

**San Francisco Bay Joint Venture  
Restoration Strategy/Technical Committee  
March 5, 2008 10:30 am – 2:00 pm  
State Coastal Conservancy Office - 1330 Broadway  
11<sup>th</sup> floor meeting room**

**In attendance:** Marc Holmes, Chair, (The Bay Institute); Carol Arnold (Contra Costa Co. Resource Conservation District); Bob Batha (San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission) Giselle Block (US Fish and Wildlife Service); John Brosnan (Sonoma Land Trust); Pamela Calvert (Literacy for Environmental Justice); Cecille Caterson (California State Parks Foundation); Paul Curfman (Marin County Dept. of Public Works); Ken DiVittorio (PG&E); Arthur Feinstein (Citizens' Committee to Complete the Refuge); Juliana Gonzalez (Spawners); Susan Haydon (Southern Sonoma Resource Conservation District); Moira McEnespy (State Coastal Conservancy); Brad Olson (East Bay Regional Parks District); Michele Orr (Phil Williams and Associates); Michael Perlmutter (Audubon California); Kevin Petrik (Ducks Unlimited); Eli Saddler (Golden Gate Audubon); Dan Schurman (Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation); Reneé Spenst (Ducks Unlimited); Phil Stevens (Urban Creeks Council); Jason Sweeney (Southern Sonoma RCD); Kate Symonds (US Fish and Wildlife Service); Terri Thomas (Presidio Trust); Liz Warmerdam (City of Hercules); Isa Woo (US Geological Survey); David Yearsley (Friends of the Petaluma River).

**Staff:** Beth Huning, Coordinator; Sandra Scoggin, Assistant Coordinator

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

## **2. JV Implementation Plan Revision**

It is recommended that Joint Ventures update their Implementation Strategies approximately every 5 years. Since it has been about 7 years since the SFBJV strategy was released, the Management Board has agreed that it is time to start an update and requested that the RST Committee initiate the process, recognizing that it will take more than one year.

The discussion focused on the scope of work. It was agreed that the full strategy will not be updated, but focus on updating the seasonal wetlands goals that are being currently being initiated, any issues that have arisen since the strategy was completed, and those identified by the NAWMP Assessment Team. It was agreed that the scope of work will include sea level rise, a revision of seasonal wetland goals, energetic modeling for carrying capacity of waterfowl and shorebirds, and linkages with the Upland Goals and Sub-tidal Goals projects. A variety of questions arose that were slightly outside of the scope of the JV strategy. As there were a number of new participants at this meeting, it was noted that the JV strategy is a science-based document that has a focus bird population goals and habitat acreages to sustain these goals. The strategy is a document that guides implementation of JV priorities.

Implementation Strategy Revision Committee volunteers were requested. They include Arthur Feinstein, Marc Holmes, others? Phil Stevens volunteered to be involved in integrating with the upland goals. Others interested in assisting with any part of the update should contact Beth or Sandra.

### **3. Ramsar Nomination Process**

Mike Perlmutter gave an update on the status of the potential RAMSAR nomination for the San Francisco Bay. Bolinas Lagoon and Tomales Bay are already recognized as Ramsar sites, and Christina Sloop from the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation is working on designating the Laguna. Given the importance of San Francisco Bay, it too should be recognized. The designation would be a educational outreach tool as well as a tool to help leverage more funding, protection, and restoration for the Bay.

Nomination of San Francisco Bay for the Ramsar designation was initiated in the late 1980's. Mike located legislation sponsored by BCDC from 1990 recommending the Governor approve SF Bay as a Ramsar site. This legislation never made it past the governor's desk due to concerns for what the designation would mean for private landowners in the Bay.

To avoid conflicts with private landowners, a different process was used for nominating San Francisco Bay as a WHSRN (Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network) site. Only public lands were included unless private landowners volunteered at the nomination time, or later. The Committee agreed that this process will be the model for pursuing Ramsar designation.

Mike will coordinate the effort. A team will be assembled to provide necessary data for the application. He will need people to help assemble data for different sections of the application. Catherine Hickey of PRBO Conservation Science has expressed interest in working on this as well. The application should be coordinated but separate from that of the Laguna de Santa Rosa. He will coordinate through the JV.

### **4. Update on Seasonal Wetlands and Input on Process**

Kevin Petrik of Ducks Unlimited (DU) gave an update on the work that DU has been doing for the SFBJV. He presented the recent boundary adjustment between the San Francisco Bay JV and the Central Valley JV. This adjustment will be factored into goal recalculations. Next steps include reviewing the current goals and accomplishments, factoring in a variety of geographic constraints (including current and approved development projects) in the context of historic habitats and potential restoration, and assessing the status of what we know about the needs of birds through existing data. Regional meetings will be held to gather input from local experts within each region.

An advisory group was identified who will help determine the process and structure for collecting information at the regional meetings and for compiling the information. Members include John Brosnan, Arthur Feinstein, Barbara Salzman (previously identified), Dan Schurman, and Renee Spent. Locations for focal meetings were volunteered. The steering committee will coordinate by conference

call or meeting with the target of the first focus group taking place in April or May in Sonoma County.

## **5. SFBJV Mapping System**

Kevin provided an orientation of the SFBJV online Habitat Project Tracking System and introduced the new mapping system. When viewing the details of any project, users may jump instantly to the map display of that project with one click and vice versa. A sign-up sheet was circulated for those interested in obtaining a user name and password for the system. The importance of project managers keeping project information up to date was emphasized along with examples of how it is used by partners and funders.

## **6. Design Review Input**

Sandra gave a status report on the Design Review program. She distributed a summary of the adopted program function and types of expertise will potentially be represented on the review panels. The contracts are now in place, and work will begin within the next month. The initial steps will be to develop a team of reviewers for types of projects to be reviewed. Then eligible JV projects will be solicited through a request for proposals. Once a project is selected, a panel will be assembled to fit the biological and technical expertise being sought by the project lead. Sandra gathered suggestions of potential experts for the categories of: SFBJV RST Committee members; Ornithologists; Other Biological or Ecological expertise; Engineer/Scientists with Restoration Design experience; Hydrologists; Invasive Spartina experts; Invasives experts; Botanists; Mammologists; Geologists; Toxicologists; and Ichthyologists. Participants were encouraged to check with colleagues and send further suggestions and contact information to Sandra.

## **7. Project Adoption – Chelsea Wetlands**

The Chelsea Wetland project was presented at the December 2007 RSTC meeting. Further requested information regarding how this project meets the adoption criteria of the SFBJV was distributed prior to the March 5 meeting. The project was adopted by the SFBJV.

## **8. SFBJV Project Review**

Sandra distributed the tiered lists (Tier 1, Tier 2 and Other Active) that incorporated changes she received within the last week. The committee members present reviewed each of the tiered lists for accuracy. Sandra will follow up with those who provided additional information and updates at the meeting. Updated lists will be distributed when they are available – likely before the end of April.

## **9. Oil Spill Remediation Funding Process**

Brad Olson gave an update on the Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) of the Cosco Busan Oil Spill and discussed the project submission process. East Bay Regional Parks District is sitting as an advising organization to the NRDA Trustees. Remediation project focus will be on restoring bird and other wildlife populations that were directly impacted by the spill. There has to be some nexus to the injured resources. Brad encouraged attendees review the criteria that are on the website at <http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/southwest/cosco/public.html>.

Natalie Cosantino Manning will receive and coordinate project requests. There is no set application process or deadline. Settlement could take two to five years, but they will start immediately determining which projects should be on the list. Projects can be submitted using the form:

[http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/southwest/cosco/pdf/NRDA\\_Info\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/southwest/cosco/pdf/NRDA_Info_Sheet.pdf).

The SFBJV will also be submitting our tiered project lists.

Brad Olson invited anyone with questions to contact him at 510-544-2622 or [bolson@ebparks.org](mailto:bolson@ebparks.org). Or Natalie Cosantino Manning at 707-575-6081 or [natalie.c-manning@noaa.gov](mailto:natalie.c-manning@noaa.gov).

### **10. Announcements and Updates from Participants**

Mike Perlmutter: Audubon has launched a new project which includes tidal restoration on 60 acres at Tolay Creek on the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Audubon will be hiring a field technician. Check their website <http://ca.audubon.org/jobs.php> or the SFBJV website for information.

Phil Stevens: On behalf of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO), Phil let the group know that SFBBO is looking for an executive director.

Pam Calvert: Literacy for Environmental Justice has hired David Katz as their new interim director.

Cecille Caterson: The California State Parks Foundation is working on preventing the closure of state parks. Visit their website <http://www.calparks.org/> for more information and to help.

Arthur Feinstein: As the Chair of the SFBJV, he participated in Joint Venture week in Washington DC during which he went with numerous other JV partners to meet with agency staff and elected officials in a collective effort to secure more funding for JVs. The President's Budget includes a \$4 million increase for FT 09, \$1.5 for new JV's and \$2.5 for existing JV's to implement the federal bird conservation plans. Everyone is responsive joint ventures. However, it is unlikely that there will be a budget or any appropriations bills until after the election or even until a new administration takes office; so the federal government will operate on a continuing resolution.

The State Water Board is working on their Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy. The written comment deadline has passed. On March 18 there will be a hearing at the Water Board in Sacramento. They will be taking verbal comments.

Beth Huning: The JV created new fact sheets that were distributed in Washington DC. Copies were distributed and available either in print or pdf form through the JV.

A new report called "BANKING ON NATURE - The Economic Benefits of National Wildlife Refuge Visitation to Local Communities" was just released and is available on the JV website at <http://www.sfbayjv.org/tools.html#bon>.

Promotion for securing Land and Water Conservation funds to purchase the Haire Ranch property, an 1100 acre parcel in the middle of Napa Sonoma Marsh, is being considered by Audubon and other groups at the federal level.

Kate Symonds: The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is in its funding cycle. Check the Fish and Wildlife Service website, the JV website or the JV bulletin for more information.

Rick Morat will be retiring from his position with the Coastal Program for US Fish and Wildlife Service. He can be reached prior to March 27 at 916 414 6571.

Bob Batha: Pdfs of the BCDC sea level rise models are online at <http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/index.php?cat=56>.

BCDC will be hosting a workshop on wave islands as part of restoration on March 18. Check the BCDC web site for more information.

John Brosnan: The public EIR/EIS for the Sears Point restoration will be released soon.

Brad Olson: The Breuner acquisition has gone to trial.

Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8 will be Community Stewardship days at Berkeley Meadow.

Albany burrowing owls - The enhancement project will be proceeding to construction at the Albany Plateau in Eastshore State Park in April 2008.

Hayward shoreline – EBRPD is discussing with the Corps of Engineers and Fish and Wildlife Service a proposal to enhance Caspian Tern habitat at Hayward Regional Shoreline

Least Terns – Lots of successful fledging of chicks The District has been managing this habitat, including control on non-native vegetation and predators. Accordingly, least tern nesting and successful fledging of chicks have greatly increased. Dave Reinsche at the District is in charge of this program.

Caspian Terns - same as above

Isa Woo: The USGS is offering a free short course to assist resource managers in designing surveys for monitoring natural resources. It will be presented **April 7-11** by conference call with interactive web slides and demonstrations. The short course should provide a good introduction, which will allow participants to understand survey design concepts, as well as the issues and trade-offs which need to be

resolved, although it is not intended as a substitute for working with a professional statistician. The course is open to all who are interested. You will need to pay for long distance calls to our phone bridge in Iowa, but there are no other costs. If a conflict prevents you from participating in some of the sessions or you are only interested in some sessions, you are encouraged to register and participate in the sessions you wish.

For more information or to register, please go to  
<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/brd/SamplingCourse.htm>

**11. The meeting of March 5 was adjourned** with participants in the Prop. 84 workshops reconvening at the Oakland City Hall