

**San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Restoration Strategy/Technical Committee
Tuesday, July 14, 2009 10:00 am-2 pm
State Coastal Conservancy 4th floor meeting room
1330 Broadway, Oakland**

Summary Meeting Notes

In attendance: Myla Ablog (*Literacy for Environmental Justice*); John Brosnan (*Sonoma Land Trust*); Jill Demers (*San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory*); Melanie Denninger (*State Coastal Conservancy*); Arthur Feinstein (*Citizen's Committee to Complete the Refuge*); Tom Gandesbery (*State Coastal Conservancy*); Amy Hutzal (*State Coastal Conservancy*); Michelle Jespersen (*State Coastal Conservancy*); John Krause (*California Department of Fish and Game*); Peter LaCivita (*US Army Corps of Engineers*); Mike Lynes (*Golden Gate Audubon*); Moira McEnespy (*State Coastal Conservancy*); Suzanne Olyarnik (*Audubon California*); Kristin Robrock (*Exponent*); Barbara Salzman (*Marin Audubon*); Christy Smith (*San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge*); Reneé Spent (*Ducks Unlimited*); Julian Wood (*PRBO Conservation Science*); David Yearsley (*Friends of the Petaluma River*).

Guests: Scott Bodensteiner, Kurt Frederick, Leonard Cardoza and Michael Drennan (*Weston Solutions*)

Staff: Beth Huning, *Coordinator*; Sandra Scoggin, *Assistant Coordinator*; Amy Zeng, *SFBJV Intern*

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Long term dredge management plan for San Francisco Bay - Consultants from Weston Solutions are working with the US Army Corps of Engineers on a Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP). The purpose of the discussion was to familiarize the SFBJV with the goals of the DMMP and to solicit feedback regarding projects potentially aligned with the DMMP goals. Committee members emphasized the challenges and costs to doing a Corps project and requested that the Corps consider ways to modify the process to allow smaller project sites, particularly those managed by NGO's, to be able to use dredge materials rather than hauling them offshore.

3. State of the Birds Report and SF Bay Proposal - Julian Wood of PRBO Conservation Science presented an overview of the recently released "State of the Birds Report." He outlined key national findings and reviewed findings from variety of PRBO studies regarding San Francisco Bay species. He proposed that a working group be created to produce a San Francisco Bay State of the Birds report with the goals of reaching a vast and diverse audience, heightening awareness, highlighting threats and data gaps, and enabling adaptive management systems. The general approach would be highly collaborative and would include consolidation of datasets, analyses, partner review, and production of a "Big splash" report with lots of outreach. *The committee agreed that this should be produced and approved taking that recommendation to the SFBJV Management Board.*

4. Impacts of Disturbance on Waterfowl Study – Final Report. Heather White presented findings from her graduate research, funded partially by the SFBJV. The presentation is posted on our website at and includes details of the hypotheses, study questions, study design and findings.

Final Study Findings:

- Most ducks in trials were divers with Ruddy Ducks making up the largest percentage of the divers.
- Wintering ducks, particularly Canvasback and Scaup species, show a clear response to minimal trail use disturbance.
- Distance response to trail use averaged 144m (mean+1SE).
- Phase 1 trail actions will double amount of habitat affected by trail use in project area.
- All South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Phase 1 actions could decrease suitable duck habitat by as much as 24%.

Suggested management recommendations include:

- If possible, locate trail at least 144m away from pond.
- If location cannot be manipulated, explore other buffer options (i.e. vegetated buffer).
- Enhance non-trail ponds to make up for trail-affected habitat.

The final results can be found at http://www.sfbayjv.org/tools.php#public_access_impacts

5. New project presentation – Mira Monte. The committee approved this project presented by Barbara Salzman of Marin Audubon for the purchase and permanent protection of tidal marsh and oak-wooded hill (former island, seasonal wetland and filled land that could be restored to marsh). The project includes a total of 63.5 acres in and adjacent to the Petaluma Marsh.

6. Announcements and Project Updates

David Yearsley: Has a new project he would like to propose for potential inclusion on the JV list. It is a small wetlands project consisting of .15 of new marshland near McNear Channel. The project is designed, approved, and ready to go for a total cost of \$100,000. *David will submit information about the project electronically to Sandra to get it on the list to be considered for adoption.*

Ellis Creek Water Facility is having their grand opening on July 31. The facility includes 2.8 miles of trails and restoration of wetlands and creek. It is modeled on the Arcata marsh. They create wildlife habitat while treating waste water.

Friends of the Petaluma River is offering river tours, both eco tours and social tours. They also offer charter trips. Visit friendsofthepetalumariver.org. for more information.

John Brosnan: John is leaving the Sonoma Land Trust as of December 1 to attend graduate school at the University of Minnesota in public policy/public affairs. His position will be open and would like JV partners to think about potential candidates.

Jill Demers: SFBBO is looking for funding to continue on their South Bay Salt Ponds surveys. They are currently looking at no money for this year. They have previously received funding from the Bay Fund and the USFWS.

Christy Smith: Skaggs Island– The BCDC check for \$8+ million was issued to the Navy for demolition of the buildings. The call for proposals for demolition will come out tomorrow. The refuge now has the potential to grow by adding Guadalcanal, Skaggs Island, and sections of Sears Point and Sonoma Baylands.

Karen Thorn has been doing a study on sea level rise in the San Pablo Bay.

Beth Huning: Laura Valoppi is the new science coordinator for the South Bay Salt Pond project.

The JV's Seasonal Wetlands and Design Review projects are still frozen. The JV will be receiving an extra \$75,000 to hire a science coordinator and will have a differential from this money to fund the seasonal wetlands revision. The Design Review program will continue to be on hold for now.

A mapping charrette was held in Sonoma County, hosted by the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation. This was the first of regional meetings to review and map seasonal wetlands as the first step in revising the SFBJV seasonal wetlands goals. Kevin Petrick of DU will compile the information and have the maps available. Future meetings in other regions will be held once the bond freeze on the contract is lifted or if DU and the Coastal Conservancy can negotiate reimbursement.

The San Pablo Bay III NAWCA grant was approved. Beth also participated in a meeting on the NAWCA small grants process. There has been a real issue with scoring that NAWCA staff acknowledged and agreed to address by revising their scoring process. The funding cap is \$75,000 with a deadline in November. If you are considering being part of a standard grant, don't submit a small grant. But otherwise, consider this funding source for your projects. Contact Beth if you are considering applying.

Sandra Scoggin: Thank you to Amy Zeng, SFBJV intern, for the great work in getting project information completed and updated in the SFBJV Project Tracking System and thanks also to partners for your prompt responses to her inquiries.

The Joint Venture's online database is being linked with the Avian Knowledge Network's California Avian Data Center, hosted by PRBO Conservation Science. This link will allow Joint Venture users access to species specific monitoring data including access to PRBO banding locations, PRBO Shorebird locations, Ebird sites, Breeding Bird Surveys and additional datasets.

Arthur Feinstein: SFBJV staff are working with SFEI to organize and host a workshop on CRAM for volunteer monitors, sometime in the winter. [NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting the first weekend in February has been identified.] Agencies are using cram

as a mechanism for monitoring restoration in estuaries and riparian and riparian habitats.

Barbara Salzman: The last invoice for Bahia has not yet been paid. Marin Audubon have been told by the contractor, Cooper Crane, that they will be sued for payment.

7. The Restoration Committee meeting of July 14 was adjourned