

**Minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting of the
Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority (SCCWRP)**

**Held at the offices of the Authority:
3535 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa, California 92626**

**September 6, 2013
9:30 AM**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

John Kemmerer — *US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region IX*
Vicky Whitney — *State Water Resources Control Board*
Catherine Kuhlman — *Ocean Protection Council*
Sam Unger — *Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board*
Kurt Berchtold (Chair) — *Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board*
David Barker — *San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board*
Mas Dojiri — *City of Los Angeles*
Grace Chan — *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*
Robert Ghirelli — *Orange County Sanitation District*
Tim Stebbins — *City of San Diego*
Gerhardt Hubner (Vice-Chair) — *Ventura County Watershed Protection District*
Gary Hildebrand — *Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*
Mary Anne Skorpanich — *County of Orange*
Jo Ann Weber (*for Cid Tesoro*) — *County of San Diego*

STAFF PRESENT

Stephen Weisberg — *Executive Director*
Bryan Nece — *Administrative Officer*
Wesley Beverlin — *Legal Counsel*
Ken Schiff — *Deputy Director*
Steve Bay — *Principal Investigator*
John Griffith — *Principal Investigator*
Keith Maruya — *Principal Investigator*
Eric Stein — *Principal Investigator*
Steve Steinberg — *Principal Investigator*
Martha Sutula — *Principal Investigator*
Karen McLaughlin — *Senior Scientist*
Karen Setty — *Science Writer*

OTHERS PRESENT

Joel Carnes — *XPRIZE Foundation*
Janet Hashimoto — *US EPA, Region IX*
Wanda Cross — *Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board*
Phil Friess — *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*
Joe Gully — *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*
Bruce Posthumus — *San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board*

Commission Chair Tim Stebbins called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM. Stebbins announced he was the new Alternate Commissioner for the City of San Diego. He also indicated that Roger Bailey had left the City of San Diego and Steve Meyer planned to retire. He indicated Jo Ann Weber was appointed as a single meeting Alternate Commissioner for the County of San Diego.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Minutes of Meeting Held June 7, 2013**
- 2. Quarterly Financial Statement for the Period Ended June 30, 2013**
- 3. Quarterly Statement of Investments at June 30, 2013**
- 4. Minutes of CTAG Meeting Held May 9, 2013**

Commissioner Dojiri motioned to approve the consent items with minor edits to the June 7 Commission minutes. Commissioner Hildebrand seconded the motion. The Commission approved it unanimously with Commissioner Kemmerer abstaining.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Personnel and Finance Committee Report

Personnel and Finance Committee Chair Grace Chan reported on the outcome of the morning meeting. The Executive Director briefed the Committee on reasons for the Agency's fiscal loss from fiscal year 2013, along with a current financial update. The Committee was satisfied that the loss was attributable to one-time expenses and that the organization was financially sound. The Committee also discussed general logistics for the strategic planning meeting and endorsed the Director's draft proposal. Finally, Commissioner Chan was re-elected to serve as Chair of the Personnel and Finance Committee for the next year.

Commissioner Chan added that the Personnel and Finance Committee recommended discontinuation of the quarterly dashboard report on project budget and schedule status, which the Committee did not find useful in considering organizational financial status. However, several Commissioners indicated that they did find it useful and the Commission voted in favor of retaining the dashboard report.

6. Election of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair

Weisberg explained that the Commission Chair and Vice-Chair nominally serve one-year terms, but traditionally are re-elected for a second term and the present leadership had served for two years. Commission Chair Stebbins requested nominations for Chair. Commissioner Ghirelli nominated Commissioner Berchtold, and Commissioner Chan seconded the nomination. The Commission approved it unanimously with Commissioner Kemmerer abstaining. Leadership of the meeting transitioned from Commissioner Stebbins to the new Commission Chair.

New Commission Chair Berchtold next requested nominations for Vice-Chair. After Commissioner Ghirelli asked about interest among stormwater agencies, Commissioner Skorpanich nominated Commissioner Hubner, and Commissioner Unger seconded. The Commission approved the nomination unanimously with Commissioner Kemmerer abstaining.

7. Future Meeting Dates

Weisberg proposed the following dates for the 2014 Commission meetings:

- March 7
- June 6
- September 5
- December 5

No Commissioners expressed conflicts. Commissioner Berchtold motioned to approve the dates and the Commission adopted them unanimously with Commissioner Kemmerer abstaining.

8. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Steve Weisberg welcomed Commissioner Stebbins and indicated he now held the record for the shortest term as Commission Chair. Weisberg indicated that Stebbins was not the first to serve on both CTAG and the Commission, with Chris Crompton, Amber Mace, and Mas Dojiri coming to mind as others, but that he was the first to chair both groups in the same year. Weisberg also congratulated Commissioner Ghirelli, who two meetings ago had set the record for most years as a SCCWRP Commissioner (22 years), eclipsing that of former Commissioner Gerry Thibeault, who still held the record for longest continuous service (21 years).

Weisberg next reported the California Ocean Protection Council had officially announced its ocean acidification expert panel, which included two SCCWRP staff members and expanded its geographical scope from California to the entire US West Coast and potentially Canada. Commissioner Kuhlman added that the panel currently comprises 19–20 invited experts.

Lastly, Weisberg described an upcoming workshop December 10–11 at SCCWRP that will identify barriers to linking biogeochemical and physical models, which is necessary to determine the importance of local discharges on ocean acidification. Martha Sutula will lead the workshop, involving 29 invited experts. In response to Commissioner Unger's question, Weisberg indicated member agency representatives are welcome to attend the workshop.

9. CTAG Report

Commission's Technical Advisory Group (CTAG) Chair Wanda Cross reported on the outcome of the August 8, 2013 meeting. CTAG received presentations on microbial source identification and the XPRIZE Foundation's Ocean Health prize. They felt the XPRIZE venture was valuable and recommended the Commission receive a presentation on this

topic. CTAG discussed the Commission's strategic planning process and selected representatives to engage with the review panel. CTAG also plans to review and help refine the CTAG charter that the Executive Director was charged with developing. CTAG also discussed schedule for the SCCWRP Symposium and decided to move to a biennial schedule, with the next one to be held in March 2015. Finally, CTAG has established a historical monitoring data committee in response to the Commission's request, which will meet after the Bight '13 sampling flurry concludes.

CTAG recommended the Commission endorse the contracts (having reviewed all except the fourth) and approve the marine debris fact sheet.

10. Contract Review

Weisberg asked the Commission to approve a resolution regarding contracts offered to SCCWRP. Some require Commission action under SCCWRP's Joint Powers Agreement because the value exceeds \$250,000. In addition, the State of California requests a resolution of acceptance for those exceeding \$100,000 offered by the State or Regional Water Boards.

- 1) State Water Resources Control Board (\$350,000)
San Diego Bay Bioaccumulation
- 2) US EPA (through ITSI Gilbane Company) (\$250,000)
Passive Sampling on Palos Verdes Shelf
- 3) County of San Diego (through AMEC) (\$350,000)
City of San Diego (\$250,000)
San Diego Pilot Surfer Wet Weather Epidemiology Study
- 4) State Water Resources Control Board (\$125,000)
Beach Watch

Commissioner Hubner motioned to approve these four contracts and Commissioner Hildebrand seconded. The Commission approved the motion unanimously with Commissioner Kemmerer abstaining from all four, Commissioner Whitney abstaining from contracts 1 and 4, and Commissioners Weber and Stebbins abstaining from contract 3.

In response to questions about the epidemiology study, Weisberg explained water quality standards are identical in summer and winter, but scientists have never conducted epidemiology studies during wet weather to verify whether this is appropriate. He described several challenges with wet weather studies and how SCCWRP is working with the Surfrider Foundation and Surflife to recruit survey participants.

As an informational item, Weisberg also presented contracts with a value of \$250,000 or less that SCCWRP has accepted or indicated a willingness to accept. While SCCWRP's governing agreement requires no Commission action on these, he presented them to ensure the agency's directions are consistent with the Commission's intentions.

- 5) State Water Resources Control Board (\$100,000)
Statewide Bioassessment Support
- 6) San Elijo Joint Powers Authority (\$73,543)
City of Oceanside (\$89,743)
Encina Wastewater Authority (\$64,256)
South Orange County Wastewater Authority (\$32,000)
2013 Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring Program (Bight '13)
- 7) County of San Diego (through AMEC) (\$10,560)
Modeling Natural and Urbanized Flow for Hydromodification Analysis

The Commission did not raise any objections to these contracts.

11. Strategic Planning Meeting

The Executive Director reported on progress toward the Commission's five year strategic planning meeting. The Personnel and Finance Committee was coordinating the review, and this year opted to recruit a review panel to provide feedback in advance of the meeting. This panel will meet in February and then prepare a written report. Dates were considered for the Commission's follow-up strategic planning meeting.

Commissioner Ghirelli motioned to hold the five-year strategic planning meeting at SCCWRP on May 1, 2014 starting at 8:30 AM. Commissioner Kuhlman seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously approved it with Commissioner Kemmerer abstaining.

12. XPRIZE for Ocean Health

Joel Carnes from the XPRIZE Foundation made a presentation regarding a partnership among SCCWRP, its member agencies, and the XPRIZE Foundation to enhance development of next-generation pH sensors. The Wendy Schmidt ocean health prize, set to launch on Monday, will catalyze growth in the industry by offering two purses for the best deep water and coastal pH sensors. SCCWRP and its member agencies have been asked to help lead a post-prize activity to transition the technology to application, involving an opportunity to independently test and review the technology. Weisberg indicated this effort will help to fill a critical instrumentation gap related to studying nutrient enrichment, hypoxia, and acidification issues. The Commissioners appreciated the presentation and asked questions about the logistics, including how their agencies would be involved.

Both discharger and stormwater management agencies were interested in performing testing, since it carried a minimal incremental cost alongside routine monitoring. In response to Commissioner Unger's concerns about endorsing one technology at the expense of its competitors, Weisberg explained the precedent for SCCWRP's method evaluation studies, which keep conclusions at the scientific level (verifying a minimum technical capability) and provide feedback for all technology developers to correct issues with their products. Success at this "industry test" might result in a small cash prize from the XPRIZE Foundation, but commercialization would also rely on other factors, such as

cost and practicality. Commissioner Skorpanich lastly reflected on the value of the exercise for communicating ocean issues to the public.

13. Transitioning Microbial Source Identification Methods to Application

The Executive Director introduced SCCWRP's microbial source identification activities. These served as a good example of where SCCWRP has had success working through a multi-year technology evaluation and transition process, recently culminating in pilot tests and production of a standard manual for the state. Two presentations followed regarding new endeavors in this research area.

- I. Bight '13 — John Griffith presented the goals and design for the Bight '13 regional source identification study to identify beaches with human fecal contamination sources. Commissioner Unger asked if SCCWRP will publish earlier source identification data and Weisberg indicated the results are still under review; however, the Bight '13 program will leverage the earlier data.

In response to Commissioner Hubner's question about quantifying magnitude of the human signal, Griffith and Weisberg explained the technical challenges associated with determining how long the human markers persist in the environment in comparison to fecal indicator bacteria and pathogen degradation. Work to overcome this challenge will begin in January in conjunction with a Clean Beaches Initiative grant, and the fieldwork will require 2–3 years to capture both wet and dry weather conditions. This information will be extremely useful to all agencies that use these technologies into the future.

- II. Wet-weather epidemiology and quantitative microbial risk assessment (QMRA) — Ken Schiff presented plans for a new epidemiological and QMRA study in San Diego. Wet weather is a primary concern for beach managers and this study represent a novel application of the epidemiology and QMRA study principles to evaluate the relationship between existing water quality standards and public health protection. QMRA uses a computer model to estimate the risk of illness based on the specific source(s) of fecal contamination at a beach. The data will also inform wet weather bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads and Site-Specific Objectives.

14. Fact Sheet

Karen Setty presented a marine debris fact sheet for Commission approval. The Commission did not raise any major issues and Setty asked for any minor changes by email. Commissioner Skorpanich motioned to approve the fact sheet. Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously approved it with Commissioner Kemmerer abstaining.

15. Other Business and Communications

Weisberg asked for any future agenda items. For the next Commission meeting, Commissioner Ghirelli asked for an update on the strategic planning meeting. Commissioner Unger asked for an update on the XPRIZE for Ocean Health partnership.

16. Public Comments

No public comments were raised.

17. Adjournment

Commission Chair Berchtold adjourned the meeting at 11:46 AM until the next Commission meeting on December 6, 2013.

Attest:

Bryan Nece
Secretary