



Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2017, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Elihu Harris State Building
1515 Clay Street, 2nd Floor, Room 11
Oakland, CA 94612

1. Welcome and Introductions

Luisa Valiela, Advisory Committee (AC) Chair, welcomed the AC members and reviewed the agenda.

AC Member Attendance: Dr. Ana M. Alvarez (Vice Chair), Brian Benn, Bruce Beyaert, Erika Castillo, Francesca Demgen, Letitia Grenier, Beth Huning, Judy Kelly, David Lewis, Sally Lieber, Mike Mielke, Erika Powell, Marina Psaros, Diane Ross Leech, Gary Stern, Laura Thompson, Luisa Valiela (Chair), Scott Wilson, Sarah Young

Staff Attendance: Amy Hutzler, Matt Gerhart, Jessica Davenport, Kelly Malinowski, Karen McDowell, Anulika White, Anna Schneider

2. Meeting Procedures Refresher and Announcements (10 min)

Chair Valiela reminded AC members about the ground rules. She announced that Grant Davis, formerly of the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), had been appointed as Director of the California Department of Water Resources and had therefore vacated his seat on the AC. SCWA has requested that the Governing Board appoint Jessica Martini-Lamb to replace him on the AC, and the Board will consider this request at their meeting on September 8, 2017. Jessica Davenport, Restoration Authority Project Manager, announced that Anna Schneider will be replacing Anulika White as AC Clerk.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2017

Decision: Mike Mielke moved and Francesca Demgen seconded the motion to approve the minutes. There was consensus to approve the minutes.

4. Approval of Advisory Committee (AC) Charter

Erika Powell, Member of Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the AC Charter, presented the changes made in the charter since the last AC meeting. The AC discussed the charter and determined that, when votes are taken, the minutes should reflect the number of votes on each side. However, most decisions will be made by consensus and will not require a vote.

Decision: Francesca Demgen moved and Bruce Beyaert seconded a motion to approve the charter with edits mentioned above. The AC reached consensus on the motion.

5. Chair's Report from June 9, 2017 Governing Board Meeting

Chair Valiela reported that the Board adopted the Grant Program Guidelines, including a definition of "economically disadvantaged communities" that relied heavily upon input from the AC. She noted that she conveyed to the Board the AC's initial comments on the Draft Measure AA Proposal Solicitation or request for proposals (RFP).

6. Recommendation on Draft RFP and Draft Grant Application

Erika Powell, Member of Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the RFP and Application, presented a summary of comments provided by the subcommittee to staff and how the issues raised had been resolved. Unresolved items were further discussed, but the AC did not reach consensus on specific recommendations to provide to the Governing Board.

Decision: Chair Valiela will present a summary of the staff's consultation with the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the RFP and Application, as well as the topics the Advisory Committee discussed, to the Board at its September 8, 2017 meeting.

7. Bay Restoration 101: Wetlands Monitoring

John Bourgeois, Executive Project Manager with the State Coastal Conservancy, and Josh Collins, Lead Scientist for the San Francisco Estuary Institute, gave presentations on wetlands monitoring, including the potential role of a wetlands regional monitoring program. The AC discussed the various monitoring issues, such as how to address site-specific project needs through compliance and regional monitoring without placing additional burden on projects, and how a regional monitoring program could help determine the success of Measure AA over time. Opportunities for engaging communities in monitoring, such as recording sea level rise observations and wildlife observations, were also discussed.

8. Reminder: Advisory Committee's Remaining 2017 Meeting Dates and Locations

October 13, 2017: Bay Area Metro Center, 375 Beale St., San Francisco

December 8, 2017: Harris State Office Building, 1515 Clay St, Oakland

9. Public Comment

Ms. Margaret Gordon, Co-Director of the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project, provided comments on the draft RFP and the monitoring presentation. Her comments focused on the need for equity, inclusion, and community engagement and participation. Leslie Allen, Environmental Regulatory Specialist with ICF, requested that grant applicants not be penalized if their project has a higher cost due to monitoring.