

**MINUTES
LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY (LCWA)
BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2021**

This meeting was held via Zoom.us. The meeting was called to order by Chair Suzie Price at approximately 12:38pm.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**

Mr. Joel Gerwein was sworn into office by Ms. St. John

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Suzie Price

Mr. Joe Kalmick

Mr. Roberto Uranga

Mr. Joel Gerwein

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

Salian Garcia, Fiscal Manager

Sally Gee, Project Manager

Elizabeth St. John, Attorney General

- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

- 4. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Price welcomed the new attorney, Ms. St. John. Ms. Price stated this was the first LCWA meeting that Ms. St. John was staffing, but she has had the chance to work with Ms. St. John and the Executive Director on LCWA related matters and has already had the pleasure of meeting her.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

One set of minutes from the Board meeting from July 1, 2021 to approve

Chair Price motioned to approve. Mr. Gerwein seconded. Board voted- 4 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstentions. Minutes were passed.

REGULAR CALENDAR

6. Status Report on Work Plan Implementation

a. Land Management Update

Marcello Cabellos, Associate Restoration Ecologist at Tidal Influence referenced the June/ July 2021 Land Management Reports in the Board Meeting Packet. Cabellos stated stewardship trail maintenance has been conducted. Cabellos stated that repeated fence line breaches have occurred at the property, and repairs have been conducted. Cabellos explained there had been a break-in and theft at the property and at neighboring properties. Cabellos stated that additional measures and coordination with neighboring properties have occurred to prevent this from occurring in the future.

Cabellos stated biological studies were conducted on the southern area of the wetland complex. Cabellos explained it was a small mammal survey conducted by the CSULB Mammal Lab to understand the effects of urbanization on small animal communities. Results will be available in May 2022.

b. Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program Coordinator Update

Eric Zahn, Principal Restoration Ecologist at Tidal Influence stated members of the public are back on the LCWA property and are engaging in public programs. Zahn stated they have continued to have the gate that connects Zedler Marsh to the San Gabriel River Bike Trail open Friday and Saturday for five hours each day. Zahn stated they have seen people coming in and parking their bikes to enjoy the trails.

Zahn stated Tidal Influence has been hosting the monthly stewardship programs every first Saturday. Zahn stated there is a land tour and restoration event that Zahn has had great attendance for. Zahn highlighted their most notable restoration event which had 60 volunteers. Eric explained that the volunteers picked up nearly 200 pounds of trash, spread almost an entire pile of mulch across LCWA habitat areas, and performed non-native weed control.

c. Homeless Relocation Program Update

Lenny Arkinstall, Los Cerritos Stewards, highlighted a case from the Byrant West Parcel. Arkinstall referenced a photo of a camp belonging to a man named Kenny. Kenny was relocated from the property. Arkinstall stated people are not relocated without being given the chance for services and help. Arkinstall explained how he helped Kenny get back home to Washington. Sally

Gee read a letter of thanks from Kenny, two years after he went back home. Arkininstall expressed his hope that Kenny's letter would show what kind of job LCWA is doing in the wetlands.

Chair Price stated Kenny's letter and story were amazing. Price highlighted the great work Arkininstall, officer Armon, and the seal beach Quality of Life Officers have been doing and stated she was grateful for it. Price stated she would share Kenny's letter to her city manager because she believes it is important to highlight the great work Arkininstall and Officer Armon are doing.

Chair Price also highlighted the encampments where it is more difficult to get people motivated to try a service or get a mental health assessment and they refuse to leave. Chair Price asked what LCWA was doing about those encampments and what is being done to mitigate danger as a result of the encampments. Arkininstall explained two problems from both sides of the property. Arkininstall stated the encampments are under the jurisdiction of LA County, which has been contacted several times by Seal Beach, Arkininstall, and Chair Price's office. Arkininstall stated both camps on both sides are causing problems in the community on the East side. Arkininstall stated the good thing is that people from these encampments know they cannot go on the Wetlands because they will come across him or Officer Armon. Arkininstall stated they are pushing to clean up the two lands which he believes will be a big help for the community. Arkininstall stated they would continue to try to contact LA County and asked for additional help from Chair Price's office to call LA County. Chair Price stated her office will work with Arkininstall on these issues.

Vice Chair Joe Kalmick asked if Arkininstall felt he was getting enough help from the Seal Beach police department. Arkininstall affirmed that he has and that the department is very ambitious and maintain constant contact to keep up on Seal Beach and Long Beach issues. Arkininstall clarified that Seal Beach and Long Beach are dealing with mostly the same people. Arkininstall commended the Seal Beach police department and stated they are very helpful. Chair Price added that she has worked with Seal Beach Police Chief Chack and that he has been proactive in getting involved in early diversion programs being created. Chair Price stated Chack is one of the police chiefs looking to get ahead of these issues and find alternatives, and he is open minded. Chair Price stated the Wetlands have provided a very rich experience for the Seal Beach and Long Beach police departments in terms of some of the challenges. Chair Price explained that she believes this has informed a lot of Chief Chack's thinking and makes him different from other county police chiefs, as he has exposure to these issues already. Chief Price expressed her belief that this is beneficial to both agencies. (29:00). Joel Gerwein and Mark Stanley expressed their appreciation for Arkininstall's work.

d. El Dorado Audubon Update

Mary Parsell, El Dorado Audubon, highlighted a story about elegant tern chicks stranded on barges on the harbor. Parsell stated Arkininstall went to the barges almost every day and reported how many chicks were rescued in collaboration with scientists from El Dorado Audubon and others.

Parsell stated the wetlands area was foggy throughout July and August 2021, but they were still able to see things like hummingbirds, great blue herons, and snowy egrets. Parsell explained that there are many house wren families instead of marsh wrens because the area is very dry. Parsell highlighted the white-tailed kite seen in August, as they have not been seen on the Los Cerritos Wetlands for about five years. Parsell stated they had also seen swallows which was unusual, as they are normally there in May and June. Parsell stated there were several butterflies and native plants that were noted.

Chair Price stated she appreciated Parsell's report and stories.

e. Expenditures Report

Salian Garcia gave a brief synopsis of the FY 2020/2021 budget and summarized the Expenditures and Revenues as of August 30, 2021.

7. Consideration of a resolution adopting the FY 21/22 Budget.

Salian Garcia stated that the attached Consolidated Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 21/22 (Exhibit A) includes three revenues and expenditure components which are Administration, Operational, and Capital Outlay.

Garcia also stated that the total budgeted revenue for FY 21/22 is \$455,111 and expenditures are balanced with revenues. The total revenues for FY 21/22 have decreased by roughly 5.5% primarily due to the expected decreases of acquisition activities and contracts expected to end by the end of 2021, offset with increased lease revenue.

Garcia concluded that subsequently there is an expected year-to-year decrease in expenses plus incremental budget changes in grant management services, consultant services, and administrative expenditures. Administration expenses are in the amount of \$14,407. Garcia stated these are general administration costs, including website maintenance and annual audit services with the city of Long Beach. Operational expenses consist of the Stewardship Program and project management expenditures. Garcia stated the total budget is in the amount of \$170,704. Garcia stated this is consistent with the annual revenue expenditures to, at a minimum, operate, manage, and maintain the properties. These budgets and expenditures include Zedler Marsh, mitigation projects, MOAs, and Measure A related expenses. The total Capital Outlay budget is in the amount of \$270,000. Garcia stated several contracts may be renewed and the updated numbers will be presented to the Board at the next meeting if applicable.

There were no questions from the Board.

Board Member Kalmick motioned to approve. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Board Voted: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions. This item passed.

8. Consideration of a resolution authorizing a lease agreement with Elis Equipment, Inc. as an occupant of the OTD parcel (LA County APN#7237-019-006).

This item was tabled.

9. Closed Session: Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.8, LCWA may hold a closed session to consider the Draft Appraisal Report and the Draft Land Transfer Agreement, and related items, 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: Mark Stanley and Property Owner Negotiator: John McKeown and Michael Di Sano. Under Consideration: Price and Terms.

10. Closed Session: Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(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 section began at approximately 1:13 pm and ended at approximately 1:30 pm. The board received information and advice. No action was taken.

11. Oral Communications

a. Statements, responses, questions or directions to staff pursuant to Section 54954.2(a) of the Government Code.

Next meeting will be November 4, 2021.

b. Future agenda items.

12. Adjournment upon completion of business.

Chair Price adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:31pm.