

**CALIFORNIA OCEAN SCIENCE TRUST (TRUST)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

Minutes

DECEMBER 16, 2004

9:30 AM TO 3:30 PM

PORT OF LONG BEACH

925 Harbor Plaza.

Long Beach 90801

Trustees Present

Charles Kennel, Chair

Geraldine Knatz, Vice-Chair

Russ Moll, Secretary

Brian Baird

Mark Gold

Jim Kelley

Trustees attending by phone

Burr Heneman, Treasurer

Trustees Absent

Beth Jines

Fred Keeley

Fred Klass

Staff

Justin Malan

Guests

Rudy Murillo

Brock Bernstein

WELCOME: Chair Charles Kennel welcomed everyone, thanked Geraldine Knatz and her staff for providing the location and lunch and introduced Rudy Murillo, Director of State Relations at Scripps Institution of Oceanography as well as Brock Bernstein, consultant.

Kennel commented that with the proposed Action Plan on the agenda, the Trust would be moving from discussion to action. He suggested that the following two additional items be added to the agenda:

- The upcoming Presidential response to the revised US Ocean Commission's Report; and
- An assessment of the White House Initiative related to the International Agreement on Global Observations.

Approval of the July 6, 2004 minutes was initially deferred, but ratified upon securing a quorum

CALOST UPDATE: Executive Director, Justin Malan, provided a brief update on CalOST activities, including participation in the May 2004 Ocean Summit and the November Ocean Science Priority Workshop in Santa Cruz.

Brian Baird reported on progress being made with the California Ocean Agenda. It was noted that the science panel had portrayed a strong unified message at the May Ocean Summit; that Governor Schwarzenegger had committed to a 13 point Ocean Action plan

and that the Ocean Protection Council had been formed with the Secretaries of Resources and CalEPA; and representatives from State Lands Commission and the Legislature. Baird also noted that a new economic evaluation of coastal and ocean resources was being prepared and that the Governor had signed into law eight bills promoting ocean protection.

Russ Moll and Baird continued with a summary of the November Ocean Science Priority Workshop sponsored by the UC Marine Council, California Sea Grant Program, Resources Agency and the Trust. Malan stressed that the six top priorities identified by the various working groups at the workshop were very closely correlated with the recommendations in Brock Bernstein's report and the priorities identified in the Trust's proposed Action Plan.

Kennel noted that the workshop was an important step towards reconciling the needs of the resource managers and the capabilities of the scientists/researchers. Knatz emphasized that the voice of California would be strengthened in the research community if the researchers knew how each piece fitted together and if they knew what management agencies needed.

The Trustees were informed that the four sponsoring organizations would be producing a joint report from the workshop. Baird urged that the Trust encourage the other groups to prepare a joint statement regarding California's ocean science that may be presented at the first meeting of the Ocean Protection Council in mid March.

Brock Bernstein Report: Bernstein presented the key findings of his report in the context of the Pew Commission and the US Ocean Commission reports. Bernstein noted that both of those blue ribbon panels had recognized some serious problems with ocean management and had proposed similar strategies for action. He stressed the need for better management tools and to focus on putting more pieces of the management "puzzle" together.

The discussion that followed revolved around what ecosystem management really means and how best to get both managers and researchers there. Spatial dimensions – or the physical scope of the management area - were considered a key consideration.

The Trustees recommended that Bernstein and Malan work to refine the document in three ways:

- Strengthen the themes of the Trust's roles: Advise; Facilitate and Fund;
- Identify the general agreements and actions needed;
- Include a summary of what needed to be done by whom.

It was also agreed that the following sections of the report be strengthened:

- Description of California extensive research “capacities”;
- Description of the advances that have already been made in the field over the past 30 years; and
- Explanation on why CalOST was well suited to play the Advisory, Facilitator and Funding roles.
- Kelley suggested that the minutes of the November meeting revealed once again the mismatch between the incentive systems on the management and research sides. There was a need to provide incentives on both ends to promote closer collaboration. Bernstein observed that the consulting organizations – and not the academic institutions – were meeting many of the government agencies needs – and reaping extensive financial returns.
- On Knatz’s suggestion, current procedures and practices on habitat restoration would be covered in the report.

Bernstein agreed to the new proposed report format with a brief (2 page) Executive Summary that would be shared as a hard copy summary and the full 20 page report that would be posted on the CalOST website.

CalOST Strategic Plan: Malan provided a brief overview of the proposed CalOST Strategic Plan. After some discussion the Trustees noted the close correlation between the Bernstein Report and the November Workshop findings as well as certain recommendations found in the two national ocean commission reports.

There was broad agreement that there was a need to transition from single species management to a more holistic ecosystem management; that the Trust should promote a pilot project in the role of a facilitator; and that data poor situations should be a high priority. The central issue appeared to be around what science elements/parameters or “rules of thumb” needed to be developed. Several Trustees recognized that the federal and in particular the State agencies, needed help in this transition to ecosystem management.

Heneman noted that several conferences and workshops had already been held on the topic of ecosystem management and that he had collaborated in a recent paper in the journal “Science” which dealt with many of these issues. Heneman proposed that the Trust work with the Marine Stewardship Council on their project which focused on marine system/fisheries sustainability. It was suggested that the Trust could help broaden California’s agency representatives in the Council’s upcoming conference on this topic.

Moll proposed that the Trust work with the Sea Grant Marine Advisors that were planning a March 2005 symposium on the restoration of Humboldt Bay’s physical and

ecological processes. The limited spatial scope of this project lends itself well to a pilot study for the development and application of ecosystem management principles.

The Trustees discussed the proposal for CalOST to support the upgrading and maintenance of the Resources Agencies OCEAN website. Baird noted that little had been done to keep the website current in years, but that the agency was likely to provide some funding in the new budget to improve this service.

MOTION I: Approve July 6 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

After lunch the discussion on the Strategic plan continued. Heneman did not participate in the afternoon session via telephone.

Kennel requested that CalOST prepare a statement in response to the President's comments on the US Ocean Commissions revised report. There was a possibility that the national Ocean Council would be created next year. Baird agreed to assist by consulting with the Coastal States Organization.

Malan pointed out that the proposed one to three year Strategic Plan for the Trust did not include two recommendations that were in the Bernstein report: Involvement in total maximum daily loads (TMDL) and the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) because – although they were most deserving - these issues already had considerable resources assigned to them by other organizations.

Gold urged the Trustees to consider working on the 2006 Water Bond that was being planned. It was considered to be a potentially strong source of funding for water quality projects that the Trust may wish to support. Gold also appealed to the other Trustees to support some level of water quality involvement by the Trust and recommended that the Trust assist in identifying the top water quality priorities in the state.

The Chair called for motions from members to approve or reject the 5 proposed actions outlined in the strategic plan.

MOTION II by Kelley; Second Knatz: The Chair send a letter to Secretary Chrisman offering CalOST support – not to exceed \$25,000 - to help design the format and function of the agency's OCEAN network.

Motion carried with Baird abstaining.

MOTION III by Gold, Second Moll: Gold and Malan prepare a proposal for CalOST's involvement in facilitating the identification of the State's top water quality research needs and researchers interested in meeting these needs as well as potential funding sources for this research.

Motion carried.

MOTION IV by Gold, Second Knatz: Chair send a letter to Secretary Chrisman expressing the willingness and ability of the Trust to serve in an advisory capacity to the Ocean Protection Council.

Motion carried with Baird abstaining.

MOTION V by Knatz, Second Gold: Chair notify SCCOOS and CENCOOS of the Trust's willingness to perform the Advisory role proposed.

Motion carried with Kennel abstaining.

MOTION VI by Knatz, Second Gold:

Part 1: Malan to work with Sea Grant Advisors to identify whether the symposium would be a suitable forum for promoting an ecosystem management pilot program.

Part 2: Burr Heneman to be asked to present a proposal for the Trust's involvement in sponsoring the Marine Stewardship Council by promoting California representatives participation in the upcoming ecosystem management/sustainability conference.

Motion carried.

MOTION VII by Kelley, Second Baird: Malan directed to seek detailed proposal from Heneman and Coastal Conservancy outlining more specifically the Trust's role in advising and assisting the Conservancy to meet its needs.

Motion carried.

Without formal motion it was agreed that Baird be asked to bring to the next meeting or conference call any formal expression of interest by California Department of Fish and Game to involve the Trust in facilitating dealing improvements in MPA monitoring.

CalOST Board Business

- NFWF Memorandum of Understanding: After some discussion it was agreed that Malan would review the proposed revised MOU in greater detail with NFWF and report back to the Board at the next meeting
- The listed expenditure reimbursements were approved as presented

- The Board approved expenditure up to \$3,200 for Board of Director Insurance
- The Conflict of Interest Disclosure was approved and it was agreed that Trustees would update their statements annually.
- The Board approved the use of Nettop Publishing to maintain the CalOST website and agreed to using the slogan “*Connecting Science to Ocean Management*” in its logo. The logo would be reviewed to ensure that the shading would be suitable for photocopying.

The Chair again thanked all for attending and recommended that a conference call be arranged for early February 2005

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20PM.