

**Meeting Minutes of the
Wetlands Advisory Board
May 18, 2017**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Wetlands Advisory Board was held on Thursday, May 18, 2017 at the Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room, Balboa Park.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Jayne Janda-Timba, Chair, General Member
Jeff Crooks, Coastal Salt Marsh Rep.
Chris Nordby, Wetlands Scientist
Theresa Talley, General Member
Michael Beck, Environmental Org.

Members Absent

Daniel Smith, Land Owner

City of San Diego Staff

Jeannette De Angelis, Program Manager, DSD
Jeanne Krosch, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

Guests

Tershia d'Elgin
Eric Bowlby
Tory Walker

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Janda-Timba at 2:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on January 19, 2017 were unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

INFORMATIONAL/WORKSHOP ITEMS

1. Maple Canyon Restoration Project Phase II - *Tershia d'Elgin/Eric Bowlby/Tory Walker*

A presentation was given to present a concept of canyon creek stabilization in Maple Canyon as a template that can be repeatable within site specific constraints throughout San Diego canyons for erosion control and stormwater benefits, improved wetlands and species preservation. The overall approach is to utilize a series of engineered stackable block weirs and natural rock across degraded channels to restore slope stability and resolve drainage issues while eliminating head cutting of the canyon channel, capturing sediment transport, increasing riparian habitat, and minimizing maintenance. The project is being sponsored by San Diego Canyonlands in coordination with the City of San Diego.

Following the presentation, questions from the Board regarding the dynamics of the sediment transport, construction techniques, permitting, utility conflicts, future habitat value, mitigation, hydrological outcomes, long-term maintenance and costs were answered. San Diego Canyonlands has asked that the WAB consider a letter of support for the project.

2. Open Discussion on low quality wetland habitat determinations – *Jeanne Krosch, MSCP, Planning*

As the Project Manager for the amendments to the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Regulations pertaining to Wetland Deviations, Jeanne was invited to discuss the responsibility of the WAB to provide an opinion on whether wetlands proposed to be impacted are considered low quality habitat for purposes of making the determination for the biological superior option for wetland deviations.

Given the purpose and intent of the WAB, making such low quality opinions has proven to be difficult. The WAB doesn't feel comfortable calling any wetland "low" quality as a standalone opinion. Following the criteria outlined in the Biology Guidelines is helpful but looking at the quality of the wetlands in isolation without consideration of the projects design and analysis of the mitigation proposal as a biologically superior alternative is extremely difficult. The Board will continue to pursue available avenues to clarify their advisory role on the wetland deviation process.

3. Wetland Advisory Board Procedures – *Jayne Janda-Timba*

Due to time constraints no discussion was held.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Reappointments and recruitment will continue to be a priority for the Board.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Presentation on the Borer Beetle by Gail Sevrens, CDFW
- Wild Mission Bay Planning Efforts
- Los Peñasquitos TMDL and marsh restoration
- West Mission Bay Bridge
- Pond 20 possible mitigation bank
- Local canyon/wetland restoration projects
- Famosa Slough storm water diversion
- Mission Valley Community Plan update, San Diego River elements

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, July 20th at 2:30 pm to be held at 1222 1st Ave, 4th Floor Training Room, San Diego, CA 92101.