

**MINUTES
LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY (LCWA)
BOARD MEETING
March 5, 2020**

The meeting was held at the Conservation Corp of Long Beach, 340 Nieto Ave., Long Beach 90814. The meeting was called to order by Chair Sam Schuchat at approximately 12:30 p.m.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. FLAG SALUTE**
- 3. ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Roberto Uranga
Mr. Sam Schuchat
Mr. Daryl Supernaw

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
Dena Williams, Board Secretary
Salian Garcia, Fiscal Manager
Sally Gee, Project Manager
David Edsall, Jr., Deputy Attorney General

- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Ann Cantrell asked if there had been a study made to see if there are any hazardous materials that would affect the development of the restoration in the wetlands and also was concerned about the developer not being made to do any clean-up before a transfer to a government agency such as LCWA.

Ms. Corliss Lee expressed her concern about planned for development along Studebaker Road. Ms. Lee is also concerned about the property being called an industrial park. Ms. Lee feels that it would not be inviting to many of the creatures that are usually found on a wetland and she feels that it is not compatible with the wetlands.

Ms. Melinda Cotton is concerned with the wetlands and the long term restoration. Ms. Cotton wants to know what kind of company is the LCWA dealing with and how substantial is the Beach Oil Minerals company who are often known for abandoning projects and she wants to know who is behind the company and what is their financial situation and what are we getting ourselves into.

Mr. Robert Fox is concerned about the development along Studebaker Road project which sounded similar to a Mobile Home project that they have had in the past. Mr. Fox stated that he is concerned if the ground for which the oil rigs are going in is stabilized and also what kind of gases are underneath. Mr. Fox is also concerned about the building of a structure on the wetlands when it was supposed to be kept as a wetlands.

Anna Christensen is concerned with the LCWA mitigation bank and would like the general public to view the latest mitigation proposal.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Schuchat mentioned that there is a Resource Bond in the works. Mr. Stanley added that there is a Senate bill for a bond and the Assembly has a bond and the Administration is proposing a bond for resiliency to climate change and sea level rise. If the senate bill (a bond) were to pass, there would be large amounts of monies for RMC and the Coastal Conservancy. There were no other comments given.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

One set of minutes for Board Meeting from August 1, 2019. There were no objections.

Minutes were passed.

REGULAR CALENDAR

7. STATUS REPORT ON WORK PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

A. LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Eric Zahn stated that the board packet contains great details of the activities on the wetlands for the last 6 months and we have been working closely with the City of Seal Beach due to the leaks in the waterline that is being repaired.

There were no questions.

B. LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM COORDINATOR UPDATE

Daniel North stated that the nature walks within the last quarter has had 117 visitors for a total of just shy 500 visitors for the entire year.

Mr. North stated that 109 volunteers helped plant over 670 plants and an additional 300 plants were propagated that will be cared for until time for planting for a total of 1500 plantings for the entire year and a total of 4500 lbs. of trash and invasive vegetation have been discarded.

Mr. North stated that several service-learning field trips were hosted before the end of 2019 for both Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach. Mr. North stated that there were a total of 75 students that were hosted among three classes who helped to install a total of 183 native plants and the

instructors that helped coordinate these field trips have scheduled both scheduled springs semester trips for 2020.

C. EL DORADO AUDUBON UPDATE

Mary Parsell stated that the El Dorado Audubon Society has been conducting these walks since 1979 and it all began on the parcel that is now called the Steam Shovel Slough.

Ms. Parsell stated that in January at the Hellman lowlands, they saw Least Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, White-tailed Kite, Say's Phoebe and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher for a total of 25 avian species. Ms. Parsell stated that at the Zedler Marsh there was foggy for most of the walk and they saw American Wigeon, Bufflehead, Peregrine Falcon, Song Sparrow and Common Yellowthroat for a total of 13 avian species.

Ms. Parsell stated that in February on the Hellman lowlands, it was foggy for most of the walk and they saw Canada Goose, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, White-crowned Sparrow and hummingbirds for a total of 23 avian species. Ms. Parsell stated that at the Zedler Marsh the sky was full of dark clouds with rain expected and they saw Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Bufflehead, Killdeer and a Turkey Vulture for a total of 16 avian species.

D. HOMELESS RELOCATION PROGRAM UPDATE

Lenny Arkininstall stated that everything is all good and that the local Police Departments are doing an outstanding job and not dealing with the same homeless persons over and over again.

Mr. Arkininstall stated that the County is doing monthly cleanups of the river all the way up to Carson Street. Mr. Arkininstall stated that he set up a tour with the Deputy Fire Marshall and the Deputy City Attorney to come up with plans and ways to reduce homelessness on the wetlands. Mr. Arkininstall also stated that the fencing projects are moving forward with Johnny Vallejo.

E. EXPENDITURES REPORT

Salian Garcia gave a brief synopsis of the FY 2019/2020 budget and summarized the Expenditures and Revenues as of February 15, 2020.

F. LCWA RESTORATION PLAN PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT UPDATE AND PRESENTATION

Sally Gee stated that LCWA is getting ready to release the Draft PEIR and anticipate releasing it next month and Eric Zahn will be providing a presentation about what is contained in the report.

Sally also stated that there will be alternatives presented but just not today due to being in draft form but will be included in the Draft PEIR.

Eric Zahn provided to the board a thorough presentation of what the Draft PEIR would contain and a copy of the presentation was requested to be put up on the website as well as emailed to the Board Secretary or Sally Gee.

Chair Schuchat asked where all of the dirt was coming from for all of the levies. Eric answered that the number of truck trips are being analyzed and they are balancing it between two different projects that would tier off. Eric also stated that how they pull it off is not a part of the EIR yet but are definitely exploring the options.

8. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION RATIFYING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROMN THE REGIONAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICTS MEASURE A FUNDS FOR MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING OF THE ZEDLER MARSH TRAILS SYSTEM.

Sally Gee stated that this grant would provide approximately \$67,000 for maintenance and servicing funds for the maintenance of projects completed with Proposition A or Measure A.

Sally also stated that these funds will greatly assist in maintaining a safer and better environment for continued public programming and restoration of native habitat, also, staff is exploring the possibility of opening the gate at set times and days along the San Gabriel River Trail to unguided public access, providing the public with more opportunities to enjoy the Zedler Marsh Trails and Los Cerritos Wetlands.

Board Member Uranga motioned to approve. Board Member Supernaw seconded the motion. Board Voted: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions. This item passed.

- 9. CLOSED SESION: PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.8, LCWA MAY HOLD A CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT APPRAISAL REPORT AND THE DRAFT LAND SWAP AGREEMENT BETWEEN LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY AND LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS, LLC FOR THE APN 7237-019-809; 7237-017-010 THRU 014; 018; 019; LCWA NEGOTIATORS: MARKSTANLEY AND PROPERTY OWNER NEGOTIATOR: JOHN MCKEOWN AND MICHAEL DI SANO. UNDER CONSIDERATION: PRICE AND TERMS.**
- 10. CLOSED SESSION: PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.8, LCWA MAY HOLD A CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT APPRAISAL REPORT AND THE DRAFT PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT BETWEEN LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY AND BRYANT DAKIN LLC FOR THE APN 7237-020-053; 054; LCWA NEGOTIATORS: MARK STANLEY AND PROPERTY OWNER NEGOTIATOR: STEVE BRYANT AND KEVIN BRAZIL. UNDER CONSIDERATION: PRICE AND TERMS.**
- 11. CLOSED SESSION: PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.8(D)(1), LCWA MAY HOLD A CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS THE MATTER OF *PUVUNGA WETLANDS PROTECTORS V. CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION, ET AL.*, LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. 19STCP00435.**

Closed Session began at approximately 1:33 pm and ended approximately at 2:15 pm. The Board received information and advice and provided direction.

16. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- A. STATEMENTS, RESPONSES, QUESTIONS OR DIRECTIONS TO STAFF PURSUANT TO SECTION 54954.2(A) OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE.**

Next meeting will be May 7th at the Seal Beach Fire Station #48.

B. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

17. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS

Chair Schuchat adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:16 p.m.

X

Sam Schuchat
Chair

X

Dena Williams
LCWA Board Secretary