



San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Management Board Meeting

May 24, 2022 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm via ZOOM

NOTES

In attendance: Caitlin Sweeney, Chair (*San Francisco Estuary Partnership*), Tom Gardalli (*Audubon Canyon Ranch*), Erika Castillo (*Coastal Region Mosquito Abatement*), Casey Arndt, (*Audubon California*), Greg Martinelli (*Ca Department of Fish and Wildlife*), Jessica Davenport and Catie Thow (*Ca State Coastal Conservancy*), Arthur Feinstein (*Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge*), Jeff McCreary (*Ducks Unlimited - joined at 1:21*), Dean Kwasny (*Natural Resources Conservation Service*), Sara Azat (*NOAA Fisheries*), Sam Veloz (*Point Blue Conservation Science*), Jessie Olson (*Save the Bay*), Keith Lichten & Lisa Horowitz McCann (*SF Regional Water Quality Control Board*), Annie Burke (*Together Bay Area*), Tessa Beach (*US Army Corps of Engineers*), Tom Kimball (*USGS Western Ecological Research Center*), Scott McFarlin (*Wildlife Conservation Board*), Chris Barr and Dan Blake (*USFWS*), Barbara Salzman (*Independent*), Rebecca Schwartz-Lesberg (*Independent*)

Guests: Jim Cogswell (*Central Valley Joint Venture*) and Ariana Rickard (*Sonoma Land Trust*)

SFBJV Staff: Sandra Scoggin and Caroline Warner

1. **Chair's Report** - Caitlin Sweeney, *Management Board Chair*

Caitlin welcomed everyone to the meeting. Notes from the February 22 board meeting were approved with no corrections. Caitlin noted that she and Sandra have been working to fill open board seats and have upcoming meetings with Luisa Valiela from US EPA and Jennifer Norris from the California Natural Resources Agency, representing the two remaining vacancies. She also noted that The Bay Institute has withdrawn from being a board member due to capacity issues. Arthur suggested that we may consider another entity to fill the niche of The Bay Institute, such as Baykeeper.

Action:

- *The Feb 22 meeting notes were approved.*

2. **Coordinator's Report** Sandra Scoggin, *Coordinator*

Caitlin introduced this item with gratitude to all involved and excitement about the quality of the updated SFBJV Implementation Plan (IP) that we will soon release.

Sandra reviewed progress to date on both the IP update and the 2 year Operational Plan (OP), reminded the Board of the purpose and value of each plan, and noted who has served in a leadership role to guide their development. She pointed out how the focus areas, activities, tactics and tools, and key drivers in the OP directly link to the IP and named the proposed draft Focus Areas in the OP: adaptation and resilience planning, green tape, sediment, funding and operations and administration. She also went through the intended structure of the plan and the timeline with a hope to approve it by mid July in advance of the August board meeting. The remainder of the time was spent in discussions which are captured and incorporated into further rounds of discussion and updates to the draft OP. Her presentation is available [here](#).

She then went on to describe two new positions that the SFBJV will be hiring over the next two months for board discussion and approval.

Follow up requests/Actions:

- *The Management Board was asked to be ready to review the revised final draft of the Implementation Plan and register their approval when it is sent in early June.*
- *The two new job descriptions were approved and SFBJV staff will be sharing them widely once a few small additions are made.*

3. New Management Board member application - Tom Gardali, Audubon Canyon Ranch

At the last Board meeting, Tom Gardali, CEO of Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) was not present when the board voted to approve him as an individual member. Staff followed up to determine whether he intended to apply as an individual or on behalf of ACR. As his preference was to serve on the board as a representative of ACR, he was invited back to discuss the addition of ACR as a board member organization. The proposal was discussed and approved.

Action:

- *Audubon Canyon Ranch was approved as a new SFBJV Management Board member organization with Tom Gardali serving as its representative.*

4. Highway 37 Update and Next Steps - Ariana Rickard, Sonoma Land Trust

Ariana gave a brief overview on planning efforts and recent activities by Caltrans and the Baylands team related to the highway development process along Highway 37. Sonoma Land Trust has created a position paper to express their support for implementing the ultimate project plan now, one of three being considered, and the only long-term resilient solution. Board members engaged in a robust conversation and expressed their support for SLT's paper. Caitlin closed by saying the reason to bring this topic to the board now is both for the obvious interest in the nature of the project to all and because there may be a time sensitive request to sign on to a support letter in the future. A link to her presentation can be found [here](#).

5. State Coastal Conservancy Strategic Plan - Jessica Davenport, State Coastal Conservancy

Jessica and Catie Thow used an [online idea board](#) to engage the board in the strategic planning process underway at the Coastal Conservancy. With a significant bump in funding for coastal resilience (\$400 million) slated for FY 22/23 and another \$150 million anticipated for FY 23/24 the Conservancy is embarking on an intensive effort to survey the community about what they think SCC should focus on and devote these resources to.

In conclusion, Jessica noted there are more ways to engage including a survey <https://scc.ca.gov/about/plan/> and upcoming listening sessions and topical webinars. Contact email: strategicplan@scc.ca.gov. To join email list: <https://bit.ly/36coZMI>.

6. Tour of the soon-to-be-launched SFBJV Website - Caroline Warner

Caroline shared a sneak preview of the developing new website with a cross-comparison of our existing website to point out changes and improvements. The new WordPress site has been designed by Cry Baby and is in the final stages of development. Caroline is currently reviewing all the internal pages and will provide feedback to Scott Hutchins of Cry Baby for integration, then pass it along to a 6 partner review team who will also assess and comment on content before the site goes live. We anticipate launching the new website some time in August in sync with the completion of the IP and the onboarding of new staff so that they can be trained on how to use the new site and make additions and/or changes going forward.

7. Announcements - All

Sandra

- We are having a celebration and thank you event for Caroline Warner - July 13 from 4:30 to dark at the Lyford House (rescheduled to August 3)
- We may be joined in August board meeting by National JV staff (postponed)

Rebecca

- Vallejo Watershed Alliance - partnership of the Vallejo Stormwater District, Greater Vallejo Recreation District, City of Vallejo, friends groups, community volunteers doing great work with community cleanups. Great convening point and meeting point to be aware of and connect with.

Keith

- Water Board is thrilled to be soon welcoming a new Executive Officer, Eileen White as of July 11. Currently, she currently heads up EBMUD.

Barbara

- Marin Audubon received a grant from the SFBRA for Tiscornia Marsh. Also received a grant from OPC.

Scott

- WCB has new guidelines and a new application process. Continuously open to pre applications. You can submit any time and don't need to specify which program, WCB will help determine which source is most appropriate. All programs have funding.

Jessica

- June 24 SFBRA board meeting will be action packed. Four new projects - including two in the west bay - SAFER Bay project, Grassroots Ecology for community partnership project for planting and invasive plant removals, De-pave Park, and Regionally Advancing Living Shorelines Projects.
- Advisory committee has updated equity recommendations and a new plan for developing a tribal engagement policy.

Chris

- Have hired their new Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge Manager, Ann Garrett. She has 20 years experience working for NOAA Fisheries and years of leading teams in various environments.

Our next two meeting dates will be on: August 30, 1-4 pm and November 29, 1-4 pm