

**MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY (LCWA)
AUGUST 12, 2009**

The meeting was held at the Long Beach Museum of Art located at 2300 East Ocean Blvd. in Long Beach, CA 90803.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gary DeLong at 3:04 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Gary DeLong, Chair
Mary Small (for Vice Chair Schuchat)
David Sloan

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Daniel Sulzer

STAFF PRESENT:

Belinda Faustinos, Executive Officer
Valerie Thompson, Executive Secretary

STAFF ABSENT:

Terry Fujimoto, Deputy Attorney General

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Elizabeth Lambe, Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust (LCWLT), restated the LCWLT's position regarding the illegal land-scraping in the wetlands, and requested that the LCWA submit a letter to the California Coastal Commission in support of their position. There was a brief discussion regarding direction to staff. Janice Dahl, informed the Board of the conditions in the area noting that there is an overburden due to illegal dumping of trash and toxic substances.

3. PRESENTATION TO LEE WHITTENBERG

Lee Whittenberg was recognized for his dedicated service to the Los Cerritos Wetlands as he was retiring.

4. APPROVAL OF MAY 13, 2009 MINUTES.

No corrections were noted.

Ms. Small motioned to approve the Board minutes; Mr. Sloan seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.

5. UPDATE ON THE STATE BOND FREEZE.

The Executive Officer gave a brief summary and update on the State bond issue, and how it impacts LCWA. It was noted that there were no significant changes to report other than the fact that some bonds were sold in April that allowed for certain projects that had been previously authorized to move forward. However, it was also noted the grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) to the LCWA was approved by the Board prior to the freeze which, as a result, places the grant in a position to receive funds. It was further noted that there is a possibility of bonds sales in the Fall of 2010. The Executive Officer also gave a brief summary on the possible distribution of funds in the coming months.

6. UPDATE FROM CITY OF LONG BEACH REGARDING THE DEAN/BERGER LAND SWAP.

Chair DeLong reported that the Long Beach City Council approved the land-swap at their last Council meeting, and that the City of Long Beach was in the process of completing the surface and landuse agreement and it was currently being reviewed by the Coastal Conservancy and the RMC.

There was a brief discussion amongst the Board and members of the public regarding the particulars of the land-swap transaction and the fair market value for the 37 acres with regard to a delineation study.

7. STATUS REPORT AND DISCUSSION ON WORKPLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Vincent Gin and Kasey Nielson, County of Orange Public Works, gave a detailed presentation on the Los Alamitos Storm Water Pump Station project that included a description of the area (map presented), background, and update on the project. There was a discussion amongst the Board, public works staff, and members of the public regarding the threat of bacteria, possible effects on Bryant parcel, water diverted to the San Gabriel River, timeline, EIR, CEQA, restoring the area to its natural state, and road and easement concerns. The Executive Officer mentioned that the project would be added to the workprogram and updated at each Board meeting.

The Executive Officer briefly reported on the Phase 1 property signage, and presented the Board with a copy of the proposed signage. It was noted that the sign would address the property owner and restrictions. There was a discussion regarding some of the language, and it was decided that specified language would be deleted.

Ms. Small moved to approve the signage as amended; Mr. Sloan seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.

8. STATUS REPORT ON INTERIM STEWARDSHIP AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The staff report was self-explanatory. The Executive Officer announced that there was going to be a clean-up effort on September 19, 2009.

9. **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT TO THE CONSULTING COMPANY TIDAL INFLUENCE TO IMPLEMENT THE ASSESSMENT TO BE CONDUCTED UNDER A GRANT FROM THE COASTAL CONSERVANCY FOR THE FIVE-ACRE EDISON PARCEL.**

The Executive Officer reported that staff is prepared to move forward with the implementation of the grant. It was noted that Eric Zahn is available to complete the work, and that he is intimately familiar with the program and he has the credentials to conduct the necessary work.

Mr. Sloan motioned to adopt the resolution; Ms. Small seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.

10. **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION IN COOPERATION WITH AN AUTHORIZED STATE AGENCY AND FRIENDS OF COLORADO LAGOON FOR THE USFWS RECOVERY ACT FUNDS - HABITAT ENHANCEMENT, RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENT GRANTS FOR FUNDING OF THE LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.**

The Executive Officer explained that staff is seeking authorization to proceed with the application process for \$25,000, which would match a grant that was recently authorized by the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project for the stewardship plan that has been approved by the Board.

Ms. Small motioned to adopt the resolution; Mr. Sloan seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.

11. **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION IN COOPERATION WITH AN AUTHORIZED STATE AGENCY FOR THE USFWS 2010 COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND, SECTION 6 OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES WITHIN THE LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS COMPLEX.**

The Executive Officer reported that the grant is for \$6.1 million and that it would be provided for the Hellman properties, and because of the State bond freeze, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) would not be able to provide the funding at this time. It was noted that staff has submitted an application for Measure M funding and because the Hellman property is ready and can be concluded rather quickly, it may be highly competitive for the allocation of funds, and that this is an effort to secure additional funding as an alternate measure.

Mr. Sloan motioned to adopt the resolution; Ms. Small seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.

12. **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PRELIMINARY FY 09/10 LCWA BUDGET.**

The Executive Officer reported that the preliminary budget does include the amount that was previously allocated for the Hellman property that was committed by the WCB, and that it remains in the preliminary budget in the event that it is authorized this fiscal year.

It was noted that the other items were standard items and are consistent with budgets from prior years. It was also noted that the final budget will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Small motioned to adopt the resolution; Mr. Sloan seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.

13. STATEMENTS, RESPONSES, QUESTIONS OR DIRECTIONS TO STAFF PURSUANT TO SECTION 54954.2(A) OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE.

No statements, responses, questions or directions to staff were forthcoming.

14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING.

The next Board meeting will be held at 3:00pm, Tuesday, November 10, 2009, instead of Wednesday, November 11, 2009, because the 11th is a State holiday.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Gary DeLong at 3:42 p.m.