

## San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Coordinator's Report

**TO:** SF Bay Joint Venture Management Board and Other Interested Parties

**FROM:** Beth Huning, Coordinator

**DATE:** October 18, 2017

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*This report is an overview of activities of the Joint Venture and significant developments since the Management Board meeting on July 25, 2017.*

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### A. News of Note from the Joint Venture

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#### 1. **Joint Venture Management Board Meeting, October 31, 2017 10:30 am - 2:30 pm** **MetroCenter Conference Room - 8102 Golden Gate** in San Francisco.

Our October meeting traditionally is the time when we have our annual planning retreat to develop our work plan for the coming year and discuss other big-picture issues. However, due to the development of the Implementation Plan (IP), the Executive Committee recommended putting off the full retreat until we have more of the Implementation Plan completed. Instead, we will hold an extended Management Board meeting to address some recommendations for the annual work plan and develop a process for developing it and the FY18 operating budget.

This Management Board meeting will focus on the following:

- The four SFBJV working committees will report on major accomplishments in FY17 and activities this past quarter. The information presented will be discussed as the basis of our annual work plan for 2018.
- We will discuss outcomes of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Future of Waterfowl 2 workshop and implications for the SFBJV as we revise our Implementation Plan, including a presentation by Dr. John Eadie of UC Davis.
- We will provide an update on the status of the Implementation Plan revision.
- Beth Huning and Sandra Scoggin will share the Open Standards for Conservation methodology and conceptual models and discuss how it has been used by the SFBJV for program planning and its application to the Implementation Plan.
- Caroline Warner will share information about Human Dimensions along with some suggestions about how to incorporate it into the Implementation Plan and outreach in the coming year.
- We plan to share a basic budget report from FY 17 and decide upon a process for developing and adopting our FY18 operating budget in conjunction with the development of the 2018 work plan.

#### 2. **SFBJV Implementation Plan Revision Update**

Since the last Management Board meeting, the following activities have contributed to developing the Implementation Plan:

- **Implementation Plan Team (IPT)** - The IPT [met on August 18](#) to review the status of work to date and provide guidance as the work teams continue their assignments. They reviewed and reaffirmed the

role of the IPT in guiding the process, the recommended process for updating our habitat acreage goals, and discussed whether and how to incorporate species population objectives as presented by Julian Wood of Point Blue at past meetings. Also discussed was how bold the JV should be in recommending policy actions, including addressing climate change through policy. In summary, the IPT wants the work teams and the JV to:

- Ensure the driving forces that were developed in the July 2015 Management Board retreat are fully addressed in the revised plan.
  - Fully address climate change in the introduction and throughout the plan.
  - Discuss what the next steps are after the Implementation Plan is revised.
- **Science** – The Science Team/SSC [met on August 17](#). Work this quarter has focused on providing guidance and resources to John Hart for his work on the introduction to the science chapter, making decisions related to Net Landscape Change, particularly focused on upland transition zones, and providing guidance and input to the habitat goals setting work plan.

John Hart has drafted an introduction to the Science Chapter that is currently under review.

- **Habitats** – The IPT confirmed the decision from the SSC that the SFBJV numeric acreage goals will be broad and based on opportunity, existing plans, and multi-benefit principles rather than on any single or combination of specific habitat quality metrics. Teams will continue to discuss how best to incorporate habitat quality into Implementation Plan objectives, strategies, and actions.

The [habitat goals setting work plan](#) has been reviewed by the SSC and IPT and input solicited and incorporated. Work has begun on to implement actions identified in this plan, and we expect to have more to report at the January 2018 Management Board meeting.

- **Species** – The species team held a conference call on September 14 to flesh out the approach to species and population goals setting. The team took a step back from their focus on setting population objectives to put the discussion into a broader context of the overall approach the JV may want to take in setting objectives and strategies for species. The team is considering using an Open Standards approach to identify species goals and objectives and to pull in existing information from already completed planning processes.

Mark Petrie of Ducks Unlimited will recalculate and update the waterfowl population targets for the SFBJV stepped down from the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. We should have those new goals before the end of 2017.

- **Policy** – The Government Affairs Committee and Policy work group met on October 18. They developed a framework for the policy chapter. It was noted that our original 2001 Implementation Plan did not have a policy chapter, although policy and advocacy has become a major tool for the SFBJV to accomplish our habitat delivery goals. A draft SFBJV white paper on climate change policy and planning processes has been written by Brenna Mahoney. This paper will be integrated with the policy chapter per suggestions from the Policy work group.

The introduction to the policy chapter has been drafted by writer, John Hart, edited by a core team from the policy work group, and reviewed by policy work group committee members. Comments were discussed at the October 18 meeting and edits to the introduction will be incorporated as the remainder of

the policy chapter is developed. The group recommended that an executive summary be developed for the chapter and suggested that we may want to do the same for each chapter.

### **3. SFBJV Joint Venture Federal Operating Funds and FY 18 Operating Budget**

- **FY17 Joint Venture Cooperative Agreement** – The FY 17 federal cooperative agreement between the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Point Blue Conservation Science is finally in place after freezes by the Administration were lifted for some agreements, including Joint Ventures. Changes this year to “off the top” expenses resulted in a small increase for each JV in spite of flat funding. The SFBJV contract after regional overhead is taken, is for 382,086. An additional \$15,000 was withheld from the agreement and contracted directly to SFEI for the project tracker. The money is available now for our FY18 operating budget.

- **SFBJV Operating Budget** – Our fiscal year coincides with the federal fiscal year, which ended on September 30. Although we are officially into FY18, we have yet to finalize a work plan as a basis for allocating remaining discretionary funds from FY17. Our FY18 operating budget should be coordinated with the annual work plan. A process for efficiently developing a budget in conjunction with the work plan will be discussed at the October 31st Management Board meeting.

### **4. FY18 Work Plan**

Because the revision of the Implementation Plan has occupied the working committees this past year, the regular meeting schedules have been impacted or consumed with Implementation Plan work. Therefore, unlike in past years when we have done our retreat in October and provided input or adopted a work plan, the working committees have not yet discussed FY18 work plan priorities other than completing the work of the Implementation Plan.

Much of the proposed work for FY18 will be a continuation of FY17. In addition to the Implementation Plan and ongoing work, we have identified the following program activities that will carry over or will be recommended as priorities into FY18:

- **Project Tracker** – The dashboards for reporting are under development. When complete, the dashboards will enable the JV to generate written and graphic reports. Work continues on tracking project information, as well as integrating our project lists with those of the Restoration Authority.

- **SF Bay Restoration Authority (RA) and Measure AA** – The first round of Measure AA funds will be distributed in the coming year. Participating on the RA Advisory Committee and having input into guidelines, the RFP, and project selection continues to be a priority to ensure that SFBJV projects are well-funded.

- **BCDC Bay Plan amendments** - Once BCDC staff initiate the process to amend the Bay Plan, a team of SFBJV partners has been identified to provide SFBJV input sooner rather than later. This will likely occur in the last quarter of 2017 and the first half of 2018.

- **Participating in climate change planning processes** - The SFBJV white paper on climate change policy has identified several planning processes where the SFBJV can have impact in helping to craft

policies for shoreline resiliency in the context of our goals. Partners will be participating and representing SFBJV perspectives.

- **Seeking funding for and supporting SFBJV habitat delivery projects** – Helping partners deliver habitat projects is a major role of the SFBJV, both through the Conservation Delivery Committee and SFBJV staffing.
- **Healthy Watersheds EPA grant and sediments budgets** – SediMatch has received additional funding through this grant to add fields and search options to our sediment match-making web site.
- **Net Landscape Change (NLC)** - A proposal is under development that brings together the NLC of all priority habitats with linkages to project tracking and monitoring priorities.
  - **Upland Transition Zones (UTZ)** – A current program focus of our Net Landscape Change science priority, the SFBJV has funded some of the work by Brian Fulfroost to help identify and prioritize where UTZ’s can be incorporated into restoration projects. Other partners are currently considering contributing to this project. If you attended the “Future of Restoration” session at the State of the Estuary Conference, you saw some of the work presented by David Thomson.
  - **Mudflat mapping** – A continuation of our mapping project for the South Bay, the SFBJV is still seeking funding to map the remaining mudflats in other regions of the Estuary which will provide baseline information on the extent of mudflats. We ask our partners who may have access to funds to please consider directing some toward this project so that we can complete it in FY18.
- **SR 37 Planning** – Redesign of Hwy 37 will be an ongoing activity over the next several years. It represents one of the best opportunities to deliver on our North Bay vision for habitats and potentially the greatest obstacle. With the State Coastal Conservancy and Sonoma Land Trusts as leads, the SFBJV is working in an advisory capacity to help ensure that participants on work groups articulate our vision and to assist partners as they address policy actions.
- **“Restoration IS Working” - SFBJV 20th anniversary video campaign** - The last two video shorts that were budgeted in FY17 are under development but not yet fully completed. The video shorts for our Suisun and Russian River sub-regions should be completed by year’s end. We will continue to promote them all, assess the campaign, and determine whether or not to continue producing more as well as outreach needs.

The working committees will provide reports, along with their recommendations for the next work plan - many of which are described above - for consideration at our Management Board meeting. The Management Board will determine an efficient process to finalize and implement a work plan and budget for FY18 as soon as is feasible.

## **5. SF Bay Restoration Authority and Measure AA Update**

Congratulations to all of our partners who helped make Measure AA a reality!

- **RFP** - The first RFP for Measure AA funds has been released. The annual \$12 parcel assessment will generate about \$25 million annually for wetlands restoration, or \$500 million over the next 20 years.

Program goals are:

- reducing trash
- improving water quality
- restoring habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife

- protecting communities from floods
- increasing public shoreline access and recreational opportunities

SFBJV staff helped generate the project list, which will be updated annually. Extra credit will be given for proposals that are SFBJV supported projects, and applicants are encouraged to check with the SFBJV as part of the application process.

A webinar was held for potential applicants on October 4. Proposals are due on November 15. The RFP can be downloaded from the [SF Bay Restoration Authority web site](#).

• **Advisory Committee** - The Restoration Authority Advisory Committee met on October 13. Letitia Grenier presented an overview of the Baylands Goals Update for Climate Change and discussed how Measure AA funds can help with implementation. The group confirmed there is a need for an ongoing education program to help Advisory Committee members provide informed recommendations.

## **6. North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and the Future of Waterfowl 2 Workshop**

The NAWMP is the original basis for the creation of Joint Ventures. They were formed to implement the NAWMP and other federal bird conservation plans. The NAWMP is being updated in 2018, after a major revision in 2012 when it was significantly changed and started including objectives for people. This resulted in the NAWMP taking the lead on incorporating Human Dimensions in conservation planning.

The Future of Waterfowl 2 Workshop was the follow-up needed to provide input into the 2018 update. Beth Huning and Management Board member Diane Ross-Leech were 2 of the 150 invited participants who gathered for the workshop September 26-27 at the National Conservation and Training Center in Shepherdstown WV. The two major elements addressed at the workshop were:

- detailed presentations of results of extensive polling that can help guide future conservation efforts, and
- a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of the NAWMP to provide input into the 2018 update.

The surveys were some of the larger conservation polls taken in recent years. They polled 3 user groups: hunters, bird watchers, and the general public. The survey was professionally prepared, conducted, and analyzed. The following summarizes the findings.

- Hunting is declining. This is a reality and a trend that will not be reversed by recruiting more hunters as the population becomes more urbanized.
- Hunter satisfaction is not dependent upon the number of birds taken but on the experience in the wetlands.
- Hunters are proud of the duck stamp as their contribution to conservation, even though they are required to purchase it. Asked if they would voluntarily contribute, the general trend would be a decline in purchases.
- Hunters trust information from their peers and family more than from any other source.
- Bird watching and recreational use is growing while hunting is declining.
- Bird watchers also are not likely to support conservation at the level needed to sustain conservation programs and do not purchase many duck (hunting and conservation) stamps. They do not sufficiently contribute voluntarily. As with hunters, they will participate if it's required.

- Birdwatchers tend to be a bit more receptive to a variety of sources of information.
- The general public values wildlife and habitat.
- The public does not voluntarily contribute to conservation at a level needed for ongoing support for conservation, neither to NGO's nor through other mechanisms.
- The public also does not trust media or elected officials as sources of information.

In summary:

- With the decline in hunting, NAWMP implementation needs to focus not only on the hunting community but as much on other user groups and the general population.
- Voluntary contributions to conservation will not provide sufficient revenue long term.
- To increase support, messaging needs to be very different to each of these user groups.

The results of the polls are pertinent to the Joint Ventures and should be considered not only in the Implementation Plan but also on an ongoing basis as we develop our programs and their associated communication tools. Dr. John Eadie of UC Davis is a NAWMP Committee member and scientist who has provided guidance to the SFBJV over the years. He will be at the SFBJV Management Board on October 31 to share the NAWMP and Future of Waterfowl 2 workshop with the intent of engaging with the Management Board and integrating with the SFBJV Implementation Plan.

## **7. Open Standards for Conservation**

The Open Standards for Conservation is one of the most universal conservation planning processes. Beth and Sandra participated in their training in September. The training is only held about every 3 years, and with the Implementation Plan in the works, it was great timing for JV staff to formally learn the process and the accompanying software, even while the SFBJV has utilized this planning process, along with Structured Decision-Making (SDM) for planning and projects for several year. Some examples of our work with Open Standards include the San Pablo Bay NWR climate adaptation plan developed this past year and the NFWF business plan developed a couple of years ago.

Over the past few years the SFBJV has used the Open Standards and Structured Decision Making (SDM) process for several planning programs, some of which was done with the intent of providing content for the Implementation Plan. We will be reviewing the conceptual models and incorporating or building upon the previous work. We also will be using Open Standards for some of the new work that needs to be developed as well as future implementation.

We will spend some time at the October 31 Management Board meeting working through some examples of conceptual models that have or could be applied to the SFBJV. This presentation will help Management Board members understand the Open Standards process and how it will be incorporated in the Implementation Plan.

## **8. Human Dimensions (HD)**

Caroline Warner attended a US Department of Interior 24-hour course in the foundations of Human Dimensions at Estes Park September 14-17. The better part of the first morning was spent on defining HD. The definition that the North American Bird Conservation Initiative is using in their one page [fact sheet](#) on HD is, "a field of study that applies the social sciences to examine research questions that have implications for wildlife conservation." The training course covered the contributions of social sciences

to conservation and how to integrate social science at all stages of conservation planning, design and delivery.

Caroline will be sharing some of her takeaways from the training at the Management Board meeting along with considerations of how it may apply to SFBJV communications and the implementation plan revision.

## **9. Highway (SR) 37**

At the April 25 meeting, the Management Board discussed the importance of engaging in the transportation planning for widening SR 37 and promoting the JV vision. Julian Meisler of the Sonoma Land Trust and Jessica Davenport of the State Coastal Conservancy presented a summary of current planning initiatives. Their messages reinforced that changes to the highway represent our biggest opportunity for realizing our habitat conservation vision or could become our biggest impediment. Since that meeting, planning activities for the upgrade of SR 37 have been moving quickly, and SFBJV partners have been very engaged with the process. Following is a summary of work to date, with the JV supporting the Coastal Conservancy and Sonoma Land Trust as the leaders in the collective effort to reach consensus and ensure that our vision is incorporated from the outset.

- **Creation of a core team** - This team will be a point of coordination. The core group met on October 20 to prepare for a meeting with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) on October 27.
- **Meeting of the Visioning work group** – The purpose of the meeting was to seek concurrence on the vision for restoration in San Pablo Bay with the intent to depict it graphically and produce maps for a publication that illustrates the vision and the impacts on the wetlands of the different highway alternatives.
- **Initial development of the maps** - The SFBJV provided some project support to SFEI to create the baseline maps for the project.
- **Development of a white paper** that describes the vision and the potential impacts of various alternatives on our vision for restoration. This is led by the Sonoma Land Trust and is being edited now.
- **Meeting of the Policy work group** – This team reviewed a schedule of meetings and determined where our partners should participate and discussed common messaging.
- **Development of a grant proposal** – SFEI and other partners worked on a proposal to CalTrans to provide funding for participation in planning processes.
- **Development of a comment letter to Solano Transportation Authority** - Individual partners signed onto a letter on the *Draft SR 37 Transportation and Sea Level Rise Corridor Improvement Plan*. The letter indicated that future plans for Hwy 37 should be integrated with implementation of existing habitat goals. It also specified the extensive ecological planning for this region that has already occurred to ensure ecosystem function and landscape resiliency.
- MTC has created an environmental working group that will meet for the first time, October 27.

## **10. Project Tracker**

Meetings are now occurring to discuss how best to capture and create functions to enable the Restoration Authority to track and compile their project lists and data directly from the EcoAtlas/Project Tracker system. SFEI is leveraging work on two EPA grants for the Delta Conservancy to further develop a “dashboard” of different reports and summaries of the Joint Venture project data. Cristina Grosso of SFEI gathered

input into what the JV would like included in these “dashboards” from JV Staff, Marc Holmes, and from the Conservation Delivery Committee at their August 30 meeting.

Liz Duffy, who has been assisting the SFBJV with all project tracking work since late January, has been facilitating many project updates and communications. We continue the ongoing work of maintaining comprehensive information on active and completed restoration, enhancement and acquisition projects throughout the region.

## **11. Healthy Watersheds, Resilient Baylands**

The kick off meeting for the project team on this EPA grant-funded project was held on September 13. In attendance were: *Luisa Valiela (US EPA), Caitlin Sweeney (SFEP), Darcie Luce (SFEP), Brenda Goeden (BCDC), Nicole Heller (POST), Rachael Lopes (POST), John Bourgeois (SBSRP), Judy Nam (SCVWD), Junko Bryant (Grassroots Ecology), Alex Von Feldt (Grassroots Ecology), Sara Duckler (SCVWD), Michael Hawkins (Canopy), Sandra Scoggin (SFBJV), Elaine Marshall (City of Sunnyvale), Melody Tovar (City of Sunnyvale), Janny Choy (City of Sunnyvale), Scott Dusterhoff (SFEI), Erica Spotswood (SFEI), Jing Wu (SFEI), Letitia Grenier (SFEI), Cristina Grosso (SFEI), Jen Hunt (SFEI).*

There are many interesting and innovative elements to the “Healthy Watersheds, Resilient Baylands” grant that the JV will be following. The project aims to enhance resilience to climate change through the implementation of several multi-benefit environmental projects by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP), SFEI, SFBJV, and 14 other organizations. The project has two major components: [multi-benefit urban greening](#) and [tidal wetlands restoration](#). Through both components, the team is developing science-based strategies that inform the design of innovative implementation projects.

The JV role in the project focuses on outreach and improvements to the SediMatch web tool. Cristina Grosso prepared a [hand-out](#) on the SediMatch program and tool that we distributed to the project team. Sandra presented the SediMatch component of the project. She discussed how the SediMatch program is looking at sediment movement and reuse and how we get sediment where it is needed for restoration. This is part of a longer-term ongoing effort by BCDC, LTMS, and the Joint Venture. The Sedimatch Tool was developed under a previous project ([Flood Control 2.0](#)), and continued development will happen under this grant. The tool has largely been developed via a stakeholder process which will continue. The SediMatch web site is being utilized by suppliers and project managers, and we are anticipating some success stories to help refine the tool.

## **12. National Partners In Flight (PIF) integration with Joint Ventures**

The National PIF Steering committee has been working on ways to better integrate landbird objectives from national and regional plans into the work plans and strategies of Joint Ventures. The Western Working Group of Partners in Flight met at the Point Blue headquarters in Petaluma Oct 11-13 and held a session on this topic on October 12. Sandra presented an overview of the goals and operations of the SFBJV and current opportunities for PIF engagement. Sandra and Beth both participated and contributed the SFBJV perspective to the session.

## **13. Mapping the Transition Zone: Integrating the Upper Boundary and Bay Margin Methods**



Over the past year, thanks to funding from the EPA Climate Ready Estuaries and National Estuaries Program, SFEP has facilitated a task group focused on understanding and mapping estuarine-terrestrial transition zones. This effort was designed to fulfill CCMP Action 4 to “Identify, protect, and create transitions zones” and associated tasks to:

- Expand on the process laid out in the BEHGU to identify information needs to address key management questions.
- Determine the key steps and decision points in mapping the transition zone.
- Integrate existing transition zone mapping methodologies and clarify uses for different audiences.

SFEP proposed to advance this task for the region by facilitating a technical working group (“Task Force”) to develop a regional mapping methodology for existing and projected transition zones. The hope was that this process and associated report and maps will provide scientists, planners, engineers, and community-based groups with better information so they can identify opportunities to protect and restore transition zones when planning resilient shorelines as well as prioritize protection and restoration actions and policies. The SFBJV was a key partner on the task force to help integrate the related work of the Science Steering Committee on mapping baseline, tracking and change over time of the UTZ.

Ultimately, the Task Force came to the conclusion that combining the two mapping methods would enable a broad audience to both assess and plan for existing and future transition zone ecosystem needs as sea levels rise and development pressures along the bay-urban interface continue. The final report on the effort was recently released and is available [here](#). One goal of the report is to explain the differences and similarities between these approaches and lay the groundwork for a common methodology for when and how to use these approaches in a comprehensive manner. It is an excellent report that achieves this goal and is a great resource for anyone interested in understanding the current thinking and planning related to transition zones.

#### **14. SFBJV Letters of Endorsement**

Since the July 25, 2017 Management Board meeting, the SFBJV sent the following letter, (available to Management Board members upon request):

- July 26, 2017 – General letter of support of restoration at Bay Point for inclusion in East Bay Regional Parks District’s Prop. 1 applications.

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## **B. Joint Venture Working Committee Summaries**

The following summarizes activities of the SFBJV working committees since the last Management Board meeting.

### **1. Conservation Delivery Committee - Caitlin Sweeney, Chair**

The Conservation Delivery Committee met on August 30, 2017 at SFEI in Richmond.

In attendance: *Marc Holmes (outgoing Chair, The Bay Institute), Caitlin Sweeney (incoming Chair, SF Estuary Program), Chris Barton (East Bay Regional Parks District), Kathy Boyer (SF State University, via phone), Erika Castillo (Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District), Jessica Davenport (State Coastal Conservancy), Aimee Good (SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve), Colin Grant (USFWS), Cristina Grosso (SF Estuary Institute), Doug Johnson (Cal-Invasive Plant Council), Jenna Judge (SF Bay NERR, via phone), Marilyn Latta (State Coastal Conservancy), Julian Meisler (Sonoma*

*Land Trust), Tom Robinson (Bay Area Open Space Council), Barbara Salzman (Marin Audubon), Renee Spenst (Ducks Unlimited), Rachel Tertes (USFWS), Natalie Washburn (Ducks Unlimited), Noreen Weeden (Golden Gate Audubon, via phone), Julian Wood (Point Blue), Katy Zaremba (Save the Bay)*  
JV Staff: *Beth Huning, Sandra Scoggin, Liz Duffy*

This meeting marked a significant transition. Marc Holmes, a founding member of our Management Board and Chair of the Conservation Delivery Committee since close to its inception, handed over the reins as chair to Caitlin Sweeney. The meeting opened with a heartfelt sharing of stories, appreciations and a bittersweet hand-off. Marc was thanked for his service with words and a lovely full-sized Pintail decoy with inscribed plaque, plus a surprise reception after the meeting. Caitlin Sweeney graciously accepted the role of CD Committee Chair and expressed her excitement about this opportunity to help continue the great work of the committee.

The committee considered a project adoption request from Kathy Boyer of SF State for a project called *New Life for Eroding Shorelines*, a collaborative effort to determine the potential for coarse material and vegetation to be used to bolster shorelines. These materials would help supplement a living shoreline, acting as a “soft engineering” alternative to traditional “hard” solutions like bulkheads, riprap, etc., which exacerbate erosion and cut off ecosystem services. Living shorelines provide connectivity among habitats and support ecosystems while also protecting against erosion. For more detail, visit EcoAtlas or the meeting notes. This adoption request will be part of the committee reports at the Management Board meeting on October 31.

The agenda included a number of important updates on the Bay Plan Amendment process, NAWCA small grants, Restoration Authority Measure AA guidelines and associated Project Labor Agreements. The committee also reviewed the JV active project list for accuracy and provided input on the development of summary reporting functions within EcoAtlas and led by Cristina Grosso. Drew Kerr of the Invasive Spartina Project provided an update on efforts to eradicate invasive sea lavender from SF Bay tidal marshes. Tom Robinson did a presentation on the Conservation Lands Network and work that is being done to revise it. Project partners in attendance shared updates to their projects and programs. We encourage management board members to read the [meeting notes](#) for more detail. Notes from all past meetings are also available on [our website](#).

## **2. Science Steering Committee – Renee Spenst, Chair**

The Science Steering Committee met on August 17, 2017 at the USGS SF Bay Field Station on Mare Island.

In attendance: Joy Albertson, *US Fish and Wildlife Service*; Cristina Grosso *SFEI*; Tom Robinson, *Bay Area Open Space Council (via phone)*; Renee Spenst, *Chair, Ducks Unlimited*; John Takekawa, *Audubon California*; Christina Toms, *SF Bay RWQCB*; Mike Vasey, *SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve*; Sam Veloz, *Point Blue Conservation Science*; Isa Woo, *US Geological Survey*. Guests: *Brian Fulfrost, Fulfrost and Associates, via phone, John Hart, Writer*.

SFBJV Staff: *Beth Huning, Brenna Mahoney, Sandra Scoggin*

The committee's discussions focused on topics related to the Implementation Plan revision. The primary author for the revision, John Hart, was a guest for the meeting, and a segment of the meeting was dedicated to discussion between John and the committee members to help provide the context, guidance, and resources he will need to write the introduction to the Science Chapter and potentially other sections of science-related content.

The SSC then worked through the next set of decisions required to decide what filters, changes, and/or additions are needed to finalize baseline map of upland transition zone (UTZ). Phase 1 will define baseline for mapping and acreage calculations of existing UTZ. The SSC decided to use "existing" as currently defined in the tool based on elevation adjacent to existing tidal marshes to map and describe baseline and calculate existing acreage. In Phase 2 the SSC will consider how to develop the SFBJV habitat goals for UTZ.

The last segment of the meeting was spent gathering input from committee members to further refine and improve the JV plan for setting habitat goals. Meeting notes are available [here](#).

### **3. Public Outreach – Melissa Pitkin (PRBO Conservation Science), Chair** Report Prepared by Caroline Warner, SFBJV Outreach Coordinator

Ongoing outreach activities include content management on our website related to events, jobs, resources, news, funding and new project and partner features as well as bulletin production and distribution; social media posts; as well as attending some staff, committee and partner meetings. Additional highlights of SFBJV Public Outreach for the third quarter of the 2017 calendar year include the following:

- **Video Shorts, #Wetland Restoration Is Working Campaign**

Production is underway for our final two video shorts representing the last of our six wetland and watershed sub-regions - Russian River and Delta/Suisun. They will hopefully be complete by the end of this year.

Working with a team of three from the East Bay Regional Park District, Mischa Hedges from Trimtab Media and Caroline have developed a storyboard, are assisting with capturing drone footage of a bird's eye view of the shoreline, and have set a shoot date of November 4 for a feature on [Bay Point Regional Shoreline](#). This hidden gem provides Bay access for underserved populations and once restored, it will offer 17 acres of tidal wetlands, 4 acres of seasonal wetlands, and 10 acres of transition and upland grassland along with improved public access and ecosystem services. Our first video covering a project in the planning stages, it will require capture of additional film from Point Pinole, which resembles what the project will ultimately look like. The short may also serve as a useful fundraising tool for the District.

In the Russian River area, we have developed a narrative for a video short on the vast Laguna de Santa Rosa, with Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation Conservation Director, Wendy Trowbridge and Hattie Brown from Sonoma Parks Regional Parks. With the fires in Sonoma County and impacts on our partners and projects, not to mention poor air quality, this video short may take longer to produce.

Our first four videos can be found on our [website](#), [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#). Partners have continued to use these to promote the work and accomplishments of the JV at events such as at the State of the Estuary Conference, on blogs and in newsletters.

- **Regional Communications Meeting, August 24**

A group of communication and outreach staff from partner organizations assembled at San Francisco Estuary Institute on August 24 to enrich our understanding of our collective reach: who our target audiences are, what conservation issues we are working on, and what messages we are delivering. At the meeting we applied an outreach strategy to three topics of mutual interest: the Wetland Restoration IS Working video shorts campaign, Sedimatch, and invasive species.

As a result of the meeting, Caroline was able to capture a summary of the collective conservation issues in a [table](#) that may be further developed into a more useful resource. Seeds were also laid for applying strategic communications to our conservation issues and outreach tools. The enthusiastic group will meet again on December 13 and delve further into what makes outreach effective and successful.

In attendance were: *Melissa Pitkin, Chair and Lishka Arata (Point Blue Conservation Science), Darcie Luce (San Francisco Estuary Partnership), Tony Hale (San Francisco Estuary Institute), Taylor Samuelson and Liz Gagneron (State Coastal Conservancy), Carmen Leong Minch (US Fish & Wildlife), and Beth Slatkin (Bay Nature Magazine).*

SFBJV Staff: *Beth Huning, Sandra Scoggin and Caroline Warner*

- **Human Dimensions Workshop/Training in Estes Park**

A brief summary of the training is included in News of Note #8, above. Caroline will give a presentation on Human Dimensions and its applications to SFBJV endeavors at the upcoming Management Board meeting.

#### **4. Government Affairs Committee – Arthur Feinstein, Chair**

The following were major activities of the Government Affairs Committee this quarter:

- **SFBJV Implementation Plan** – *See News of Note #2 above.*

The committee met on October 18 as the policy work group for the Implementation Plan.

In attendance were: *Arthur Feinstein, Chair, Caitlin Sweeney (SFEP), Matt Gerhardt (State Coastal Conservancy), Betty Kwan (Bay Planning Coalition), Bruce Wolfe (Regional Water Quality Control Board), Diane Ross-Leech (PG&E), Jeff McCreary (Ducks Unlimited), Rebecca Schwartz-Leisberg (Audubon California), Mike Vasey (SF Bay NERR), Tom Kendall (Army Corps of Engineers).*

Staff: *Beth Huning, Sandra Scoggin, Caroline Warner, Brenna Mahoney*

The committee intentionally did not address the annual work plan at this meeting and have asked JV staff to develop a draft that the committee can complete on a conference call in November or early December when they will also discuss strategies for visits to Washington DC. They further recommended that the Management Board send a letter to the County of Marin in support of the purchase of the San Geronimo Valley golf course which is currently being pursued by the County and Trust for Public Land. Restoration of the floodplain occupied by the golf course has been identified by both NOAA and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife as one of the highest priorities for the survival and recovery of endangered coho and steelhead. SFBJV staff will draft and circulate a letter for Management Board approval via e-mail.

- **BCDC Bay Plan and McAteer Petris Act Amendments** – At its meeting on July 20, the Commission voted to issue descriptive notices for proposed Bay Plan amendments regarding fill for habitat projects and social equity. A number of SFBJV partners spoke to the issue of urgency to move forward with permitting habitat projects as per recommendations in the 2015 Baylands Goals update for climate change. The timing of such amendments was targeted for May, 2018. SFBJV staff have been in contact with BCDC staff as to how we can have input into the process sooner than later. Unfortunately some key staff have departed BCDC; so the process to develop the amendments has not moved forward as quickly as originally anticipated. The JV will continue to coordinate with BCDC staff and JV partners on timing and input.

- **Climate Change Policy Planning White Paper** – The research for the climate change policy white paper is nearly complete. Brenna Mahoney has compiled information on all known current climate change planning efforts and plans. She has done some analysis and has provided recommendations for the SFBJV to pursue. The white paper was on the agenda for discussion on October 18. However, development of the framework for the policy chapter of the Implementation Plan was more urgent. The productive discussions may lead to less content in the white paper and the recommendations being incorporated into the policy chapter. An update will be provided at the Management Board meeting on October 31.

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## **C. Major Project Updates**

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News articles about recent achievements have also been posted on the JV website and circulated with the JV news reports. Progress on major projects may also be found on prior Coordinator’s Reports the Project Tracker.

### **1. Invasive *Spartina* Project**

Since treatment started in 2005, the total amount of Invasive *Spartina* has dropped from 805 net acres to less than 30 net acres as of completion of the 2016 treatment cycle. Now in a critical stage of the project, the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) has requested all landowners and managers communicate information on any new *Spartina* sightings at recently breached sites as well as inform them of any plans for new future restoration breaches. The SCC also reminds those involved in field work to wash equipment carefully when moving between different regions of the bay. For more information, please contact Marilyn Latta at Coastal Conservancy or the ISP Director, Peggy Olofson. A treatment calendar and more information can be found [on the ISP website](#).

### **2. Dotson Family Marsh (formerly known as Breuner Marsh)**

The Breuner Marsh restoration project marked its completion earlier this year with the Dotson Family Marsh dedication. East Bay Regional Park District renamed Breuner Marsh as the Dotson Family Marsh in honor of the family’s environmental legacy to save the Richmond shoreline from development. Through the efforts of the Park District and the passion of nearby Parchester Village residents, including the Dotson family, the marsh escaped numerous attempts at commercial, business and residential development. EBRPD Board Member Whitney Dotson’s father, the Reverend Richard Dotson, was determined to keep the marsh wild and open as a beautiful natural place for the local community to enjoy.

The 150-acre site has undergone an extensive \$14 million habitat restoration and public access project funded by more than 10 agencies along with the East Bay Regional Park District through local bond Measures CC and WW.

The newly restored marsh is designed to be a self-sustaining wetland complex that will filter polluted run-off and provide high quality habitat for threatened and endangered species, such as the endangered Ridgway Rail and salt marsh harvest mouse. The project also includes a 1.5-mile extension of the San Francisco Bay Trail, helping to close the remaining 10 miles of Bay Trail gaps within Richmond's current 32 miles of existing trail, and providing the first safe, non-motorized access to Point Pinole Regional Shoreline. It also includes a 24-space parking lot, restroom and picnic area.

The JV congratulates EBRPD for the completion of this ambitious project and for honoring local environmental heroes from the Dotson family.

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## **D. Announcements**

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**1. State of the Estuary Conference** - Congratulations to the San Francisco Estuary Partnership and all participating partners on a successful and engaging State of the Estuary Conference.

**2 Recognition of Achievements** - We applaud Management Board members Arthur Feinstein and Barbara Salzman on their recognition at the conference with the one-time only Legacy Award. The entire team of Flood Control 2.0, of which the SFBJV is a partner, was one of the recipients of the Environmental Project awards, along with the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. Other SFBJV partners recognized with awards were Oro Loma for the horizontal levee and Sausal Creek for the restoration.

### **Attachments:**

- A. Coordinator's Report
- B. Meeting notes from Management Board meeting July 25, 2017
- C. Project Adoption Information - New Life for Eroding Shorelines