



## San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Management Board Meeting

November 15, 2021 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

### NOTES

**In attendance:** Caitlin Sweeney - Chair (SF Estuary Partnership), Renee Spent and Jeff McCreary (Ducks Unlimited), Casey Arndt (Audubon California); Sara Azat (NOAA Fisheries), Erika Castillo (Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District), John Coleman (Bay Planning Coalition), Jessica Davenport (State Coastal Conservancy), Arthur Feinstein (Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge), Steve Goldbeck (Bay Conservation and Development Commission), Tom Kendall (US Army Corps of Engineers), Tom Kimball (US Geological Survey), Dean Kwasny (Natural Resources Conservation Service), Thomas Leeman (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Greg Martinelli (California Department of Fish and Wildlife), Mike Lynes (Audubon California), Mike Montgomery (SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board), Barbara Salzman (Independent), Rebecca Schwartz Lesburg (Independent), Renee Spent (Ducks Unlimited), Caitlin Sweeney (SF Estuary Partnership), Julian Wood and Sam Veloz (Point Blue Conservation Science)

**Staff:** Sandra Scoggin, Coordinator and Caroline Warner, Communications and Outreach Coordinator

**Guests:** Kate Freeman (Ducks Unlimited); Austin McNerny and Bill Keene (consultants)

#### 1. Bayland restoration and enhancement goals and working definitions - Renee Spent and Kate Freeman [[presentation link](#)]

**Action:** After the presentation and discussion, the Board voted to approve the following proposed habitat goal percentages:

- North Bay: Restore interim 40% of baylands to tidal action and enhance 60% to maintain nontidal habitat, while working towards a 70% tidal: 30% nontidal goal
- Central Bay: Restore 80% of baylands to tidal action; Enhance 20% to maintain nontidal habitat
- South Bay: Restore 75% of baylands to tidal action; Enhance 25% to maintain nontidal habitat;

**Action:** The group then discussed and voted to approve the following EcoAtlas habitat activity definitions, with the caveat to advise our partners to only use the restoration/re-establishment option and not the restoration/rehabilitation option adding that any situation warranting particular considerations can be described in the text.

- **Acquisition/Preservation/Protection:** Acquisition refers to the purchasing of land to protect it from development and/or with the intention to restore or enhance habitat. Preservation refers to maintaining the land in its current state. Protection refers to the removal of a threat to the land as described by the Activity Type.
- **Restoration/Re-establishment:** Restoration/Re-establishment refers to restoring habitat that was once present but is no longer present. Re-establishment results in a net increase in habitat area and function.
- **Restoration/Rehabilitation:** Restoration/Rehabilitation refers to restoring habitat that was once present, but was developed or altered at some point. Rehabilitation is a form of restoring a degraded habitat back to reference, and results in only a net

increase in function.

- **Enhancement:** Enhancement refers to targeted improvement of specific function(s) of existing habitat.
- **Creation:** Creation refers to the construction of habitat that did not occur, or would not progress naturally in a particular location.

There was also a recommendation to include a graphic of our original goals alongside the updated goals to underscore what we have accomplished, while also showing there is a lot more to do if we are to increase scope and scale of restoration.

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

### **Actions:**

- The July 27 [Meeting Notes](#) were approved
- Board voted to approve a letter of support for the [WRMP Funding Proposal](#) to the SF Bay Restoration Authority, similar to the one included in the packet as [attachment D](#), with only those agencies and organizations who are able and voiced support at the meeting.

### **Notes:**

- Sandra has been elected to be the first official WRMP Chair with Erika Castillo serving as Vice Chair.

## 3. [Coordinator's Report](#) - Sandra Scoggin, Coordinator

- Sandra acknowledged and thanked those who reviewed the draft *Biosolids white paper* - Jessica Davenport, Caitlin Sweeney, Sam Veloz, Barbara Salzman, and Jeff McCreary. This document is expected to be released in late November.
- Sandra will be leaving the country temporarily to help move Sandra's husband's parents out of Cuba to Spain and working more part time during her absence for some of December and into January.
- As part of an IPR Update ([presentation](#)):
  - members were told they will be receiving Chapter 4 to review within the next few days and given a 3 week period for that review.
  - Changes to Chapter 3 were also noted due to the strategic planning process going on.
  - Chapter 2 will also be coming to IPT in mid December and on to the board late Jan or early February.

## 4. **Implementation Plan and Strategic Planning** - Austin McNerny, and Bill Keene [[Presentation](#) - based on [outline](#)]

Austin and Bill shared progress to date on strategic planning efforts to ultimately operationalize our Implementation plan into a 1-2 year work plan. Their presentation included the following requests and next steps:

- Members were asked to review and provide comments on [Attachment E](#) by Nov 17 to help us ensure we have a complete suite of potential actions related to our identified priorities and strategies.
- They will follow up with a survey to the entire partnership soon after to poll them/everyone on our most urgent actions needed in the near term to achieve our goals.
- They will also interview select leadership in December to further determine what is considered most important and meaningful to tackle over the next 2 years.

- These actions will be followed by a retreat style workshop in January
- With the intention to produce/finalize a usable working document by March.

**5. Update on SFBJV committee focused on equity - Casey Arndt, Audubon California**  
[\[Presentation\]](#)

Casey shared an updated version of the [DEI committee charter](#) reflecting an intention to start with some internal work regarding inclusivity in our meetings, partnership, and projects, followed by taking those same values and weaving them into our habitat and restoration goals.

- While all are supportive of this effort, several members voiced concern about the time commitment and hope we might also “piggyback” on what others are doing. There is a lot being asked of diverse communities.
- Also noted to find a universal acronym and make sure environmental justice is part of it.
- Rebecca, Steve, and Erika expressed interest in being on the committee.

**Action:**

- A motion to establish a standing equity focused committee was unanimously approved.

**6. Committee Reports - Project Adoption(s) - Julian Wood, Conservation Delivery Chair**

Five recommended project adoptions came before the Conservation Deliver Committee since the Board last met in two separate meetings: Napa River Estuary Enhancement and Public Access Project - acquisition phase; Richardson's Bay Adaptive Eelgrass Restoration Project - planning phase; Eden Landing Snowy Plover Enhancement - full project; Petaluma River Park - planning phase; Rehabilitating Essential Fish Screens of Suisun Marsh for Habitat Resiliency - full project.

**Action:** All 5 projects for adoption were approved by the Board

**7. Announcements**

Mike Montgomery: Have finished their review of assessments they need to do as part of the Basin Plan Amendment and have noted five projects, including climate related work, stream health (reconnecting creeks and streams to the bay for purposes of reaching sediment accretion), and a minor modification to prioritize work looking at tribal cultural uses and subsistence fishing. Can find the full summary in their most recent staff report on their website.

Greg Martinelli: They breached the Hill Slough Wildlife area and will be continuing work here for a couple more weeks, hoping to finish by the end of November. The project includes over 900 acres of restoration (600 plus of tidal). Thank you Ducks Unlimited for all their help.

Dean Kwasny: The application period is open for both wetland easement 5.7 million and agricultural easement programs 6.8 million. Closes December 1.

Jessica Davenport: Thanks to NRCS, the SFBRA is bringing recommendation to the board to support Sonoma Land Trust to acquire the fee title for Camp 4 ranch on which NRCS will be purchasing a wetland reserve easement. This project along with WRMP item will be the main topics at their upcoming board meeting on December 10. For HWY 37 - late breaking news - public meeting this Wed to discuss from 101 to 121 interim flood protection efforts. It is a very uncertain project/scoping phase for an EIR if interested to attend - if you want that info email Jessica.

Caitlin Sweeney: At the December SFBRA meeting there will be a presentation on the Pacheco Marsh breach.

Sandra Scoggin: WRMP Open House upcoming on Dec 8.

Tom Kimball: The Corps was able to get Cullinan Ranch funded in their continuing authorities program (CAP) so they should be able to offset some of the cost of dredge placement activities moving forward

Caroline Warner:

- the opportunity to [comment on the state climate adaptation strategy](#) - ends on Nov 17
- and opportunity to California Natural Resources Agency has extended the deadline through Nov 24 [public comment on its draft Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy](#)

Group photos - taken at start of meeting

