

Minutes of the Aquatic Science Center Board of Directors
August 29, 2008
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, #1400
Oakland, CA 94612
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Bruce Wolfe	Michele Pla
Dave Tucker	Pamela Creedon
Darrin Polhemus	Alexis Strauss
Dave Williams	Frank Leung

Non-Members Present:

Mike Connor	Sarah Lowe
Rainer Hoenicke	Josh Collins
Stephanie Seto	

Others present:

Cat Kulman, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Tom Mumley, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Call to Order

Mr. Wolfe, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. In the absence of Mr. Weir, Mr. Williams attended the meeting.

Public Comments

No members of the public attended the meeting.

Consent Items

Review and Approve Agenda

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve all consent items, including the May 30, 2008 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tucker and passed unanimously.

Project Update

Dr. Connor gave an overview of where the organization stands. This overview included information items about the status of funded and proposed projects. Ms. Strauss requested the addition of start dates be added to the status reports. She also requested for a more condensed format when presenting to the Board in the future. In addition to Ms. Strauss' request, Mr. Polhemus suggested to add the length of each project and expected date of completion.

Financial Status Update

Mr. Leung briefed the Board regarding ASC financial transactions from the previous fiscal year of July 2007 to June 2008. Mr. Leung also mentioned that an audit report is sent to the State Controller on an annual basis by September 30th.

Possible Board Expansion

The Board discussed the expansion options outlined in the staff report contained in the agenda package. A major rationale for potential board expansion centered around making the operations of the ASC more transparent. Mr. Polhemus suggested to the Board that they expand along similar lines as the SCCWRP Commission. Ms. Pla agreed that an expansion would improve transparency. It appears that the policy issues to be informed by science are sufficiently more diverse in Northern California than in Southern California, thereby making the SCCWRP model less applicable here. However, at this point, the ASC hasn't been in existence long enough to identify the range of issues it might get asked to get involved in. Mr. Tucker suggested that the Board stay with the core principles and functions of the ASC was designed to fulfill. The Board agreed to choose the "no action" alternative at this time and revisit the issue in a year's time.

Staff Presentations and Board Discussion

Dr. Collins gave a short presentation entitled "Science Support for Development of the Statewide Stream and Wetlands Protection Policy." This presentation provided the Board with an opportunity to offer guidance to staff on key questions and issues. Dr. Hoenicke gave a short presentation entitled "Development of Regional Data Centers," status and anticipated next steps in the SF Bay and North Coast Regions. This presentation provided the Board with an opportunity to offer guidance to staff on upcoming needs and opportunities.

Ethics Training

Ms. Pla discussed the parameters of Ethics Training for all Board Members. This certification should take place every two years.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Updates

Ms. Strauss discussed vessel deployment for deep ocean work from September 13-14. The EPA Vessel will be located off of Pier 27 in San Francisco and Ms. Strauss would like the Board to spread the word in efforts to plan useful activities.

Future Meeting Agenda Items

The Board discussed future focus items: Dioxins, Sediment Quality Objectives, a briefing summary on Ammonia toxicity, discussion of Historical Ecology with regards to the Delta and other issues in the Bay, and a ten minute update on

Josh's presentation. The Board suggested limiting discussions at the science-policy interface to one topic per meeting, so as to avoid time conflicts.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m. Upcoming Board meetings have been scheduled for December 1, 2008 in Fairfield from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and March 6, 2009 at the Regional Board from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Tucker", written over a horizontal line.

Dave Tucker, Board Secretary

12/1/08
Date