

**MINUTES  
Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA)  
held on**

**Thursday, May 9, 2024 @ 12:30 p.m.**

**at**

**CCLB Headquarters  
340 Nieto Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90814**

**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Duggan called the meeting to order at approximately 12:38 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**Voting Members Present**

Kristina Duggan, Councilmember/Long Beach, Chair  
Lisa Landau, Mayor Pro Tem/City of Seal Beach  
Roberto Uranga, Councilmember/City of Long Beach  
Amy Hutzler, State Coastal Conservancy

**Staff Present**

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
Elizabeth St. John, Deputy Attorney General  
Aimee Nguyen, Office Technician  
Megan Wolff, Associate Restoration Ecologist/Tidal Influence  
Eric Zahn, Principal Restoration Ecologist/ Tidal Influence  
Chad Oberly, Staff Services Manager I  
Amanda Chan, Staff Services Analyst I  
Salian Garcia, Budgets and Administration Officer,

**3. Public Comment**

Julian, sophomore from Long Beach Polytechnic High School stated he was looking to obtain an internship opportunity.

**4. Chair's Report**

There was no Chair's Report.

**5. Approval of Minutes, March 7, 2024**

**Board member Hutzel moved to approve. Board member Uranga seconded. Approved. Roll call vote: 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. 0 Abstentions.**

**Regular Calendar**

**6. Status Report on Work Plan Implementation**

**a. Land Management Update 7/15**

Eric Zahn stated the Land Management report update would cover the last two months. Zahn stated he stated there was nothing out of the ordinary since his last report to Board.

Zahn stated the muddy soil due to recent rains resulted in excess growth of weeds. Zahn stated trail maintenance by staff will continue to ensure trails are cleared and to ensure safe access to all. Zahn stated they have received alerts from neighbors regarding trespassers. Zahn stated staff investigated and discovered barb wire had been removed from fence line. Zahn stated staff also made a minor fence repair, to cover a small hole, at the State Lands Parcel site to ensure site security.

Zahn stated staff has removed bike ramps between western fence and bike path near Zedler Marsh site. Zahn stated staff will continue to monitor the site and will remove ramps as fast as they are built.

Chair Kristina Duggan thanked Tidal Influence staff for recent event and all they have done and accomplished.

**b. Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program Coordinator Update**

Megan Wolff stated the Stewardship Program Update would cover events from February through April 2024. Wolff stated the Stewardship Program engaged a total of 153 volunteers who participated in community-based habitat restoration programs. Wolff stated the 356 hours worked by these volunteers contributed over \$11 thousand of in-kind service. Wolff stated, volunteers planted 318 plants, removed 650 pounds of invasive plants and removed 200 pounds of trash and debris.

Wolff stated the Stewardship Program, in partnership with the LCW Land Trust and AES, hosted three field trips. Wolff stated the Conservation Corps of Long Beach assisted with sanding and staining picnic tables and benches to better

accommodate the Stewardship Program. Wolff stated the LCWSP flyer has been released and can be found on the website. Wolff stated the Stewardship Program continues to grow and the community support is very impactful.

Wolff stated in the next few months the Program will focus on invasive species removal, more field trips will be offered before school year ends and improving trails for public use.

Wolff highlighted pictures of the Port of LA High School students who did some planting, a group of people after a trash clean-up event, and the Nature Walk-Salt Marsh stroll.

Chair Kristina Duggan asked that Wolff quantify the \$11 thousand she previously stated of in-kind service. Wolff responded that it was the standard number where each hour is valued and that was how the in-kind service was quantified.

Chair Duggan asked how many hours? Wolff replied, it was 356 hours.

**c. Homeless Relocation Program Update**

Lenny Arkinstall, CEO of Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewards, stated no homeless on the property. Arkinstall stated day camp at Pipe bridge is continuously being removed. Arkinstall stated he had one incident with an individual whom he asked to leave by Monday, individual departed. Arkinstall stated he did not have much to report as what they have been doing over several years has reduced the homeless to almost zero. Arkinstall stated Hellman property has been cleared for a year, the jetties and bridges on Second Street and Coast highway. Arkinstall, stated his dealing with the homeless is working and everything is well now.

**d. El Dorado Audubon Update**

Mary Parsell, President of the El Dorado Audubon, stated May is America's wetland's month according to U.S. Official Wildlife Service. Parsell stated the Los Cerritos wetlands were "wet" as rain continued from February through April. Pools formed by the rain were used by mallards, some of which were resident mallards and others tributary. Parsell stated highlights include Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel and offspray. Parsell stated Red-tailed Hawk are usually seen at Gunthrow Park, but for some reason they are out in the wetlands and surrounding areas. Parsell stated seeing the Common Yellowthroat which are year-round, the Blue-grey Gnatcatcher and a few remaining White-crowned sparrows. Parsell stated the sighting of the white-crowned sparrows was probably due to the rain and wet

weather this year as they are usually around from November through February. Parsell stated non-native and native plants provided a lot of color. Parsell stated a sunflower could be both non-native and native. Meaning the flower part was the same, the leaves were different, one was native and one was not. Parsell stated the first swallows appeared, mostly rough-wings and martin swallows. Parsell stated they were grateful with the restoration progress that has been made in the southeast portion of the wetlands, the Helman site, and from the synergy project as it progresses. Parsell stated El Dorado Audubon has worked alongside with National El Dorado Audubon and local chapters towards this acquisition and restoration for a very long time. Parsell stated staff have worked on this for a long time with support from local and national staff. Parsell stated they look forward to supporting the efforts of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority as it moves forward.

**e. Expenditures Report**

Amanda Chan stated she would be reporting on the Expenditure Report. Chan stated they were on track for the contributions in the overall Revenue and Expense categories. Chan stated the outstanding Annual JPA contributions are expected to be received this quarter as staff have contacted them. Chan stated staff have recently executed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AES Alamitos and LCWA, so the Revenue and Expense budget line items have been updated. Chan stated administration had minimal activity, but several expenditures such as Audit Services should reflect at the last quarter of the fiscal year. Chan stated Security expense reflects 27% and Authority expects to receive all invoices from the consultant by end of year. Chan stated overall Capital Outlay Expenses in relation to grant funding sources are in line with projections. As contracts related to the Southern Area Restoration projects are currently being negotiated, expenses will not be reflected until after the last quarter. Chan stated staff is waiting for reimbursements from several grants and contracts. Chan stated the Revenue will be reflected when reimbursements payments are received.

Mark Stanley stated in terms of the State Budget, an announcement is expected to be received on May 10<sup>th</sup>. An update is expected about the budget situation with the State. Stanley stated it did not look as good as in past years. Stanley stated he will provide the Board with more information on how it will impact the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority when he receives it.

Board Member Amy Hutzal stated the grant that the State Coastal Conservancy provided for the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration project was exceptionally well timed. The completed CEQA, the Conservancy Board authorizing the grant and having it in the grant agreement, Board Member Hutzal feels solid with the funding for the project.

7. **Consideration of a resolution authorizing the Executive Officer to a) Augment service levels for biological monitoring services; and, b) Negotiate and enter into a contract with Tidal Influence LLC for biological monitoring services for the Southern I Wetlands Restoration Project.**

Chad Oberly stated that on March 7, 2024, Board authorized Executive Officer to negotiate and enter into contracts for support services for the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project not to exceed limits of \$770,000 for project management and \$500,000 for all other services. Oberly stated after negotiating with potential consultants, staff found that for biological monitoring the need to exceed that \$500,000 was necessary to cover post-construction monitoring costs. Oberly stated the pre-construction monitoring cost was an estimated \$233,000 and the post-construction monitoring cost was an estimated \$816,000 for a total cost of \$1,050,000. Oberly stated this was below what had been budgeted and presented to the Coastal Conservancy.

Oberly stated the environmental awareness training and biological monitoring during construction tasks were being re-classified to be under Environmental Compliance. Reclassifying would allow for better alignment with the State Coastal Conservancy and Ocean Protection Council grant's tasks. Oberly stated billing, invoicing and tracking would be easier especially as it is a five-year contract.

**Board member Uranga moved to approve. Board member Landau seconded. Approved. Roll call vote: 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. 0 Abstentions.**

8. **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. Under Consideration: Price and Terms.**
9. **Oral Communications**
  - a. **Statements, responses, questions or directions to staff pursuant to Section 54954.2(a) of the Government Code.**
  - b. **Future agenda items.**
10. **Adjournment upon completion of business.**

Chair Duggan adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:08 pm.