



**San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Conservation Delivery Committee
December 10, 2015 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Redwood Shores Library, 399 Marine Pkwy, Redwood City, CA 94065**

Summary Notes

In attendance: *Marc Holmes, Chair (The Bay Institute), Joy Albertson (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Donna Ball (Save the Bay), Colin Grant (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Stuart Siegel (Environmental Science Associates), Renee Spent (Ducks Unlimited), David Thomson (San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory), Laura Valoppi (US Geological Survey via phone), Bruce Wolfe (San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board)*

JV Contract Staff: *Beth Huning (Coordinator), Sandra Scoggin (Assistant Coordinator), Michelle Huppert (JV Intern)*

1. Welcome and Introductions

Participants introduced themselves.

2. Announcements or Project updates – All Participants

Donna Ball: Oro Loma Experimental Horizontal Levee - Donna gave an update of Save the Bay's contribution to the Oro Loma Experimental Horizontal Levee project. The project is a collaborative of ESA, SFEI, TBI, the Oro Loma Sanitary District and others. Save the Bay is contracted to plant 70,000 plants on the levee designed to mimic the natural slope of wetlands to upland habitat. Save the Bay has installed 17 raised beds where the 70,000 plants are currently being planted. This project could be used to test the scale of other planting projects

Laura Valoppi: South Bay Science Symposium - The Science Symposium posters and presentations are up on the website for anyone to view at <http://www.southbayrestoration.org/science/2015symposium/>.

Bruce Wolfe - The San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board has a **job opening** for a Senior Environmental Scientist Position due to the retirement of Andree Greenberg.

San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board Policy Review: A review is being conducted of their stream and wetland policy This could lead to site-specific objectives. It will also likely result in new dissolved oxygen standards for Suisun Marsh.

Stuart Siegel: Stinky Lagoon Project - EPA has funded a study to look at the water quality of the stinky lagoon at Spinnaker Point in San Rafael. Stuart is contracted to do the redesign and will work with the city of San Rafael to clean up the lagoon that consists of standing water and algae. He foresees that they will seek out funding from the Coastal Conservancy to reconstruct the water control structures and other habitat improvements.

3. Bair Island Project Presentation

Since all CDC members present had attended the Bair Island Breach Event prior to the meeting, Joy Albertson briefly presented background and focused her presentation on future plans for Bair Island. Outer and Middle Bair Island had previously been breached and flow constrictors placed in 2012 to prevent all the flow from being captured by Redwood Creek, to instead provide flow throughout the whole area. A revised monitoring plan is in the works to cover the full project site.

Concerns regarding the airport nearby were raised, prompting a discussion on the airport's role and whether or not they would consider seeding or planting native habitat or other grasses on their land. A suggestion concerning this topic included involving the local farmers to sharecrop the land. Although Save the Bay is already going to be seeding and planting in this area, using local farmers would be a way to involve a non-traditional partner that can provide local seed. These plans will be further discussed with the airport and other topics for discussion will be seeding, planting, and what will be done with the mounds.

Joy offered to give a more comprehensive and formal presentation on Bair Island at a future CD meeting.

4. Coordinator's Report

- **Rail Monitoring Meeting:** Beth provided an overview of the topics discussed at the meeting. The goal of the meeting was to review the status of the California Ridgway's Rail and Black Rail. Questions and discussion focused on autonomous recording units (ARU) used in areas that are difficult to reach. These have been fairly successful in recognizing rail and harvest mouse calls, although are unable to provide population estimates, as they cannot differentiate individuals. Cory Overton from USGS is working on this project, and despite the large amount of post processing required, ARU's are potentially a useful tool.
- **SFBJV Government Affairs Committee Meeting:** The Committee met on December 7th, 2015. They discussed 2016 work plan priorities and decided that this year's focus will be on policy recommendations of the BEHGU Science Update. They will focus on policies all partners agree to be important, including sediment management, with an emphasis on working with non-traditional partners. They also planned their visits to Washington DC in late winter and spring.
- **Sonoma Creek Breach:** The Sonoma Creek Tidal marsh hosted a breach event ceremony on December 2. The site is only accessible by boat. The weather was uncooperative; so invitees were unable to get to the site to see the breach. However, the site was breached that day. Audubon and the US Fish & Wildlife Service and will be taking guests out to see the completed project in January.

- **North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA):** Standard Grant proposals are due in March. Renee expressed interest in submitting a proposal for the South Bay Salt Pond Project. Beth explained some of the challenges facing applicants with declining appropriations and more reliance by NAWCA on settlement funds.
- **San Francisco Parks Alliance Blue Greenway:** The JV has been approached by San Francisco Parks Alliance Blue Greenway to collaborate on projects. Committee members know the group to be focused on public access. The JV will determine which of our partners are already working with them and let them take the lead and encourage them to participate or comment on projects with wildlife values or where we can assist a project in becoming more wildlife friendly.
- **Annual JV Coordinator Meeting:** During this year's meeting in Chicago, The coordinators all agreed that their goals for the JV's are to focus on social aspects and begin working more with non-traditional partners. This will be an effort to market the JV's in a way that shows that we restore from a landscape perspective that benefits birds to mitigate the perception that JV's do mostly bird science and bird conservation. There was also a discussion on funding regarding the LLC. The CDC recommended that the CA LCC be more collaborative with the SFBJV and suggested that their science coordinator be invited to attend our science meetings. The discussion was tabled for discussion at a future meeting.

5. NAWCA Ranking Project Presentation – Eden Landing Transition Zone Enhancement -

Donna Ball, Save the Bay

The NAWCA Council requires each JV to rank projects submitted from within their JV for both standard or small grants applications. The SFBJV invited Donna to present the only project currently applying for NAWCA Small Grant funding. The goals of this transition zone habitat restoration project at Eden Landing are to increase habitat and refugia, improve water quality, create transition zones and habitat connectivity, all while having public engagement that educates and gets the people involved through volunteering. All of these efforts will also ultimately mitigate sea-level rise impacts. Save the Bay is requesting \$50,000 to complete the 4.5 acre levee transition zone restoration. The ranking of 1 of 1 was recommended by the committee to the Management Board. A ranking letter will describe why the project is recommended submitted to the Management Board for approval and forwarded to NAWCA. We will encourage NAWCA to approve the requested grant funds.

6. JV and Partner Program Updates

SediMatch Program and Database: The SediMatch Database kick off meeting took place November 3 and drew a diverse crowd of non-traditional, but hopefully soon-to-be traditional partners. The opening presentation summarized the current state of the knowledge of sediment supply and need. It highlighted findings of the Bayland Goals Science Update and what we may need to do to keep pace with sea level rise and protect our shoreline wildlife and human communities. The group then had a lively discussion/brainstorm, building upon prior discussions/forums, that focused on identifying both challenges and potential solutions to increasing beneficial reuse of sediment. The group considered the state of the data and what data needs we have that will help us work towards solutions. Notes for this part of the meeting are available here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/12u83hOiKRpbkKASPneBvjB_ezzwv463Hge3ODRETX18/edit?usp=sharing

Then meeting participants turned their attention to the SediMatch database itself, which hopes to link datasets to help connect sediment suppliers with projects needing sediment. Potential data fields and desired functionality were captured by SFEI staff who will be building this tool. Those notes are here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T1DErc60OEDCcyRGe8zDUpV_LwzBp69BLM2_vVK0rog/edit?usp=sharing

The next step is for a smaller “SediMatch Database Task Group” group to meet that is focused specifically on decision making for this tool. Many task group members were identified at the November 3 meeting, but we still need participants from the restoration community.

Action: Please contact Sandra if you are able to participate on the SediMatch task group.

Science Steering Committee Update: Renee reviewed the timeline and membership of the JV Science Steering Committee. The question that has been guiding their prioritization of science needs is “What are the optimal research, monitoring, and ecological forecasting priorities where the SFBJV and our science partners can invest to enable us to strategically plan and assess the efficacy of restoration, enhancement, and protection to inform management decisions and achieve JV goals?” The priorities that are emerging from this exercise and related discussions are 1) the needs to better understand habitat changes at the landscape scale through time and space including transition zone and upland refuge; 2) the need to understand impacts to species of these changes and of actions taken by JV partners; and 3) understanding sediment dynamics and impacts of beneficial reuse.

Colin Grant, project lead on the implementation of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Tidal Marsh Recovery Plan, noted that there is a lot of overlap in priorities and implementation actions with the recovery plan. Recommendations for increased collaboration were discussed.

Action: Share the longer list used to prioritize science actions for the committee with Colin.

Climate Adaptation Decision Support: The final report has been submitted to the funders. A web site was created that enables partners to access the tools and can be found online at <http://climate.calcommons.org/cads>. It is broken up into sections to make it easy to find information needed and to use as a tool. The project was a decision-making process that analyzed how we allocate resources to determine optimal allocation under various timeframes, sea level rise scenarios and across the landscape. It has widely agreed-upon conservation targets and was developed for managers to use as guidance and a model when prioritizing the many actions identified in the BEHGU to address climate change.

Implementation Plan Revision: The SFBJV Implementation Plan dates to 2001. While the SFBJV has made a lot of progress toward the original goals, a lot of change has occurred on both the landscape and with JV needs. The Management Board intends for the JV to create the best possible plan in a reasonable timeframe. Many new tools have been developed as well as other habitat goals that the SFBJV

implements. The Management Board has established an Implementation Planning Team (IPT) to guide the process with content and direction from the SFBJV Working Committees, active or existing task groups. Their work will be brought to the SFBJV Management Board for discussion and approval. We are pulling together the CDC for possible roles they can represent in this process and will find partners that can write content. We will be coming back to this discussion next meeting to ask people from the committee to volunteer.

Next Meeting and Adjourn: The next meeting of the CD Committee is scheduled to be a joint meeting in February with the Science Steering Committee. More information will be forthcoming. The Conservation Delivery Committee was adjourned.