



San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Management Board Meeting

February 22, 2022 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

NOTES

In attendance: Caitlin Sweeney - Chair (SF Estuary Partnership), Erika Castillo (Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District), Casey Arndt (Audubon California), Greg Martinelli (Ca Dept of Fish and Wildlife), Jessica Davenport (Ca Coastal Conservancy), Arthur Feinstein & Carin High (Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge), Jeff McCreary (Ducks Unlimited), Dean Kwasny (Natural Resource Conservation Service), Sara Azat (NOAA Fisheries), Sam Veloz (Point Blue Conservation Science), Jessie Olson (Save SF Bay), Keith Lichten (SF Regional Water Quality Control Board), Tom Kendall (US Army Corps of Engineers), Chris Barr and Dan Blake (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Tom Kimball (US Geological Survey), Scott McFarlin (Wildlife Conservation Board), Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg (Independent), Barbara Salzman (Independent)

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

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

Action:

- The November 15 [meeting notes](#) were approved with a noted correction to the spelling of Rebecca's last name and removal of two duplicates in the attendance list.

2. **Introducing Dan Blake, Migratory Bird Chief, Region 8**

Dan introduced himself, discussed his background, and noted a keen interest in landscape and ecosystem-scale conservation. He is excited to learn more about our JV and to see ways he can be engaged and assist all California JVs work toward their goals.

3. **[Coordinator's Report](#) & [Budget](#)** - Sandra Scoggin, Coordinator & Caroline Warner, Communications and Outreach Coordinator

Sandra reviewed SFBJV milestones and accomplishments from 2021, a year complicated by the ongoing Covid crisis but also with some new opportunities resulting from the infrastructure spending bill and the 30 X 30 initiative set forth by our new administration. She thanked JV leadership and the entire board for their contributions to the work we collectively do. In addition to highlights from the past year, Sandra discussed what is on deck for the months ahead. Top priorities include the completion of our Implementation Plan and operationalizing the IP into a 2-year work plan. She reviewed several funded projects, their related tasks and deliverables and walked board members through other details of the 2022 budget.

Her presentation is available [here](#).

Action:

- The Management Board approved the 2022 proposed budget

Caroline followed with an emotional pronouncement that she will be leaving her position at the SFBJV some time in June. She is committed to assisting with and completing key projects including the Fly-in virtual hill visits, the in-process website overhaul, helping to coordinate the design of the IP, the strategic planning process, and onboarding of new staff to fully support Sandra as the SFBJV moves forward into this new chapter. Caroline will be available for communications contract work to the partnership as needed.

Sandra and several partners expressed gratitude for all that Caroline brought to the JV and well wishes for her future. She was acknowledged not only for her broad range of accomplishments, but for her positive energy and enthusiasm. We hope to meet in person in May and have some time to reflect and celebrate in person. *[update - farewell event scheduled for July 13]*

4. Future of the SFBJV - what would we do with additional funding? - *Jeff McCreary, DU and Chair of the Association of JV Management Boards (AJVMB)*

Jeff reported on his recent meeting with new USFWS Director, Martha Williams who is familiar with and supportive of JVs. He spoke about the current AJVMB ask for 19.9 million dollars (1234 congressional line item allocation) and how that may be augmented by other federal sources (Farm Bill, NRCS, NOAA, EPA) to reach 41 million - the amount all JV Coordinators estimated they would need to take on an increased role in addressing the 3 billion bird decline. The AJVMB request to Martha is for her to ask Congress for 19.9 million, and to engage in conversations with leaders in other areas of government to consider how the USFWS can be the bridge between federal agencies and other departments.

Jeff asked members to consider and share ideas about how we might spend extra money if it comes through. Sandra shared the spreadsheet compiled by all JV Coordinators to show what funding was suggested to go to to implement an increased role. To truly address the decline, much more than \$41 million would be needed, so this is intended to be funding for operations, which would then be leveraged to bring in and coordinate funding for projects and initiatives.

Comments and suggestions from the discussion included:

- Adequate staffing would be key, including administrative staff;
- The SFBJV could be a host for a North Bay conservation coordinator, similar to the role that Dave Halsing plays for the South Bay Salt Ponds;
- Consider re-starting the design review program - the California Coastal Conservancy would consider cost sharing;
- It would be good to know which of the federal sources require non-federal match so that the conservancy could consider if those are good fits for their funding sources;
- We would need to consider whether the funding is temporary and be strategic in how we plan for the increase in funding; and
- We should consider how best to support project work and tell the story of our work to help engage audiences and inspire action.

5. Migratory Bird JV Fly-in update - *Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg, Policy Committee Chair*

Rebecca gave an overview of the annual Fly-in purpose, the historical context and the unique nature of doing them all virtually again this year. She is leading the 2022 effort and in the midst of

scheduling our visits for next week and invited anyone who is interested to join if they are able and haven't been involved in the past.

6. New Management Board member application - Tom Gardali, ACR - Caitlin Sweeney

Tom Gardali, CEO of Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR), requested to join our Management Board via a letter and resume included as [Attachment E](#) in the packet. Tom was not present at the meeting.

The discussion centered on Tom's qualifications and there was broad support for approving Tom as an individual, however several questions came up about Audubon Canyon Ranch that no one present could address. As it was not clear if the request was to become an independent member or to represent ACR, the board decided to approve Tom as an individual member and to invite him to come back at a future meeting if he prefers to be on the board as a representative of ACR.

Action:

- *The Board approved Tom Gardali as an independent member of the Board*

7. Website revision update - Caroline Warner

The revised website content is currently in the hands of the designer who anticipates having the design comps completed by the week of March 7. Caroline is looking for partners to help "test drive" and make sure it accommodates the needs of our many user-partners. Board members were invited to suggest staff from their organizations to help with this important phase of the project. Rebecca offered to assist, and Jessica suggested Taylor Samuelson.

Follow up:

- Caroline will check with Taylor and confirm with Rebecca along with the 4-5 others who have offered and the review process should be taking place mid March

8. Announcements - All

The following meeting dates were confirmed for 2022 meetings:

- May 24, 1-4 pm
- August 30, 1-4 pm
- November 29, 1-4 pm

Arthur Feinstein - [The CNRA draft 30X30 strategy](#) which was open for public review through Feb 15 does not categorize SF Bay as a coastal estuary and instead intends to call the Bay, "land". Members were very concerned about this for a variety of reasons including challenges that could arise around "coastal resilience funding" and many said they will bring the issue up with their respective organizations. *The board agreed that Sandra should work with Arthur and Carin High to write a letter to the California Natural Resources Agency expressing our concerns on behalf of the SFBJV partnership.* Jessica Davenport - noted that the SFBRA board meeting is Friday, Feb 25. [The agenda](#) includes [6 projects](#) anticipated to be recommended for funding after a tough round where only 10 million was available to distribute and 40 million was requested.

Barbara Salzman - added that Tiscornia Marsh is one of the 6 projects on the SFBRA agenda.



Board meeting zoom screen shot taken at start of meeting before Tom Kendall joined by phone