

**Meeting Minutes of the  
Wetlands Advisory Board  
July 19, 2018**

**TIME AND PLACE**

The meeting of the Wetlands Advisory Board was held on Thursday, July 19, 2018 at the City of San Diego, City Operations Building, 1222 First Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room.

**ATTENDANCE**

Members Present

Jayne Janda-Timba, Chair, General Member  
Jeff Crooks, Coastal Salt Marsh Rep.  
Chris Nordby, Wetlands Scientist (joined meeting at 2:48p)  
Theresa Talley, General Member  
Michael Beck, Environmental Org.  
Daniel Smith, Land Owner

Members Absent

None

City of San Diego Staff

Daniel Neri, WAB Liaison, DSD  
Anita Eng, DSD  
Rose White, DSD

Guests

Jim Peugh, SD Audubon Society  
John Heatherington, Environmental Center of SD  
Pamela Heatherington, Environmental Center of SD  
Tim Norall

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jayne Janda-Timba at 2:36 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

D. Smith motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 15, 2018. M. Beck seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

D. Smith reminded WAB of his previous suggestion to have a presentation of the Mission Valley Community Plan update at a future meeting particularly as it relates to the SDCCU Stadium site (former Qualcomm Stadium) given the important wetland features of Mission Valley and the San Diego River. Chair J. Janda-Timba suggested adding this topic to Future Agenda Items.

## **REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES**

None

## **ACTION ITEMS**

None

## **INFORMATIONAL/WORKSHOP ITEMS**

1. Committee Discussion on Notice of Preparation for the De Anza Cove Amendment to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan

Member T. Talley presented draft responses to the N.O.P. for the WAB to evaluate and discuss whether the board should present a formal response. The area of concern is for the "special study area" of De Anza Cove as part of the Amendment to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan. T. Talley provided brief background on the project explaining that Re-Wild Mission Bay, led by San Diego Audubon Society, came up with a wetlands restoration and land use plan for the northeast corner of Mission Bay, which includes the De Anza Cove site. As part of the City's Mission Bay Park Master Plan Update, the city is now looking at the long-range plan for this area which includes the Northern Wildlife Preserve, the Kendall Frost Marsh Preserve, Campland, and De Anza Point/Cove. Both the ReWild effort, and the City for the De Anza Cove site, have separately gone through public comment periods and developed draft alternatives. The City has now chosen an alternative which is going into the proposal for the De Anza Cove Amendment.

J. Crooks and T. Talley are on Science and Technical Advisory Committee for the ReWild effort. C. Nordby was a consultant working on the plans for ReWild. ReWild effort looked at the northeast corner of Mission Bay. There are more options that ReWild explored than are represented in the N.O.P, which only focuses on one option. From a wetlands perspective it threatens water quality of areas around it, the conditions of the wetlands around and the influence on the bay.

M. Beck stated that at this stage in the process, it would be better if there were no preferred alternatives so that all alternatives are considered equally. EIR needs to look at the water quality

The Amendment to Mission Bay Park Master Plan would amount to a change of policy which needs to be included in the EIR. The amendment should meet the standards of the Mission Bay Park Master Plan for water quality or wetlands restoration. The proposed amendment will lower the standards if approved.

P. Heatherington of the Environmental Center of San Diego stated that the Balboa Avenue Transit Plan is right up against Mission Bay, and in the processing of that plan, it was determined that there were air quality impacts that could not be mitigated. Because the Transit Plan was completed separately from Mission Bay Park Master Plan, the mitigation that could have happened for the air quality in the wetlands was therefore not addressed in the Transit Plan. Also, the Transit Plan did not look at the tributaries that feed into the bay (e.g. Rose Creek) which affect water quality.

J. Peugh states that there are three ways that the DeAnza project could affect water quality – it could clean run off from site (fertilizers, etc.); it could clean water entering bay from tributaries (Rose Creek); and at the right elevation, the wetland can clean water in Mission Bay as a whole.

C. Nordby as a consultant to the Audubon Society on the ReWild Project recused himself from offering an opinion on the WAB response to the N.O.P.

M. Beck agrees that WAB should provide comments to the N.O.P.

T. Talley went through the bullet points of the draft letter and the Board provided feedback. T. Talley to edit the draft letter response to the N.O.P. and distribute to Board. D. Smith motioned to approve the draft letter as amended; M. Beck seconded the motion. The draft letter was approved unanimously with a recusal by C. Nordby. (Final draft of letter attached)

### **COMMUNICATIONS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair J. Janda-Timba presented the list as presented at the March 15, 2018 meeting.

- Mission Bay Park 10-yr plan  
J. Peugh suggests that city staff present on Mission Bay Park 10 year plan so that Board can determine which areas to provide feedback.
- Mission Valley Community Plan update, San Diego River elements  
D. Smith suggests that city staff present on the plan update and the future of the Qualcomm site: Soccer City/SDSU West and River Walk.
- Presentation on the Shot Hole Borer Beetle by Gail Sevrens, CDFW  
Board would like a presentation on how the city is addressing this issue as an informational item. D. Neri to communicate with Urban Forester to see if a presentation can be made.
- Re-Wild Mission Bay Planning Efforts  
T. Talley to find out when the final report will be complete.
- Los Peñasquitos TMDL and marsh restoration  
A final report is in draft. Wetlands to keep this on the back-burner.
- West Mission Bay Bridge  
Board previously made comments. Board would like an update to hear status.
- Pond 20 possible mitigation bank  
Project under the Port of San Diego. Board would like to keep finger on the pulse of what is happening there.
- Local canyon/wetland restoration projects  
J. Janda-Timba would like this to be a standing agenda item with a project matrix on the agenda. M. Beck suggest projects to come before Board once staff determine when it is best to do so.
- Famosa Slough storm water diversion  
J. Peugh report that mayor agreed to move forward. However, it will be a while before any information is available.
- Mapping Wetlands  
Chair J. Janda-Timba asks if there is a GIS later for wetlands. Chair J. Janda-Timba suggests Board send a letter to City Council to discuss importance of mapping the wetlands.
- Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan  
Plan has been finalized and adopted by Council. Board would like a presentation on the plan.

- Sea Level Rise  
Board would like information on how the City maps Sea Level Rise.
  - San Diego River Natural Resource Management Plan  
Board would like update.
  - City of San Diego Parks Master Plan  
Board would like WAB to participate in Stakeholders meeting. D. Smith and T.Talley expressed an interest in participating.
2. Board membership
- The City needs to address processes. D. Neri to find out where application by T. Norall stands.

#### ADJOURNMENT

T. Talley motioned to adjourn the meeting. J. Crooks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

#### NEXT MEETING

Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 2:30 pm to be held at 2144 Pan American Road W., Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room, San Diego, CA 92101.