



**San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Conservation Delivery Committee
April 28, 2016 10:30 am - 1:30 pm
State Coastal Conservancy, 1330 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612
11th Floor Meeting Room**

Summary Notes

In attendance: *Marc Holmes, Chair (The Bay Institute), Donna Ball (Save the Bay), Chris Barton (East Bay Regional Park District), John Bourgeois (South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project), Brenda Buxton (State Coastal Conservancy), Jack Fischetti (Bay Planning Coalition), Joel Gerwein (State Coastal Conservancy), Leslie Koenig (Alameda County RCD), Marilyn Latta (State Coastal Conservancy), Cindy Margolis (Golden Gate Audubon), Lindy Lowe (Bay Conservation and Development Commission), Toby Rohmer (Invasive Spartina Project), Stuart Siegel (Siegel Environmental), Cheryl Strong (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Rachel Tertes (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Rebecca Tuden (City of Oakland - via phone), Bruce Wolfe (SFB Regional Water Quality Control Board), Julian Wood (Point Blue).*
JV Staff: *Beth Huning (Coordinator), Sandra Scoggin (Assistant Coordinator), Michelle Huppert (JV Intern), Marina Binsack (JV Intern)*

1. Welcome and Introductions - Participants introduced themselves.

2. Overview of BCDC's current efforts related to climate adaptation and resilience - Policies for a Rising Bay, Adapting to Rising Tides Program, Commission Workshop Series *Lindy Lowe, Acting Planning Manager, BCDC*

BCDC's Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) program was initiated in 2011 to increase resilience of Bay communities to sea level rise and storm events. The pilot in Alameda County was the first adaptation planning effort in the region to conduct an assessment and develop adaptation responses across jurisdictions and assets. The program has expanded to include regional, local and sector specific projects. ART emphasizes close collaboration among stakeholders to ensure a shared understanding of the issues, build trust, and achieve buy-in for shared solutions and joint action.

Key features of the ART approach are:

- Integrates equity, economy, environment and governance from start to finish
- Can be applied to different geographies, sectors and hazards
- Convenes and engages a working group to build local capacity and ensure outcomes resonate locally
- Results in a robust and transparent vulnerability assessment that makes the case for adaptation
- Establishes a clear roadmap for actors at all scales to take action

For more information see www.adaptingtorisingtides.org.

Other BCDC initiatives are *Policies for a Rising Bay* and a 2016 Commissioner Workshop Series on Rising Sea Levels. Lindy provided an overview of these efforts.

Policies for a Rising Bay: An assessment of BCDC's laws and policies in relation to potential adaptation actions with an emphasis on effects on equity, environment and economy in the region.

BCDC's 2016 Workshop Series on Rising Sea Levels:

- January 21st: Five Year Review of BCDC's Climate Policies
- March 3rd: The Regional Role and Approach, Issues and Actions
- April 7th: Review and discussion of January and March Findings
- May 19th: Commissioner Conversation-Next Steps and Direction

Objectives for the workshop series are to:

- Bring issues identified by the *Rising Sea Level and Bay Fill Commissioner Working Groups, Policies for a Rising Bay project, and the Adapting to Rising Tides Program* to the full Commission and a broader range of participants
- Assist the Commission in determining the direction BCDC and the region should take to address rising sea levels
- Begin new levels of coordination and collaboration

3. Partner Projects

- **Wildlife Friendly Livestock Pond Restoration Program** - *Leslie Koenig, ACRC*
Alameda county's Wildlife-friendly Ponds Program was created around 2002-2003 to work with private and public land owners to rehabilitate livestock ponds that were created in the 1950's - 1970's. Since these ponds were built, they have become important habitat for wildlife that includes threatened species, but in some cases have not been maintained and have sedimentation or spillway erosion issues. Restoring these ponds takes into account the project requirements, guiding documents, aquatic habitat criteria, and upland criteria. Challenges in restoring these ponds include cost, permitting, regulatory hurdles, non-native species, and hybrid tiger salamanders. The next steps in this process will be to determine the hybrid tiger salamander situation in Alameda County, establish long-term monitoring, determine the roles of livestock ponds for habitat in climate change, and develop partnerships to support these efforts.
- **SF Estuary Invasive Spartina Project- 97% done and key status updates-** *Toby Rohmer, Invasive Spartina Project/Marilyn Latta, State Coastal Conservancy*
The Invasive Spartina Project inventories the whole bay twice a year, documenting the marsh change using photographs and genetic sampling. Currently the monitoring efforts are split up into two branches: Spartina and California Ridgway's Rail. Surveying rails helps inform the treatment program to comply with the biological opinion given by USFWS. The 2015 treatment season went from July - November, treating 161 sites total, 32 of those sites having 2 rounds of treatment. Challenges seen last treatment season include a compact season due to drought, an increase in overall sites due to new restoration projects, and 11 no-treatment sites due to the new biological opinion that was issued June 2. In 2015, invasive Spartina was not detected at 34 of 211 sites after applying the treatment program and have seen a steady increase in rails the last three years. The revegetation program saw approximately 400,000 seedlings planted at 40+ sites in year 1-5. In year 6, there's a plan to plant 25,000 seedlings at sites that are TBD, but will most likely be at Eden Landing.
- **Info on national living shoreline efforts- and how CA needs to catch up to Georgia!"** - *Marilyn Latta, State Coastal Conservancy*

Marilyn gave an update on take aways from the east coast's approach to sea level rise from the most recent national Restoring America's Estuary conference. "Living Shorelines" is a fairly new concept to our region of the U.S. We need to consider regional goals when applying living shorelines to the Bay Area. California should strive to develop legislation similar to states on the east coast, such as state legislation that supports living shorelines or programmatic permits. Multi-habitat enhancement should play a role in living shoreline efforts to create habitat connectivity, which has been an effective approach to combating sea level rise. This idea is currently being implemented by The State Coastal Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and many regional partners in a project called "Integrated Restoration in San Francisco Bay: Maximizing Ecological Function and Shoreline Protection through a Multi-Habitat Living Shoreline Approach". They are currently using test plots to apply this approach. Contact Marilyn for more information on this project. This project was also recently spotlighted on the JV website.

4. Project Announcements and Updates (All Partners)

John Bourgois: The final EIR for the South Bay Salt Ponds Project on the Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge is available online. The scoping meeting for phase II will take place in June at Eden Landing. He extended an invitation to all committee members to a May 6 event at Eden Landing that will showcase the completion of phase I.

ISP in the news - Paul Rodgers was recently on a KQED program talking about native Spartina.

Donna Ball: Measure AA is critically important. Do what you can to spread the message, get people registered, and encourage people to vote.

Stuart Siegel: Expressed concern about some current opposition to the measure and some information that has been circulated. JV staff will meet with Stuart on these issues.

Marilyn Latta: The CEQA has just been completed for creosote piling removal - initial removals will take place at the former Red Rocks Warehouse site.

Sandra Scoggin: JV interns are working on collecting maps from partners to enter into EcoAtlas. Beta testing of new SediMatch tool will happen in June.

Beth Huning: WRDA 2016 - Working on putting new language into the bill in order to change the new federal standard with Corps, requiring them to do beneficial reuse. Preliminary funding is available if there is a cost share.

5. Coordinator's Update - Beth Huning, JV Coordinator

A couple quick notes about the RA and effort to pass this parcel tax measure.

- The Restoration Authority has clear language about how they would allocate money generated from this measure and how they will involve citizen oversight.
- The campaign effort has been divided among several organizations and we will start to see ads in the near future.

6. Prop 1 - Year 1 in review and looking ahead to future opportunities - Beth Huning, JV Coordinator

Beth presented an update on Prop 1 that focused on Protecting Rivers, Lakes, and Streams (Chapter 6). Chapter 6 has been allotted \$1.495 billion to fund projects through State Coastal Conservancy,

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Conservation Board, Ocean Protection Council, and Delta Conservancy.

List of upcoming deadlines for proposals:

- SCC – Will most likely be Green Infrastructure: June 30
- CDFW – Watershed Restoration Grant Program: TBA later in 2016
- CDFW – Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program: TBA later in 2016
- WCB – Stream Flow Enhancement Program: Summer 2016
- OPC – Round 2: Anticipated any time

Lessons Learned in Year 1:

- There are far more good projects than money
- Selling bonds and distributing funds over 10 years may result in missed opportunities for important projects
- Key to success with DFW is showing benefits to fish
- “Barriers to entry” – Most want large, multi-year projects Combine multiple smaller project sites into one proposal
- WCB will make smaller grants than CDFW
- Projects in Suisun area should apply to CDFW Delta program or the Delta Conservancy
- WCB considers SFBJV in grant-making; others consider projects in regional plans, including SFBJV Implementation Plan

The Conservation Delivery Committee meeting was adjourned until June 23