



**San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Conservation Delivery Committee Meeting**

November 19, 10:00 am - 1:15 pm

SFEI, 4911 Central Ave, Richmond, CA 94804

MEETING NOTES

Attendance: Melisa Amato (*US Fish & Wildlife Service, by phone*), Peter Baye (*San Francisco State University*), Jillian Burns (*San Francisco Estuary Partnership*), Erika Castillo (*Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District*), Brenda Goeden (*Bay Conservation and Development Commission*), Jaclyn Gnusti (*Anchor QEA, by phone*), Tom Kendall (*US Army Corps of Engineers, by phone*), John Klochak (*US Fish & Wildlife Service*), Marilyn Latta (*State Coastal Conservancy*), Roger Leventhal (*County of Marin*), Karla Jean Meyers (*East Bay Regional Parks District*), Veronica Pearson (*Marin County Parks, by phone*), Renee Spent (*Ducks Unlimited*), Dan St. John (*City of Petaluma*), Jonathan Sanglerat (*City of Petaluma*), Caitlin Sweeney (*San Francisco Estuary Partnership*), Rachel Tertes (*UUS Fish & Wildlife Service*), Dave Thomson (*SF Bay Bird Observatory, by phone*), Yiwei Wang (*SF Bay Bird Observatory, by phone*), Bruce Wolfe (*SF Bay Region Water Quality Control Board*), Julian Wood (*Point Blue Conservation Science*)

SFBJV Staff: Ariana Rickard, Sandra Scoggin, Caroline Warner

1. Welcome and Introductions - Caitlin Sweeney, San Francisco Estuary Partnership

Caitlin welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a "[Wetland Restoration is Working](#)" video. She noted that since the Committee last met in 2018, the JV has several staffing changes, including Sandra Scoggin taking on the role of Coordinator and Ariana Rickard joining as Assistant Coordinator. With the SFBJV getting back up to full staff capacity we are looking forward to convening the CDC on a regular schedule again.

2. Coordinator's Report - Sandra Scoggin, SFBJV

- Implementation Plan Revision

Significant progress has been made on two key components of the Implementation Plan Revision: wildlife indicators and goal habitat descriptions. Julian Wood and Renee Spent, the partner leads for these two elements, provided brief reports. Draft criteria for selecting indicators were identified at a Joint Symposium of the Conservation Delivery and Science Steering Committee in April. These criteria and indicators will be reviewed by the Wildlife Team in early 2020.

The Habitat sub-team has drafted and reviewed definitions of goal habitat types. The team is now incorporating final comments before presenting the descriptions to the Management Board for approval in January. The JV will use these habitat categories to revise goals for SF Bay.

- SFBJV Active Project lists

The SFBJV tracks habitat restoration projects throughout the region in order to promote and advance the collective goals of JV partners. Project managers are asked to keep their project information up to date in Project Tracker/EcoAtlas. These data are used to report to USFWS and other entities and to connect partners with available funding and other opportunities. The JV prepares factsheets and other communications to elevate awareness and help secure funding for projects and programs.

We ask all project managers to check the information in Project Tracker and EcoAtlas for accuracy on project actions and funding, including amounts received, sources, and current funding needs. Please keep project information up to date either through the project tracker interface or by sending updates to [Ariana](#).

3. Wetland Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP) Update - Jillian Burns, SFEP

Jillian gave a quick [update](#) on the [WRMP](#).

The WRMP is responding to comments on the draft program plan now, will be taking it to the Steering Committee for approval in early December, and expecting it to be finalized by the end of the year.

Phase II of the WRMP is also funded by EPA and will focus on governance (charter, institutional relations, and procedures), establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee, data management and delivery system, and building a user community through outreach and training to support initial implementation.

4. Project Announcements and Updates (all)

[Marilyn Latta](#): 1) Two new oyster reefs installed in Richmond with Ducks Unlimited, Living Shorelines with Oyster. Cordgrass plantings planned for site. 2) Terminal 4, the largest derelict pier in the Bay, was removed; next will be a pier in Point San Pablo in Richmond, in a year or two. 3) The Federal Department of Transportation published a nature-based implementation guide, which includes case studies. Document can be found on their [website](#). 4) Grant applications can be found on State Coastal Conservancy [website](#).

[John Klochak](#): USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation [grant program](#) will disperse \$20-25 million dollars in 2020. Funding must go through designated state agencies. Grants of up to \$1 million are available to applicants. State Coastal Conservancy is looking for partners to collaborate on a proposal.

[Renee Spenst](#): Ducks Unlimited is submitting a Restoration Authority application focused on the North Bay (Sonoma Creek to Napa River area).

[Brenda Goeden](#): 1) The Bay Plan amendment has been approved and is now waiting for finalization by state Administrative Law (AOL) and NOAA's Office of Coastal Management. Once approved by AOL for non-federal projects and NOAA for federal projects, projects will be subject to these new policies. BCDC is now beginning to look at mitigation policies to determine if or what kind of updates are needed. 2) BCDC is studying how sand mining affects sand transport into and out of the Bay. There will be three sets of studies; the first is literature review - what we know about sand transport, including updating and improving sand budget. In the second study, BCDC is hoping to do coring or seismic surveys of Central Bay and Suisun basin to determine how much sand is there, which will inform how much sand can/should be mined, as well as improve the understanding of sand transport in the Bay. In addition, there is a multibeam survey planned for November that will create a one year snapshot of sand transport and change in the Bay within and adjacent to the lease areas. 3) As part of a mitigation requirement, the sand miners are removing derelict boats and pilings in Crockett, near the base of Carquinez bridge. This work will be complete in November.

[Erika Castillo](#): Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District is currently doing maintenance in marshes to clear ditches out. It is the only district that can continue working at this time in the season.

[Rachel Tertes](#): There have been some changes in personnel at SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Matt Brown is now the Don Edwards Refuge Manager. Don Brubaker from San Pablo Bay NWR has retired. Cheryl Strong, Wildlife Biologist at Don Edwards, has moved to the USFWS Ecological Services office in Newport OR. We do not have a timeline for refilling positions. Trucks are moving dirt at the Ravenswood Unit of Don Edwards NWR for Phase 2 of the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project. South Bay Salt Ponds is currently

interviewing for Science Coordinator position with the goal of having someone on board in the next 2-3 months.

Karla Jean Meyers: 1) Albany Beach Restoration project is in phases 2 and 3. The beach is complete, is larger now, and is open to the public. The Bay trail segment will be completed by the end of February 2020. 2) Bay Point- Restoration and public access project, construction should be complete by Jan/Feb 2020. 3) Coyote Hills - CEQA completed in September, moving on to design phase.

Bruce Wolfe: Christina Toms is working on an update to the Water Board's Basin Plan, which would, upon Water Board adoption, amend the Basin Plan to make it more climate change focused and update the Board's dredge and fill policy to better address shoreline resiliency.

Veronica Pearson: 1) Marin County Parks' Bolinas Lagoon North End Project, Phase 1 (Bolinas Wye) is in the design phase, 60% design should be completed by December 2020. 2) Marin County Parks also has secured funding through the Coastal Conservancy – Advancing Nature Based Adaptation Solutions for the Bothin Marsh Sea level Rise Adaptation Project and has begun developing conceptual designs.

Dave Thomson: SFBBO has secured funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to create upland transitional habitat for Don Edwards at their Inner Bair Island Restoration Site. They are finishing up their contribution to the Don Edwards/SBSPRP Pond A17 restoration over the next few years. And they will be assisting Don Edwards with erosion control projects that are currently underway in Alviso area.

Yiwei Wang: SFBBO received a section 6 grant for social attraction for Least Terns and monitoring of Snowy Plovers and Least Terns at Pond E14 in Eden Landing for 2020-2022.

5. Restoration Authority Update on funded projects and current RFP - Marilyn Latta, State Coastal Conservancy

Marilyn provided a brief [update](#) on the current round of funding available through the [Restoration Authority](#).

Some new members have been added to the Advisory Committee.

Key features of RA funding:

- These funds are not as restrictive as other bond funds.
- Funding is based on the amount of taxpayers and homeowners and population in all of these regions.
- Geographic distribution of funds is cumulative over 20 years.
- The Restoration Authority published a white paper on engaging economically disadvantaged communities.
- Community engagement is critical for successful applications.
- Authority has a lot of flexibility to implement program; 17 years left of funding through Measure AA.

Other issues discussed:

- The RA wants to be able to show results and work on the ground and successful history with projects.
- How should monitoring be conducted for promoting Measure AA and demonstrating how wildlife have responded and are impacted by this program?
- How can we make the RA more visible and accessible to the general public? People might have forgotten that they voted for this several years ago.

6. Current opportunities and hurdles related to beneficial use of sediment - Brenda Goeden, BCDC

Brenda provided an [overview](#) of some of the challenges and potential solutions relating to beneficial use of sediment in the Bay Area.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- The standard for disposal of material favors the deep ocean disposal site as their policy states that they must use the option for dredge material that is the least cost and environmentally acceptable. The environmental community has tried congressional fixes to address this, but are still struggling with this issue. On the Federal standard, there seems to be room to maneuver around the environmentally acceptable criteria.
- Regional Dredge Material Management Plan - current Draft Project Management Plan does not include beneficial reuse. The Army Corps is still accepting comments related to what should they do with their dredged sediment for the next 20 years. If your organization or agency is able to comment, consider emphasizing the importance of beneficial use.

Small dredgers usually do not do ocean disposal since it is difficult for them to go to the ocean disposal site. They usually do in-bay disposal and participate in BCDC's Long Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the Bay Region (LTMS) program.

Aquatic transfer facility:

- Dredge large basin in Bay
- Deposit sediment and keep it there for later use
- Issues around endangered species and essential fish habitat

The SFBJV has funding from Healthy Watersheds and Zone 7 water and are hoping to host a workshop to bring the dredging and restoration communities together to discuss these issues in the context of the SediMatch program and web tool.

The SFBJV will be trying to bring opportunities to engage in this issue to the attention of partners as we learn about them.

7. Project Adoption requests (Action):

[Blackies Pasture Beach Project](#) - Roger Leventhal, County of Marin and Peter Baye, SFSU

Roger and Peter presented the Blackies Pasture Beach project.

Overview: The project proposes to construct a bay beach system consisting of sand, gravel and cobbles designed with the proper size range and placed in the correct location to evaluate and demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of engineered bay beaches as an alternative to rock rip-rap to reduce wind-wave erosion on the shoreline. Rip-rap does not absorb energy, it just reflects it, making it less effective than sand, gravel and cobbles.

Description: Shoreline erosion is happening all around the Bay. The beach has been carefully designed to account for the local wind-wave climate as well as account for the longshore drift of sediments which is a key design criteria. This beach has lost most of its sand in the last five years. There is some seasonal variability, as the beach is a very dynamic system.

Benefits: This project will help promote cost effective alternatives to rubble and rock on shoreline restoration projects. Blackie's Pasture is extremely easy to get to and visible, which means more of the public will be able

to see this alternative restoration design. Additionally, this restoration is very cost effective and land-based work.

The project will provide habitat benefits to specific species, such as high tide refuge, mudflats, and roosting sites. The restoration will provide a research opportunity to monitor how birds respond to habitat improvements. Steep, high berm tops serve as refuge sites for some species.

The following issues were discussed:

- The beach restoration might create nesting opportunities for shorebirds at Blackie's Pasture. One issue will be terrestrial predators (dogs). Dogs are officially not allowed on the beach, but some dogs use the beach now. The expectation is that if there is easy public access to the beach, more dogs use the beach.
- No oyster beds will be installed, as the waters off the beach are fairly shallow and not suitable.

Caitlin proposed recommending that Blackie's Pasture Beach Restoration be adopted by the Management Board as a Joint Venture project and the committee approved. No concerns were expressed about this recommendation.

Action: This project will be recommended for adoption to the Mgmt Board.

[Beneficial use of dredge material from the Petaluma River](#) - Dan St. John and Jonathan Sanglerat, City of Petaluma and Renee Spenst, Ducks Unlimited

Dan, Jonathan and Renee gave an [overview presentation](#) on the Petaluma River feasibility project.

Overview: DU and City of Petaluma would work in partnership to develop short- and long-term strategies for beneficial reuse of dredged sediments from City of Petaluma and Petaluma River dredging for restoration of wetlands and associated habitats.

Description: Ducks Unlimited would work with City of Petaluma to prepare a feasibility analysis to evaluate opportunities for beneficial reuse of dredged sediments that:

- restore tidal wetland habitat,
- restore wetland to upland transition zone habitat,
- increase resilience of Petaluma River wetlands to sea level rise

The following issues were discussed:

- Project meets Climate Action Commission goals.
- Material should be used near where it is being generated to restore marshes. Currently dredge material is being taken to Shollenberger, where it is dried out (decanted) and then trucked out down the highway. Dried out sediment could be used for upland transition zone.
- Invasive spartina in Shollenberger Park could have been introduced due to dredge placement. This issue would be dealt with as part of implementation planning.
- Dredge material is from Petaluma Marina and Petaluma River and City would like to bring material to Cullinan Ranch.
- The project represents a great partnership, but should a feasibility analysis project be a JV adopted project? How can we assess the habitat values of project? The Birdell Unit was a feasibility analysis adopted as a JV project. Another option is to wait for results and then return for project adoption.
- The project is eligible for National Coastal Wetlands grant and Restoration Authority funding.

Action: This project will not be recommended for adoption at this time. But the SFBJV will continue to support the project and invited the project managers to come back to the CDC in the future as the feasibility study evolves.

8. Adjourn