

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

**Tuesday, April 7, 2009
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Trustees Present: S. Weisberg, B. Baird, F. Keeley, D. Caron, K. Coale, M. Spring, B. Gold, K. Wiseman

Staff Present: A. Mace, Executive Director, K. Geldreich, Office Manager, S. Henkel, Sea Grant Fellow, D. Pietri, Program Associate, E. Whiteman, MPA Monitoring Enterprise Lead Scientist, C. Recchia, Director MPA Monitoring Enterprise

Trustees Absent: K. Finn, J. Bishop

Visitors to open meeting: S. Schuchat from California State Coastal Conservancy

F. Keeley welcomed and provided an overview of the day's agenda. The OST staff was introduced to the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Trustees then introduced themselves. F. Keeley and B. Baird provided a general overview of how and why the OST was created and the organization's development since founding.

I. OST Overview

A. Mace

A. Mace provided an overview of the organization:

- Mission, vision and organization goals were reviewed
- How OST Trustees are nominated
- The organization's current programs
- Relationship between the Ocean Science Trust, Ocean Protection Council and the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team

F. Keeley provided information on the creation of the California Ocean Resources Stewardship Act of 2000 and related legislation.

II. Ocean Protection Council (OPC)

B. Baird/S. Schuchat

a. OPC Background

F. Keeley introduced Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer of the California State Coastal Conservancy.

S. Schuchat provided background on how the Ocean Protection Council relates to the State Coastal Conservancy and on how the connection between the Ocean Protection Council and the Ocean Science Trust formed.

B. Gold inquired if there were any organizations with missions and programs similar to those of OST in California.



S. Weisberg commented that there was a comparative assessment of OST with other organizations completed previously. He suggested that this document be sent to Trustees and then reviewed at a future Board of Trustees meeting.

b. Discussion of previous OPC Meeting

B. Baird provided an overview of the previous OPC meeting which focused on the establishment of a Dungeness crab fisheries task force.

III. Science Services Overview

A. Mace

A. Mace gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Science Integration program's projects, activities, and project selection criteria:

- Study to Provide Information Related to Oil and Gas Platform Decommissioning Alternatives in California
- AIS Vector Risk Assessment (currently on hold due to state budget crisis)
- Science Services to the state

IV. Incubating New Entities Overview

A. Mace/ C. Recchia

A. Mace explained what an incubating organization provides to new entities and how incubating new entities can help fulfill the OST's mission. A. Mace noted that there is strong demand for this service and that the OST has been considered as a possible incubator for many projects. As such there are criteria that have been developed for the Board and OST staff to use to evaluate potential new programs and ventures.

C. Recchia presented a PowerPoint presentation on the MPA Monitoring Enterprise:

- Why there is a need for the MPA Monitoring Enterprise
- Three core elements to the Monitoring Enterprise—science, information, communication
- Current staffing and future staffing plans
- Effect of the state budget crisis on the Monitoring Enterprise's timelines and work
- Priorities for the Monitoring Enterprise

V. OST Board Business

F. Keeley/ A. Mace

F. Keeley noted that a quorum was present and Board Business could begin.

a. Elect Chair

Motion by M. Spring to elect S. Weisberg as OST Board of Trustees Chair, K. Coale seconded. All in favor and approved.

S. Weisberg suggested that election of other officers be deferred until the next Board meeting to allow new Trustees to familiarize themselves with the positions available. Board members agreed and election of remaining positions was deferred.

b. Approval of October 29, 2008 and December 18, 2008 Minutes

F. Keeley moved to accept minutes as presented, B. Baird seconded. All in favor with three Trustees abstaining: K. Wiseman, M. Spring and B. Gold.

c. Financial Report

A. Mace presented a PowerPoint presentation on OST finances:

- Overview and development of the budget for FY 2009-2011
- Budget to actual
- Cash flow
- State of California's stop work order. The effect of the stop work order on OST's budget, projects and the organization as a whole.
- The strength of OST's partnerships with the OPC, State Coastal Conservancy and foundations has been demonstrated during the State budget crisis.

S. Weisberg noted positively that the OST has been able to cut expenses significantly in response to the stop work order. S. Weisberg commented that he would like to schedule a conference call to discuss the following additional financial documents: 1) cashflow projections for the next 18 months, 2) options for further cost reductions to address the estimated revenue shortfall for the MPA Monitoring Enterprise after September 30, 2009, 3) clarification of the use of existing funds. In addition S. Weisberg commented that he would like the Board to develop a plan on how to increase OST's revenue stream.

K. Wiseman and D. Caron commented and discussed that multiple contingency plans should be explored as part of cost reduction strategies.

d. Other Business:

i. Set future meeting dates

This item was deferred due to time constraints during the meeting; future meeting dates will be arranged in the next few months.

ii. Discuss protocol for letters of support

A. Mace explained the general OST policy which is to not write letters of support. A. Mace sought Board discussion on the application of this policy to OPC-SAT members. The Board was in agreement to continue with the current OST policy of not writing letters of support.

VI. Discussion Items:

a. Opportunities with stimulus dollars and partnership

A. Mace discussed an assessment of current areas where stimulus funds are being allocated and the potential for OST to apply and receive stimulus dollars. A. Mace asked Trustees to continue to be aware of funding opportunities for the OST.

M. Spring suggested investigating opportunities for OST to complete subcontractor work for an organization that has received stimulus funds.

b. Opportunities for OST, science in decision-making

This item was deferred due to limited meeting time.

VII. Next Steps

S. Weisberg/A. Mace

The board discussed future agenda items including:

- Election of Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer
- Continued budget discussions
- Overview of bill rates
- Reevaluation of OST's niche with respect to other organizations
- Oil Platform Decommissioning Study
- Effective use of Science Advisory Team
- MPA Monitoring Enterprise
- Governance: committee membership and board roles and responsibilities

A May 18th teleconference was scheduled to discuss cashflow projections and contingency plans before the next in person Board meeting.

A. Mace thanked all of those in attendance for their expertise and high level of engagement.

VIII. Meeting Closure

Meeting Adjourned. A reception was held with OST staff, Trustees and OPC staff present.