can more strongly encourage reviewers to check project design against regional strategies and plans.

8. Review of the Draft Report and Recommendations to the Governing Board

Dr. Terry Young, Chair, Independent Citizens Oversight Committee

Item 7: Draft Report to Governing Board

Dr. Terry Young walked through a discussion of the draft report. Members commented on the new format and discussed changes. Minor changes were discussed for the Financial Management section and the Project Management and Implementation section. More in-depth changes were discussed for the Project Selection section and the Project Tracking and Communications section. In addition, a new section was added to request a written response to the recommendations.

The ad hoc subcommittee will integrate all changes and present the revised draft letter at the next meeting.

9. Oversight Committee Meeting Schedule and Next Steps

Dr. Terry Young, Chair, Independent Citizens Oversight Committee

The Ad Hoc Drafting Committee will incorporate the edits for staff review and the revised letter will be reviewed at the next meeting. Any final changes will be edited during the meeting. The final letter will be presented to the Governing Board on June 30th.

10. Adjourn

Dr. Terry Young adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Note: Agenda items may be taken out of sequence at the discretion of the Oversight 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 the meeting or agenda can be directed to Taylor Samuelson at Taylor.Samuelson@scc.ca.gov.