

**MINUTES
LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY (LCWA)
BOARD MEETING
May 5, 2016**

The meeting was held at the City of Seal Beach Fire Station #48 Community Room at 3131 N. Gate Road, Seal Beach, CA 90740. The meeting was called to order by Chair Sam Schuchat at 12:40 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Ellery Deaton
Mr. Sam Schuchat
Ms. Julie Maleki
Mr. Roberto Uranga

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
Dena Williams, Board Secretary
Luz Quinnell, Project Manager
Terry Fujimoto, Counsel

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Parsell of the El Dorado Audubon announced that May 7th was National Bird Day and that all kinds of events were taking place on this day and all were welcome.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Uranga pointed out that he was not absent but that his alternate was present. This was the only correction.

Board Member Deaton moved to approve the minutes; Chair Schuchat seconded the motion. Board voted – 2 Ayes; 0 Nays; 2 Abstentions. Minutes were not passed.

5. AES POWER PLANT PRESENTATION BY STEPHEN O’KANE AES SOUTHLAND SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE MANAGER.

Chair Schuchat stated that a presentation was going to be given by Mr. Stephen O’Kane of AES. Mr. O’Kane gave a very thorough presentation of the plans his company is trying to make in building a new, more modern energy plant at the Alamitos Energy Center and to add 300 MW of battery energy storage.

Mr. O’Kane also explained his company wants to build a new more modernized plant to create more renewable energy integration, help California meet environmental and energy goals and to modernize the electrical system. Mr. O’Kane introduced his colleague Ms. Dahlia Gomez and stated that she had some cards to pass out and all we had to do was fill them out and could be put on an email list informing us of the progress of AES’s plans if we wanted to do so.

Board member Uranga asked once the structures are torn down what are the plans for the use of them. Mr. O’Kane explained that there were no plans to use them once they are torn down and further explained that it would be a large cost and quite disruptive with a lot of noise due to the fact that there is a large amount of concrete underneath the structures. Chair Schuchat asked what type of battery technology they were going to use. Mr. O’Kane answered that lithium ion is winning thus far, but that “D” cells were being considered and if one battery goes out that whole system does not go out and they are still considering many different suppliers.

Elizabeth Lambe made a comment and stated that the Wetlands Land Trust is robustly involved with this project and that they are just making sure that the fragile open space wetlands is being protected.

REGULAR CALENDAR

6. STATUS REPORT ON WORKPLAN IMPLEMENTATION INCLUDING LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM, LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS CONCEPTUAL RESTORATION PLAN, REAL PROPERTY LAND OWNER COMMUNICATIONS, GRANT STATUS REPORT AND LCWA WEBSITE.

Executive Officer, Mark Stanley, stated that Tia Blair and Alene Spindel would give a report on land management. Ms. Spindel stated that for the stewardship program they have been hosting kayak tours, nature walks and restoration events and there is a report summarizing all of the events on the website. Ms. Spindel also stated that there have been a total of 1000 people come out and volunteer; 670 volunteers planted 1500 plants, removed 1200 pounds of weeds and 500 pounds of trash was removed. Ms. Spindel mentioned that the stewardship program is in collaboration with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach and they are involved with installing the public access trail system. Ms. Spindel briefly mentioned that the LCWA website is being integrated from the older website address and went through the different tabs that are being added to the new website.

Elizabeth Lambe briefly stated that her group sponsors monthly nature walks with anywhere from 5 to 50 people, promote the community based restoration that occurs on the first Saturday of the month and they are on their fifth year of providing field trips for the local schools that is part of the “Be Safe” program which is hosted by the City of Long Beach and the costs are covered by grants that they apply for and would love any suggestions as to who they can reach out to and expand their program to.

Mary Parsell stated they continue to have their monthly birdwalks and have seen 43 different species of birds and invited everyone to come out and join them every 2nd Saturday of the month.

Lenny Arkinsahl stated that the homeless individuals on the property continues to be a problem but that there are only 5 individuals left on the property. Lenny also suggested that a portion of the property should be fenced off and was happy to report that the East side Police division appointed an officer to patrol and has made great strides in keeping individuals away from the property. Julie Maleki asked if Lenny had stated that he started off with 50 camps and went down to 20 camps. Lenny answered yes that was correct. Board member Deaton stated that she gets constant complaints about homeless camps under the bridges and Lenny stated that there is one individual under the bridge on the Seal Beach side and the other are on the Long Beach side but that the officers assigned to the homeless issue are doing an excellent job in monitoring the entire site. Lastly, Lenny mentioned that when he is not dealing with the homeless, he is providing maintenance to the property.

Mr. Stanley stated that Chris Webb of Moffatt and Nichol would give an update on the Synergy site. Mr. Webb stated that they have been doing some numerical hydro dynamic modeling of tides on the Synergy site just to help them understand whether water levels are going to be appropriate to match up with the conceptual plan for mitigation bank and the work is now completed and a memorandum is owed to all staff involved and will provide that right away. Mr. Webb further explained that a meeting with some of the consultants and staff along with the Synergy biologist and share the results and have a working session to make sure it meets their needs and then they can conclude their study. Chair Schuchat asked whose sea level projections did you use, and Chris answered that they used the State of California's projections. Chair Schuchat asked if they looked at sedimentation in this area and Chris answered that they looked at it for the Conceptual Restoration Plan but not for this small of an effort just for Synergy and that there is not a sediment supply in the Alamitos Bay Area. There were no further questions.

Anna Christenson stated that she wanted her statement to go on record about the relationship between the wetlands and the native American nation and how she wishes that this sacred ground not be disturbed and wants everyone to take into consideration that the native American nation is a living community and thanked the authority for what they have done so far, but it is not enough.

7. STATUS REPORT AND UPDATE ON THE SYNERGY TERM AGREEMENT.

Laurie Collins stated that the Term Agreement is moving along and that a new Phase I is not required for the site due to the cleanup was up to standards. Ms. Collins also stated that that Synergy was told that they need to find a different place to put their pipelines.

Board member Deaton asked who decided that Phase I was not needed to be repeated and Ms. Collins answered the LCWA staff did. Mark stated that it was not needed for the 5 acre land and he is not talking about the Steam Shovel Slough property. Ms. Deaton asked this is something that your office does and Mark answered yes we review the documents and then will share the information with the members of the JPA. Ms. Deaton asked about the Beach Oil Mineral Partners and how they are related to Synergy and Ms. Collins answered that Synergy has partnered with Beach Oil Mineral Partners for

whatever reason they felt they needed to. Ms. Deaton asked if LCWA will be a co-applicant to the State or will LCWA be the lead agency when it comes to the coastal commission and Mark answered that City of Long Beach is the lead and LCWA will be an applicant and will be involved in every step of the way. Ms. Collins answered that LCWA will be a co-applicant with the partners of Synergy. Ms. Deaton asked what is the process for CEQA and Mark answered the CEQA analysis would be conducted and then it would go to the coastal commission. Ms. Collins answered that it would go to City of Long Beach first to be certified and then an application will be filed with coastal commission. Ms. Deaton stated she is still not clear on this and maybe a workshop would be necessary to help clarify things. Board member Uranga suggested maybe conducting the special workshop on May 11th and Mark stated that was a very good idea but that he would not be available, but there definitely would be a special meeting set up explaining everything to the board. There were no further questions.

8. THE LCWA DIRECT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO COMMIT STAFF RESOURCES ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH ASCON TO DEVELOP A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT FUNDS FOR THE ZEDLER MARSH RESTORATION TO PROVIDE SOUTHERN TARPLANT MITIGATION FOR THEIR REMEDIATION PROJECT OF THE ASCON LANDFILL SITE (LCWA16006).

Staff member Luz Quinnell stated that ASCON asked Eric Zahn to do some mitigation on the property and they need to mitigate 187,000 tarplants that they removed from their land fill in Huntington Beach and want LCWA to grow and maintain the plants for two years and in lieu fee for coastal salt marsh on the .2 acres and that they are still interested in pursuing that. Ms. Quinnell also stated that LCWA does not have an actual memorandum of agreement yet because staff needs to be dedicated for this project and at the August meeting LCWA will come back with the actual agreement which will lay out how much money will be requested and how much the in lieu fee will be if they decide to take the .2 acres. Ms. Quinnell stated that this item is to only dedicate staff time to grow and maintain the plants for two years.

Chair Schuchat stated that this will trigger the need to enter a agreement with the coastal conservancy and that Ms. Elena Egger, counsel for coastal conservancy, is ready to engage with LCWA and help work through it. There were no further questions.

Ms. Deaton motioned to approve the resolution; Board member Uranga seconded the motion. Board voted – 4 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstentions. Passed unanimously.

9. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO RE-AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT WITH LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS STEWARDS FOR HOMELESS RELOCATION SERVICES (LCWA13003).

Executive Officer, Mark Stanley stated we had a one year agreement with Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewards and you received an update report from Lenny today and we would like to extend that agreement. Mr. Stanley mentioned that the stewards have done an outstanding job and would like to continue the relationship and the value of the agreement would be just under \$9,000 and would be extended for another year until May of next year.

Board Member Deaton motioned to approve the resolution; Board Member Maleki seconded the motion. Board voted – 4 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstentions. Passed unanimously.

- 10. CLOSED SESSION FOR THE BRYANT ACQUISITION: PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: ASSESSOR PARCEL NO. 7237-020-053; 054. PROPERTY OWNER: BRYANT DAKIN LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY; PROPERTY OWNER NEGOTIATOR: STEVE BRYANT, LCWA NEGOTIATORS: LAURIE COLLINS, MARK STANLEY, LUZ QUINNELL. UNDER CONSIDERATION: PRICE AND TERMS.**

Chair Schuchat asked if there needed to be a closed session or was it just a place holder. Mr. Stanley answered that it was just a place holder and there didn't need to be a closed session.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

12. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be August 4, 2016 at the Bay Shore Library Community Room at 12:30pm.

13. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS

Mr. Schuchat adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:48 p.m.

X

Sam Schuchat
Chair

X

Dena Williams
LCWA Board Secretary