

**San Francisco Bay Joint Venture  
Restoration Strategy/Technical Committee  
October 2, 2008 10:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Hamilton Field, Novato**

**In attendance:** Marc Holmes, Chair, (The Bay Institute); Joy Albertson (US Fish and Wildlife Service); John Brosnan (Sonoma Land Trust); Josh Collins (San Francisco Estuary Institute); Jill Demers (San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory); Ken DiVittorio (Pacific Gas & Electric Co.); Tom Gandesbery (State Coastal Conservancy); Rachel Kamman (Kamman Hydrology and Engineering, Inc.); John Klochak (US Fish and Wildlife Service); Marilyn Latta (State Coastal Conservancy); Teri Macias (Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation); Moira McEnespy (State Coastal Conservancy); Brad Olson (East Bay Regional Parks District); Suzanne Olyarnik (Richardson Bay Audubon); Michelle Orr (Phil Williams and Associates); Barbara Salzman (Marin Audubon Society); Maxene Spellman (State Coastal Conservancy); Reneé Spenst (Ducks Unlimited); Isa Woo (US Geological Survey); Julian Wood (PRBO Conservation Science); Larry Wycoff (Ca Dept of Fish and Game).

**Staff:** Beth Huning, Coordinator; Sandra Scoggin, Assistant Coordinator; Caroline Warner, SFBJV Public Outreach Coordinator

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Update on the SFBJV Design Review Program**

Sandra Scoggin provided background and information about the project design review program. The program will provide technical input to projects at various stages of planning and implementation, modeled partly after the former Design Review Group led by John Brosnan. The program is being provided at no charge to partners, is voluntary and is intended to provide expert technical review and feedback to projects to assist in the SFBJV goal to improve the outcome of projects around the Bay. The State Coastal Conservancy has provided funding to initiate this project. All contracts are in place to launch the program.

Sandra Scoggin handed out the final draft request for projects, circulated the list of confirmed reviewers, and thanked both John Brosnan and Roger Leventhal for the generous assistance they have provided in getting this program set up. The response from reviewers has been enthusiastic and more than 30 reviewers from a variety of disciplines have confirmed their participation. The request for submissions of projects seeking review will be finalized and distributed by mid October.

**3. Climate Change Coordination by the Joint Venture**

Caroline Warner briefly described the background and content of the SFBJV white paper on climate changes and wetlands, which has been developed this year at the request of the Management Board. The white paper provides recommendations for the JV coordinating role in addressing climate change, summarizes the current state of knowledge of climate change on wetlands habitats and species, and provides recommendations and resources. It is understood that this will be a living document with periodic updates as more information becomes available. The Management Board will consider approval of the white paper at the October 28 Retreat. It will then be distributed to partners to help them with their own climate change planning.

Caroline Warner walked the committee through the content of the white paper and information needs, including bird and habitat potential impacts and habitat restoration design recommendations. Committee members were invited to submit their expertise.

Key points from the discussion included:

1. It was suggested that the paper stress the need for collaboration and coordination as the only way to effectively address the challenges posed by climate change.
2. Brad Olson noted that the East Bay Regional Parks District is studying the effects of sea level rise along the Hayward Shoreline and will be issuing a report.
3. One key issue that needs to be addressed is the loss of transitional zone and upland habitat. We no longer have transitional zone habitats because of the hard edges of the Bay. If there is no high marsh built in to the designs of restoration projects, survival is more challenging for wildlife.

The white paper will be sent to committee members and posted on the JV web site.

#### **4. Watershed Goals, Watershed Designs: The next generation of conservation planning?**

Josh Collins of the San Francisco Estuary Institute led a lively presentation and discussion that covered past successes, current issues and future thinking in Bay Area Conservation. Josh also expressed an interest in connecting SFEIs work more closely with the SFBJV through his regular participation in the RST Committee. The invitation was welcomed and confirmed.

Josh reviewed lessons learned from developing the Habitat Goals Report, discussed elements of a successful regional habitat plan, and focused on the need for watershed planning. He also recommended revisiting the Baylands goals and suggested that the Restoration Committee would be a logical body of participants to either coordinate or vet the process.

The full presentation and content of Josh's presentation is available on the JV web site, <http://www.sfbayjv.org/committees.php#rstc>

#### **5. SFBJV RST Committee Work Plan**

Marc Holmes led a review of the 2008 work plan goals and accomplishments and reviewed suggestions for the 2009 work plan, which largely consists of continued items. The committee approved the proposed work plan, to be presented to the Management Board for approval at the October 28 Retreat.

#### **6. Announcements and project updates**

Brad Olson: Distributed a brochure for Measure WW, a measure to fund parks, recreation and restoration. It is a two county measure that has been very successful in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. It is not a new tax, but rather an extension of an existing tax. The campaign website is <http://www.yesforebparcs.com/>.

EBRPD is constructing fresh water wetlands south of Antioch and south of Byron as part of implementing the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservation Plan. They are also looking at vernal pools projects and have identified a potential new Regional Park in that area.

Berkeley Meadow: Ghilotti Brothers are working on final grades of Phase 2. EBMUD cut off the construction water, so the contractor had to buy treated wastewater and truck it in, increasing the cost of the project. Nearly half of the Phase 3 budget is for plant materials that need to be irrigated. EBRPD is

looking into irrigating with bay water and changing the plant palate to adapt to a more saline environment. EBRPD is hoping to implement Phase 3 of the project next year.

Tom Gandesbery –Tom is again the Conservancy project manager for Hamilton. He is focusing on building a coalition of the local stakeholders. The Conservancy plans to hire an organizer with experience in building local support for this project, expected to run for 15-20 years.

An additional 4-5 million cubic yards of dredge material will be needed to complete the project. The Port of Oakland has been delivering sediment from the Port deepening project, which is winding down. The Corps authorization for the off-loader is tied to the Port project. The project managers are seeking other ways to secure sediment for the project. One option is to develop a pit in the bay, similar to a disposal site, for use by multiple dredging projects, a more efficient way to deliver dredge materials to the site. An impact statement will soon be released, and briefings will be scheduled, including one with the JV Management Board.

Isa Woo: USGS, SFBE global climate change program and UC Davis graduate student, Karen Thorne, have gathered elevation data for the in the strip marsh in northern San Pablo Bay (south of Hwy 37, west of Mare Island, east of Tolay Creek) . They have gathered elevation, plant cover and plant height data throughout the marsh and will relate it to habitat availability for salt marsh harvest mice under different climate change scenarios. Initial findings were presented at the Calfed conference.

Isa recently attended a conference on Watersheds in Colorado. The focus was on adaptive management. Some issues were that the regulators were not in attendance and there were various controversies about how you manage people and resources. She suggested having a watersheds conference in the Bay Area.

Larry Wykcoff: The California Department of Fish and Game is moving forward with restoration at the Napa Marsh Plant Site. Construction will be completed in the northern ponds within the next week. They will be breaching, in spite of the fact that some regulators were concerned about sediment creation and recommended drilling pilings, which would increase the cost of the project significantly. Another \$10 million is needed to complete the restoration.

Napa Sonoma Marshes - WRDA did not free up any money for the northern ponds.

There is a serious need in the restoration community to find funding for maintenance and monitoring. Larry requested that the JV take an active role in helping to secure funding.

Maxene Spellman: The Invasive Spartina Project is completing this year's treatment. When the project was initiated there were 1400 acres needing treatment. They are now down to 300 acres being treated this year. Next year it may be down to 100. They have new monitoring techniques to find the remaining isolated patches. Maxene wanted to thank all the partners who have worked so hard to help make this project a success.

Joy Albertson: The South Bay Salt Pond project has obtained the US Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion, but has not yet received the NOAA Biological Opinion. They are waiting on this BO at which point the US Army Corps of Engineers can issue their permit. They hope to start phase 1 restoration at the SF2 very soon.

Bay Trail - The Bay Trail opening behind Moffet Field has been delayed.

Eden Landing – The Resources Legacy Fund is providing about \$200,000 for enhancement of several of the ponds for snowy plovers. This includes removal of wood structures that act as raptor perches and testing different methods of substrate enhancement to increase camouflage for the plovers on the ponds. The grant includes funding for SFBBO to manage the project and monitor the results.

The restoration at Outer Bair Island is going forward this fall. The bid packet will be completed by December. They are working on preliminary infrastructure for public access to Middle Bair Island.

Cullinan Ranch – The final EIS/EIR is nearing completion.

John Brosnan: The Sonoma Land Trust has just completed raising the funds we need to build the Baylands Education Center, so they are now working with Lundberg Designs in San Francisco on developing and refining drawings.

Marilyn Latta: The Subtidal Goals project is moving forward. Marilyn was hired as the new project manager and intends to increase communication and set a process to create recommendations for project managers, working with an Administrative Core Group (staff from Coastal Conservancy/Ocean Protection Council; BCDC; NOAA; SF Estuary Project). The San Francisco Estuary Institute is conducting mapping, data collection and preparation of a feasibility study of the removal or treatment options for creosote-treated pilings and other structures in San Francisco Bay and developing recommendations on reducing negative impacts from artificial substrates in San Francisco Bay.

The project has hired a new science advisor, Wim Kimmerer, from San Francisco State University. He holds a PhD in Oceanography, with a focus on plankton dynamics and estuarine modeling in SF Bay.

The project is hiring consultants to assist with restoration goal planning:

- 1) assess current distributions and ecology of native oysters (Chela Zabin, Ted Grosholz, UC Davis) and native eelgrass (Kathy Boyer, SFSU) in San Francisco Bay
- 2) they will begin to draft restoration targets, methods, and research needs for native oyster and native eelgrass habitat in the bay
- 3) work with focus groups to get feedback from regional and national experts in oyster and eelgrass restoration

Committee meetings will start up again January- June 2009 with Draft Subtidal Goals Document available for public comment summer 2009. Final Goals Document will be completed December 2009

Barbara Salzman: The first in a series of breaches to restore 300 acres of tidal marsh at Bahia will take place on Tuesday, October 7. Committee members are invited, and she will get the announcement to Sandra for distribution.

Tiscornia Marsh - Marin Audubon has received a donation of 20 acres of tidal marsh along the Bay in San Rafael.

Marc Holmes: A statewide watershed program is being created as an extension of the previous CALFED Bay-Delta Watershed Program. It will be administered through the Department of Conservation. The

purpose of the Watershed Program is to advance sustainable watershed-based management of California's natural resources through community-based strategies.

Rachel Kamman: The Miller Creek Watershed Council is made up of local agencies and property owners. If anyone needs a pilot watershed for planning, please talk to Rachel. Miller Creek drains into St Vincent's, just north of Hamilton.

Beth Huning: This week the Governor signed two important bills. The Volunteer Labor Bill temporarily resolves the need to pay prevailing wages to volunteers on restoration projects. AB 2954 creates a San Francisco Bay Authority to raise local funds for projects adopted by the JV.

Bay License Plate – The campaign has been launched to create a new source of funding for habitat restoration, conservation, recreation and public access projects throughout the nine-county Bay Area through the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program. Everyone was encouraged to purchase a plate and to promote the campaign. The plates cost \$50 for initial registration (\$90 for personalized plates), with a \$40 annual renewal fee (\$70 for personalized plates). Pledges can be made on-line at [www.bayarealicenseplate.org](http://www.bayarealicenseplate.org). 7,500 paid pledges are needed prior to July 22. Contact Lola Dvorak at 1-877-4SF-BAY1 or [lola@bayarealicenseplate.org](mailto:lola@bayarealicenseplate.org) for more information.

CRAM Workshop - SFEI will be hosting a workshop for volunteers on October 25 and 26 on the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) for wetlands evaluation. The workshop will be a combination of talks, panel discussions and wetlands field observation. Register online at <http://www.wrmp.org/workshop-reg/volunteerWSworkshop.html> or contact Meredith Williams at [meredith@sfei.org](mailto:meredith@sfei.org) or 510-746-7396 or Arthur Feinstein at [arthurfeinstein@earthlink.net](mailto:arthurfeinstein@earthlink.net) if you have questions. *[Subsequently cancelled. To be rescheduled.]*

**7. The SFBJV Restoration/Technical Committee meeting was adjourned to the Bahia Restoration Project Field Trip.**