

BEACON BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Friday, March 19, 2021

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: TELECONFERENCE

Item	1	Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introductions – Chair, Gregg Hart.
Minutes/ Actions:	Directors Present: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gregg Hart (County of Santa Barbara)• Das Williams (County of Santa Barbara)• Matt LaVere (County of Ventura)• Carmen Ramirez (County of Ventura)• Kyle Richards (City of Goleta)• Eric Friedman (City of Santa Barbara)• Al Clark (City of Carpinteria)• Joe Schroeder (City of Ventura)• Vianey Lopez (City of Oxnard)• Steven Gama, (City of Port Hueneme)	

Item	1B	Approval of Agenda and Filing of Certificate of Agenda Posting Action: Approve and file.
Minutes/ Actions:	Director Richards requested that Items 5B2 be considered by the Board before Item 5B1. The Agenda was unanimously approved by the Board with the sequence change requested by Director Richards. Moved by Richards / Second by Gama.	

Item	1C	Consideration and Approval of Minutes of the BEACON Meeting held on November 20, 2020, the Minutes of the BEACON Meeting held on January 15, 2020, and the Minutes of the BEACON Special Board Meeting held on February 12, 2020. Action: Approve and file.
Minutes/ Actions:	The Board approved unanimously the Recommended Action. Moved by Richards / Second by Williams.	

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Item	2	Public Comment and Other Matters not on the Agenda Receive public comments.
Minutes/ Actions:	None.	

Item	3	Presentations – Receive a presentation by the County of Santa Barbara on the County’s Climate and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Planning.
Minutes/ Actions:	<p>Executive Director Marc Beyeler introduced this item. He stated that this was the 3rd presentation by a member agency regarding SLR adaptation planning. Marc reminded the Board that utilizing the SLR adoptions plans from all member agencies, BEACON would be extracting and compiling a Regional SLR Adaptation Plan.</p> <p>The County of Santa Barbara Senior Planner, Selena Evilsizor presented a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation will be added to the BEACON website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Gregg Hart thanked Selena for the presentation and for clearly addressing complex issues. Director Das Williams thanked Selena and the other County Staff involved in development of the plan. Das speculated that if the County’s Local Coastal Plan Amendment assumed the Coastal Commission recommended very high SLR projection scenario, there may be a blood bath in the homeowners’ community. Director Carmen Ramirez thanked Selena for the presentation and stated that community engagement is critical, and clarity is critical for property owners. Director Eric Friedman thanked Selena for the presentation. Eric indicated that the 1977 construction date threshold is critical. Eric asked if there were potential compromises with the Coastal Commission. <p>Selena responded that if a building were constructed prior to 1977 a coastal protective structure could be installed. For construction completed after 1977, owners have no right to coastal protection, but coastal protection could still be considered with evaluation. In addition, non-structural coastal protection methods could also be implemented that are less environmentally damaging.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director Steven Gama indicated that this subject was certainly complicated. He expressed the importance of going back to the basics – namely sand replenishment. Many of the property owner concerns with coastal protection would be mitigated if we had a good policy on getting sand to the beaches. 	

Item	5A	BEACON Organization and Program - Board Members Reports.
Minutes/ Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director Kyle Richards reported that on March 11, 2021 the City of Goleta hosted a Town Hall State Lands Commission Meeting which reported the decommissioning of Platform Holly as a result of the Veneco bankruptcy. A half of the 30 wells on Platform Holly have now been successfully plugged. In addition, CEQA review is underway for the pier and facilities removal. 	

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Item	5B2	<p>BEACON Organization and Program - Amendments to BEACON Bylaws. Review and approve the amended BEACON Bylaws (requires a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors). <i>Note:</i> As required under the BEACON Bylaws Article IX, these proposed amended Bylaws were also distributed 15 days prior to the scheduled Board meeting and posted online for public viewing</p>
Minutes/ Actions:		<p>The Executive Director reported that before the Board are recommended amendments to the BEACON Bylaws. The proposed amendments reflect the incorporation of purposes, objectives and authorities addressing regional coastal beach access and regional-level climate, sea-level rise adaptation, and coastal resilience. The current Bylaws are broad, but they should be enhanced to be more specific. Going forward, BEACON's policies, programs and projects addressing regional beach protection, enhancement and restoration will be greatly affected by changes in climate, weather, and increased sea-level-rise. BEACON's ability to address these impacts will be enhanced by explicitly incorporating the proposed language into its Bylaws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Carmen Ramirez supports the language changes but wants to be sure by being too specific could we be creating difficulties in the future? The Executive Director responded that BEACON benefits by the explicit spelling out of its roles which in turn results in a better understanding of that role with better integrated values. • Director Matt LaVere asked if more specific bylaws language regarding roles would open up more grant opportunities for BEACON? The Executive Director responded that he believed this to be true especially in light of new bond acts. • Director Kyle Richards indicated that he agreed with new language and he does not believe the language dilutes BEACON's mission. Kyle also recommended enhanced language regarding ecological health. BEACON has been supportive of the Kelp Anchor Project which appears to be proving a great benefit to marine habitat and ecology. The Executive Director responded that he supports language that includes ecological health. • Chair Hart indicated that if we added "ecological health" we would need to revise and report. Gregg recommended a follow-on Bylaws amendment at the next Board Meeting to include ecological health. • Chair Hart asked if there was any public comment. None was heard. <p>The Board approved the amended bylaws and directed staff to come back to the Board with an additional amendment to the bylaws to include ecological health language. Moved by Friedman / Second by Ramirez.</p>

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Item	5B1	BEACON Organization – BEACON Strategic Planning Goals and Objectives Recommended Actions: Review and approve the final BEACON Strategic Planning Goals and Objectives FY 2021-2026 (Exhibit 2).
Minutes/ Actions:	<p>Executive Director Marc Beyeler explained that the Board has already seen the draft of the Strategic Planning Goals and Objectives previously three times. Comments on the previous draft have been received from three BEACON member agencies as well as from the Science Advisory Committee.</p> <p>BEACON member agencies suggested changes and additions addressing BEACON's role in regional-level climate and sea-level rise adaptation planning and related coordinated regional monitoring. Comments received from the Science Advisory Committee addressed several related topics, including: the need to integrate climate and sea-level rise science into an updated Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan (CRSMP); the need to develop a regional approach to sediment management permitting; and the need for expanded regional monitoring addressing ecological, socio-economic, and physical gaps in long-term data collection. BEACON executive staff have modified the draft Strategic Planning Goals and Objectives to incorporate the suggested changes and additions and added a new Goal 3: Expand BEACON's regional sea level rise coordination and planning activities, and supporting objectives addressing regional shoreline monitoring and related studies, projects, and funding.</p> <p>Marc pointed out that the last page of the document is a work plan actions table reflecting target goals during the next five years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair Gregg Hart thanked Marc for the excellent document. He believed that the target time frames reflected in the actions table at the end were ambitious.• Director Steven Gama indicated that for him beach sediment was the priority. He expressed frustration that we know what we need to do in terms of getting more sediment to the coast, but it is so difficult to get it done.• Director Das Williams indicated that the scope of work in the plan was extensive and daunting.• Chair Gregg Hart requested public comment. None was heard. <p>BOARD ACTIONS: The Board approved unanimously the Recommended Actions. Moved by Williams /Second by Gama.</p>	

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Item	5B3	BEACON Legislative Programs Priorities. Recommended Actions: Receive a Staff Report on activities regarding Legislative Program Priorities.
Minutes/ Actions:		<p>Chair Gregg Hart indicated that he had been working with Assemblymember Steve Bennett in Sacramento and the situation is very dynamic. Steve asked that BEACON pause for now but that he is committed in getting BEACON's priorities heard.</p> <p>Executive Director Marc Beyeler indicated that BEACON is asking for support from State Legislators on three items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing funding to BEACON for updating its Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan (CRSMP) and re-authorizing its South-Central Coast Beach Enhancement Program (SCCBEP). • providing expanded funding for BEACON for innovative 'shovel ready' coastal projects within the Santa Barbara Littoral Cell. • providing a role for BEACON to identify funding priorities and grant eligibility in future bond acts including coastal funding within the Santa Barbara Littoral Cell. <p>Currently there are two bond acts under consideration both slated for the November 2022 ballot which would inject billions of dollars into available funding. In addition, there are a number of legislative bills in process. AB 826 authored by Steve Bennett, would authorize BEACON to jointly manage a grant program with the Coastal Conservancy utilizing state funding. BEACON staff have provided suggested language amendments specifying BEACON's role in program management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Steven Gama reported that PH Beach would be hosting a Beach Festival in August 2021. He wondered if BEACON could have a booth to promote the mission of BEACON. • Director Eric Freidman thanked Marc for his legislative work. Eric indicated that he believed AB 897 may be expanded to include other Bills. • Member of the Public: Fred Shaw stated that Steve Bennett's move to Sacramento could not have occurred at a better time. <p>BOARD ACTIONS: The Board Received and Filed.</p>

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Item	5C1	Auditor-Controller Budget Actions and Financial Reports Recommended Actions: i. Receive and file Recommended Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget (Exhibit I). ii. Receive and file proposed increase to Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Membership Dues (Exhibit II). Receive and file Three-Year Program Budget for Fiscal Years 2021-2022 through 2023-2024 (Exhibit III).
Minutes/ Actions:	<p>Mr. Omar Arreola of the Ventura County Auditor Controller's Office presented the Financial Reports. He indicated that a draft budget for FY22-22 is before the Board today. The key points of this year's budget are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First time for that a 3-year budget has been presented. • Budget is restricted to spending within our means such that all overhead is covered by revenue from member dues. • The main reserves are approx. \$212K. • Dues increases are limited to cost-of-living increases based on CPI. • Maintain approx. 5% contingency. <p>Omar explained that there are three recommended actions today. One is to receive and file the recommended FY21-22 budget; the second is to receive and file the proposed cost-of-living membership dues increase; and third receive and file the recommended 3-year budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Das Williams indicated that he likes this budget approach. • Director Steven Gama indicated that he was also supportive. • Public Comments: Fred Shaw expressed is support for the CPI increase to the dues because for many years BEACON had no dues increases. <p>BOARD ACTIONS: The Board Received and Filed.</p>	

Item	6	Executive Director's Report and Communications
Minutes/ Actions:	<p>Executive Director Marc Beyeler provided the following executive report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Remind Board Members to complete the FORM 700 forms for 2020 and submit to Gerald Comati. The deadline is April 1, 2021. Staff submitted a grant application to DBW. BEACON received OPC funding for the grain size analysis study. The Executive Director performance review with Executive Committee is scheduled for April 2021. The May Board Meeting will have another SLR presentation from a member agency as well as consider adoption of the budget for FY21-22 and the 3-year budget. 	

Adjourn to next regular meeting May 21, 2021 at 9:00 AM by Teleconference or Video Conference.

Meeting Minutes by Gerald Comati, Program Manager, BEACON.