

Minutes

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA)

Thursday, May 4, 2023

Held at the following location:

340 Nieto Ave
Long Beach, CA 90814
Conference Room

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Board Member Duggan called the meeting to order at approximately 12:30pm.

2. Flag Salute

3. Roll Call

Board Members Present

Ms. Kristina Duggan

Ms. Megan Cooper (For Amy Hutzel)

Board Members Absent

Mr. Joe Kalmick

Mr. Roberto Uranga

The meeting did not achieve a quorum.

4. Election of Chair

5. Election of Vice Chair

6. Public Comment

7. Chair's Report

8. Approval of the Minutes, November 30, 2022

Regular Calendar

9. Status Report on Work Plan Implementation

a. Land Management Update

Eric Zahn, Principal Restoration Ecologist for Tidal Influence, provided a brief land management update. Zahn stated the Hellman property had a section of fence line at the southern end of the property that was patched previously has been observed to be cut and signs of unapproved access were noted during the walkthrough. No signs of damage to biological resources were observed. Tidal Influence staff will make repairs to

the portion of affected fence line in the coming months. Zahn stated the lock on the southern access gate for Zedler Marsh was found to be off the gate's daisy chain during multiple property patrols. Tidal Influence staff have replaced the lock with a new lock and have reattached it to the daisy chain. Additionally, steps will be taken to ensure smooth operations and access at that property access point to ensure access for the LCWA and its partners. The OTD Parcel water leak has caused vegetation to grow onto the bike path along 2nd street. Zahn stated levee gates at Bryan Lease West were found open. Zahn recommended LCWA staff meet with LA County to determine a new approach to secure this property and adjusting the fence line location to provide a thoroughfare along the levee path

b. Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program Coordinator Update

Since November, there have been 6 monthly nature walks. The 6 land tours saw approximately 400 community members join. Starting with the Heron Hike in November, Raptor Ramble in December and the Turtle Trek in January and then the cycle continued in order. From Fall to winter and now into Spring on each trip was greeted with a variety of different flora and fauna species.

Since November the LCWA has hosted 6 monthly habitat restoration events as well. In the past 6 months LCWA has hosted 225 volunteers who helped remove 210lbs of nonnative species, 235lbs of debris, and installed 735 containers of native species in the CSS, marsh buffer and mulefat scrub to help restore endangered Belding's savannah sparrow, least Bell's vireo habitat and much more. All of this help from the community resulted in 450 hours of volunteer work time contributing \$13,260 of in-kind services.

LCWA hosted 4 additional habitat restoration events at Zedler marsh thanks to the eager community that wants to get involved. In December LCWA hosted two separate field trips for a Marine Biology class and Wildlife Biology class from Long Beach City College. The 58 college students helped spread mulch as well as sightsee and learn about restoration ecology. These two classes are expected to join again in May again thanks to a longstanding partnership. A new partnership was formed through LA's Metropolitan Districts new Resiliency, Sustainability and Innovation office that joined in January to get outside and learn about some of the last remaining open space in the Long Beach that is within their range. LCWA also had a returning AP Environmental class join again to get their hands dirty and propagate salt marsh plants. These additional events have resulted in an additional 102 volunteers that helped install 144 native container plants, propagate 25 salt marsh gallon plants which contributed to 156 hours and \$4,355 of in-kind services.

c. Homeless Relocation Program Update

d. El Dorado Audubon Update

Mary Parsell stated this report covers November 2022 through April 2023. This winter two scheduled walks were canceled, and one was cut short due to rain. Parsell stated members participated in the in-person meeting regarding the restoration design of the Hellman property in Seal Beach and look forward to the next meeting.

e. Expenditures Report

Mark Stanley stated this item includes the FY 2022/2023 Budget with balances as of April 19, 2023. Key elements of the Expenditure Report for FY 2022/2023 are summarized here: As the Authority is approximately halfway through the current fiscal year, activity with consultant professional services Grant & Land Management are slightly above projected expenditures. However, the Authority does not expect this expenditure line to exceed the budget. Revenue is also minimal as the Authority's primary receipt of revenue is from its OTD Parcel tenant and annual JPA contributions. Overall Capital Outlay Expenses in relation to grant funding sources are below projections; however, individual funding sources such as State Coastal Conservancy and Miscellaneous are higher than budgeted. The Authority expends grants nearing agreement expiration dates, subsequently, spending them sooner than other funding sources. Administration has minimal activity. However, several expenditures in this category, such as Audit Services and Insurance, generally do not occur until the second and third quarters of the current fiscal year. Staff are awaiting reimbursement from several grants and contracts. The revenue will be reflected when submitted costs expended under the grant have been approved for reimbursement and the reimbursement is received.

10. Update on the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project

11. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the Executive Officer to negotiate and execute a contract for independent appraisal technical assistance to facilitate completion of an appraisal for the Option Agreement with Los Cerritos Wetlands, LLC

Closed Session:

Elizabeth St. John stated that 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. Under Consideration: Price and Terms. This was an informational item only.

12. Oral Communications

- a. Statements, responses, questions or directions to staff pursuant to Section 54954.2(a) of the Government Code.**
- b. Future agenda items.**

13. Adjournment upon completion of business

Board Member Duggan adjourned the meeting at approximately 1pm