

**CALIFORNIA OCEAN SCIENCE TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AGENDA**

February 13, 2008

SCCWRP

3535 Harbor Blvd., Suite 110

Costa Mesa, CA 92626

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Trustees Present: R. Moll, M. Gold, F. Keeley, B. Baird, J. Bishop, K. Finn, and S. Weisberg

Staff Present: A. Mace, Executive Director; C. Recchia, Marine Protected Areas Monitoring Enterprise Director

Trustees Absent: J. Kelley, T. Haymet

Guests: M. Weber, Resources Law Group; E. Chornesky, Consultant; S. Schuchat, State Coastal Conservancy/Ocean Protection Council (by phone); and S. Mastrup, Department of Fish and Game (by phone)

R. Moll opened the meeting. A. Mace welcomed and began introductions. C. Recchia described the morning agenda.

I. MPA Monitoring Enterprise

Recchia

A. Need for and Role of Monitoring Enterprise

B. Baird of the Resources Agency opened the discussion. M. Weber, S. Mastrup, and S. Schuchat then provided information summarizing the need for and role of the Monitoring Enterprise. M. Weber spoke about the need for a broadly credible program which would be useful to a variety of stakeholders, making both the scientific and communication designs important. He described how hundreds of hours of design work had gone into the development of a logic model for the Monitoring Enterprise, including expected outcomes. S. Mastrup explained that the Department of Fish & Game is looking to the Monitoring Enterprise to lead thinking about what monitoring needs to be done and why, and to take on the long-term job of managing, organizing and maintaining monitoring information. They consider it vital for this to be done properly and effectively.

S. Schuchat described expectations of the Monitoring Enterprise associated with the start-up grant from the Ocean Protection Council. He pointed out that the overarching goal of the Marine Life Protection Act is to protect and maintain healthy sustainable ecosystems, though no operational definition for this term has been set, making the process for measuring goal achievement over time somewhat vague. The Monitoring Enterprise must assist in clarifying this, in the context of measuring progress against MLPA goals. The secondary mission of the Enterprise is to manage all of the data and synthesize it in a way useful for decision-makers and transparent to the public.



Participants discussed the role of the Board including:

- Maintaining the financial integrity of the organization,
- Identifying and building partnerships and making connections with other relevant programs
- Providing sage advice
- Being champions for OST and the Enterprise
- Providing review, and ensuring that the system is functional overall.

B. Next Steps

Recchia then presented the Enterprise's next steps:

- Work with the Dept of Fish and Game, researchers, and stakeholders to develop monitoring approaches focused on meeting the requirements of the MLPA
- Focus initially on planning monitoring of the North Central Coast MPA array, currently under development through the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
- Advance development of Monitoring Enterprise information management system, beginning with user needs assessment
- Hire natural scientist/ecologist and information technology/management specialist

C. Budget

C. Recchia initiated a discussion of the Enterprise's budget and provided a breakdown of estimated funding needs over a 3-year horizon. Initial, start-up funding has been provided by the Ocean Protection Council, but additional funds are required.

D. Information Management System Development

E. Chornesky presented background and next steps for the information management system to be developed by the Monitoring Enterprise:

- Progress in integrating ecosystem assessment data since the 1980's has implications for monitoring program design, stakeholder involvement and using internet capabilities for managing and communicating data.
- Advancing the monitoring science and communications are the two critical functions of information management for the Enterprise.
- The next steps are to complete a requirements analysis to determine user needs, necessary functions to serve those needs, and technical specifications. The first phase of the requirements analysis – a user needs assessment – will involve extensive outreach. The RFP for the user needs assessment will be posted in March and a consultant should be selected by late April.

Discussion followed this presentation. E. Chornesky and C. Recchia indicated that the Enterprise would like to make data available to a diverse group of stakeholders and interested parties, though the first priority is delivering information that will service management needs.

E. Communications

F. Keeley proposed a short term (~1-2 month), internal planning effort to identify immediate communications needs and to make a preliminary communications plan. This initial work would focus on clarifying the role of the Monitoring Enterprise, so that it is understood what

the Enterprise will (and will not) be doing. This would lay the foundation for more detailed communications planning to be conducted in future, once resources have been secured. In the discussion that followed, R. Moll offered a contact with the communications group from Sea Grant to help enrich the effort, and E. Chornesky offered to coordinate this effort with the information management requirements analysis so as to make efficient use of people's time. B. Baird noted the importance of communicating scientific information impartially. All agreed that Keeley might begin this effort.

Overview of upcoming Ocean Protection Council Meeting:

B. Baird presented an overview of the tentative agenda for the upcoming OPC meeting, which will be held February 29th in Ventura. Items scheduled for discussion include the Thank You Ocean campaign, the West Coast Governor's Agreement, a report from the Science Advisory Team, a session on water quality/status on beach closures, and a panel discussion to explore possibilities for LID. The final agenda will be released on Friday, February 15th. M. Gold recommended additional panel speakers.

II. OST Board Business

Chair/Mace

A. Approval of Minutes

June 15, 2007 minutes were approved prior to the meeting via email. F. Keeley motioned to approve the October 26, 2007 minutes, and B. Baird seconded the motion. The October minutes were approved by the Board.

B. Financial Report

A. Mace provided handouts of the financial report. She noted that The OST was able to spend all CIAP funds by the deadline, and that a \$30,000 organizational effectiveness grant had been received from the Packard Foundation to continue organizational development. Mace also received sponsorship from the Packard Foundation to attend and Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders run by the Center for Social Innovation (CSI) at Stanford. OST anticipates receiving CIAP funding in 2008. With CIAP funds, OST will be stable financially, though their biggest challenge will be financing the Monitoring Enterprise.

C. Other Business

1. Program Development and Fundraising Efforts

- Mace provided a new OST information sheet for distribution by the Board.
- A. Mace initiated a discussion of OST policy on writing letters of support for other organizations' funding applications. F. Keeley prepared text to record this policy and motioned for its approval. M. Gold seconded the motion and the Board approved the text (as follows):

It shall be the general policy of the OST to not provide letters or other formal expressions of support for applications by entities for funding or other assistance. The Board of Trustees may, however, make exceptions to this general policy if a finding is made by the Trustees, based on a written recommendation from the

Executive Director that the exceptional support for another entity's application is essential to the core statutory mission of the OST.

2. *Discussion of Executive Director's Performance Review*

The Board discussed the Executive Director's performance and then communicated their findings to A. Mace. Mace and R. Moll will prepare a development plan for the coming year, which will serve as the basis for next year's review. The Trustees unanimously agreed to a 10% salary increase for the Executive Director effective from the one-year anniversary date, and complimented Mace on her effectiveness in the position.

3. *Trustee Appointments*

Trustees Kelley, Keeley, Moll and Gold are scheduled to rotate out from the Board soon. However, Board members felt that some Trustees should remain on the Board longer than originally planned in order to maintain continuity. R. Moll and B. Baird will raise this discussion with Secretary Chrisman, then update the Board and continue the discussion at the next meeting in May.

4. *Other*

- A. Mace gave an update on the search for a natural scientist and information manager. The OST continues to seek qualified candidates for these positions.
- A. Mace will look for approval of the business plan at the May meeting.
- B. Baird brought up the OST's potential involvement in a study on how to decommission oil and gas platforms, for which the Resources Agency will issue an RFP.

III. Science Services for Ocean Protection Council (OPC)

Mace

A. *Science Services*

- The OST will fund a harmful algal bloom (HAB) workshop hosted by SCCWRP April 2-3 and report the output from this workshop to the OPC. The workshop is intended to bring together researchers from across the state to identify differences in HABs monitoring methods, see if data are compatible, and create synchrony where possible. This workshop may serve as a basis for integrating data across Washington, Oregon and California in the future.
- A workshop will potentially be held in August to bring together west coast managers to discuss ocean acidification.
- A. Mace discussed the OPC research priorities and the new focused research and outreach initiative through UC Sea Grant.
- A. Mace gave an update on the water quality report which will be discussed February 20th with the SWRCB to determine how OST can finalize and disseminate the report. This will be on the agenda for the May OST meeting. M. Gold and S. Weisberg offered to help communicate the importance of this report to the SWRCB.
- The Board discussed the need to hold OST board meetings 3 weeks in advance of OPC meetings in the future, to allow ample time to modify the meeting agenda. The August board meeting was moved to July 29th (location TBA), and a second meeting

was tentatively set for October 29th (location TBA). The Board decided to alternate meeting locations between SCCWRP and OST headquarters.

- The Board discussed involvement of OST in the MBARI outreach exercise.

B. Science Advisory Team update

A Science Advisory Team (SAT) is being formed by OST to serve as a resource for the OPC and the OPC science advisor. A. Mace discussed the selection criteria and the selection process. Mace provided the list of 25 to the Board and sought any questions/concerns. The Board felt that the list was a well balanced team. The list will be considered for adoption by the OPC at the February 29, 2008 OPC meeting.

IV. Next steps

Chair/Mace

Agenda items for the next meeting should be sent to A. Mace. Additional comments on the OST Board meeting format should be shared with R. Moll or A. Mace.