

BEACON BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Friday, September 18, 2020

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) • Steve Bennett (County of Ventura) • John Zaragoza (County of Ventura) • Christy Weir (City of Ventura) • Eric Friedman (City of Santa Barbara) • Fred Shaw (City of Carpinteria) • Kyle Richards (City of Goleta) • Carmen Ramirez (City of Oxnard) • Steve Gama, (City of Port Hueneme)
Item	1B	Approval of Agenda and Filing of Certificate of Agenda Posting Action: Approve and file.
Minutes/ Actions:		The Agenda was unanimously approved by the Board. Moved by Shaw / Second by Weir.
Item	1C	Consideration and Approval of Minutes of the BEACON Meetings held on September 18, 2020. Action: Approve and file.
Minutes/ Actions:		The Board unanimously approved the minutes as posted. Moved by Ramirez/Second Zaragoza.
Item	2	Public Comment and Other Matters not on the Agenda Receive public comments.
Minutes/ Actions:		None.

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Item	3A	<p>Report on Regional Climate and Sea Level Rise Adaptation and City of Santa Barbara Presentation on Draft Sea-Level Rise Adaptation.</p> <p>Recommended Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Receive a presentation from BEACON Staff on Regional Sea Level Rise (SLR) Adaptation needs and opportunities. ii. Direct BEACON Staff to develop a Regional Adaptation Policies report; and iii. Receive a presentation from the City of Santa Barbara and provide comments on the City’s Draft Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan. iv. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a comment letter on the City of v. Santa Barbara’s Draft Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan regarding several potential region-level partnership opportunities (Exhibit 1); and vi. Determine the above actions are not a “Project” under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA guideline 15378(b)(5) because they are an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.
Minutes/ Actions:		<p>The Executive Director indicated that in January 2020 he reported that presentations to the Board would be forth coming on SLR adaptation plans prepared by member agencies. This presentation this morning is the first one from the City of Santa Barbara. The recommended actions also request the Board to direct staff to prepare a Regional Adaptation Policies Plan that is aligned with the adaptation policies from each member agency and execute a comment letter on the City of Santa Barbara’s adaptation plan.</p> <p>The City of Santa Barbara SLR Adaptation Plan was presented to the BEACON Board by City of SB Project Planner, Melissa Hetrick.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Cristy Weir indicated that a development in the City of Ventura has bounced around with regards to SLR compliance requirements dictated by the City. Melissa Hetrick indicated that the new coastal plan process dictated by the Coastal Commission requires detailed designs relative to SLR projections. • Director Eric Friedman thanked Melissa for the presentation. Eric indicated that a lot of work went into the City’s SLR Adaptation Plan and he hoped it would inform other jurisdictions. He also indicated that BEACON is ahead of the game as a regional coastal agency. • Director Carmen Ramirez indicated that we need to implement a regional SLR plans. Carmen expressed concerns regarding SLR projections and FEMA insurance requirements and about equity issues. • Director Fred Shaw asked that the City of SB presentation be posted on the BEACON Website. • Director Steve Gama thanked Melissa and indicated that that the presentation was a great introduction to the topic of adaptation planning. Steve also endorsed the need for BEACON to prepare a Regional SLR Adaptation Plan that would take inputs from the member agencies individual plans. Steve also supports continuation of shoreline monitoring in order to track coastal changes within the BEACON jurisdiction. <p>The Recommended Actions were unanimously approved by the Board. Moved by Weir / Second by Friedman.</p>

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Item	4A	<p>Santa Barbara Debris Basin Grant Project.</p> <p>Recommended Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Receive a presentation on status of the Santa Barbara Debris Basin Grant Project. ii. Approve, ratify, and authorize the Executive Director to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Grant Agreement with the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for the Santa Barbara County Debris Basin Removal Project to extend the term through March 30, 2023 and to re-define the scope of the project without a change in the grant amount of \$539,000 (Attachment 1); iii. Approve and authorize the Executive Director to execute a Cooperative Agreement with Santa Barbara County for the Santa Barbara County Debris Modification Project, similar to the attached, to provide environmental, design and construction services for an amount not to exceed \$539,000 with a period of performance from October 1, 2020 to March 30, 2023, upon concurrence of legal counsel (Attachment 2).
Minutes/ Actions:		<p>Program Manager Gerald Comati provided a status report on the Santa Barbara County Debris Basin Project. Gerald reported that an OPC grant had been approved in 2017 to help fund the removal of two debris basins (Rattle Snake and San Ysidro) thereby removing obstacles to the natural sediment transport to the coast. Following the debris flow of January 2018, SB County could no longer support removal of the two debris basins. Consequently, BEACON, working with The SB County Flood Control District, requested a scope and schedule change to the OPC grant. The Change included the modification of two existing debris basins (San Ysidro and Cold Springs) and pushing out the delivery schedule from 2018 to 2022. The modifications would maintain the function of the debris basins in terms of retaining large debris, but also allow the flow of sediment downstream to the beach. OPC approved the grant amendment in early 2020.</p> <p>Gerald indicated that SB County Flood Control was in the process of preparing environmental approvals and designs for the two basin modification projects.</p> <p>The Recommended Actions were unanimously approved by the Board. Moved by Weir / Second by Richards.</p>

Item	5A	BEACON Organization and Program - Board Members Reports.
Minutes/ Actions:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Kyle Richards indicated that the City of Goleta had received an award for local governments efforts to reduce GHG and save energy. Kyle also indicated that the City does a Coastal Hazards Vulnerability Assessment and Fiscal Impact Report, which was approved by the City Council in December 2015. • Director Carmen Ramirez reported that the City of Oxnard approved a SLR Adaptation Strategy back in 2018. Carmen also reported that the City had recently reached a deal with the Mandalay Power Plant to replace existing technology with battery-based technology. • Director Fred Shaw indicated that City of Carpinteria beaches were successfully closed on Labor Day and that the City will hold a virtual Avocado Festival this year. • Director Christy Weir thanked BEACON in general for its public awareness. • Director Gregg Hart reported that he was focused on promoting BEACON to all agencies. • Director Steve Gama Director gave a shout out to “REACH”, a non-profit organization in support of Recreation, Education, Arts, Culture in Hueneme. Steve also indicated that the bi-annual dredging cycle is coming up and that the City will want to coordinate with BEACON staff on helping secure maximum USACOE funding.

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Item	5B1	<p>BEACON Organization – BEACON Science Strategy</p> <p>Recommended Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Receive a Staff Report on Science Support Actions. ii. Request the Chair to convene a Science Advisory Committee, appoint the initial Co-Chairs and committee members for a term of 2 years; and thereafter, that the Board confirm the appointments made by the Chair. iii. Approve and adopt the Bylaws for the Science Advisory Committee (Exhibit 1). iv. Provide notice of cancellation for the agreement with Dr. Doug George for science support services making termination effective October 30, 2020 in accordance Section VI of the agreement; and v. Approve and authorize the Executive Director to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the University of California-California Sea Grant in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00, similar to the attached, to assist BEACON executive staff in coordinating the activities of the Science Advisory Committee with a period of performance from October 30, 2020 through June 30, 2021, upon concurrence of legal counsel (Exhibit 2).
Minutes/ Actions:		<p>Executive Director Marc Beyeler reported that staff have been working to develop a BEACON Science Strategy and supporting implementation actions. At this time, BEACON staff is recommending the Board authorize the Chair to convene a Science Advisory Committee, appoint the initial Co-Chairs and committee members for a term of 2 years; and thereafter, that the Board confirm the appointments made by the Chair. In addition, to conform to BEACON's own by-laws, staff is further recommending the Board adopt a set of by-laws for the Science Advisory Committee (Exhibit 1). Marc further explained that in order to support BEACON Executive Staff in the implementation of the Science Advisory Committee, staff is recommending that the Board approve a cooperative agreement with the University of California-California Sea Grant to receive support services for the Science Advisory Committee (Exhibit 2). Originally, Dr. Douglas George was to provide BEACON Executive staff with support for the Science Advisory Committee. However, Dr. George has taken a position with the NOAA and cannot devote the amount of time to supporting BEACON Executive Staff as intended. BEACON staff have identified the Science staff of the California Sea Grant to support BEACON efforts. The California Sea Grant has proposed that Mr. Nick Sadrpour, the Science Integration Program Coordinator, provide staff support to BEACON. BEACON Executive Staff has worked with Mr. Sadrpour on the California Sediment Management Workgroup for the past three years and collaborated with him on various sediment management activities. Mr. Sadrpour has been assigned to work on additional projects for California Sea Grant in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties working under personnel at the University of California, Santa Barbara. BEACON has a long history of working with the Staff of California Sea Grant located at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) at the University of California.</p> <p>Staff are proposing the initial formation of the group in the fall of 2020 and initial activities as early as the beginning of 2021. In the first two years of the group, staff are proposing two annual meetings. The first one involves the science advisors only and is focused on a review of relevant data collection and scientific research initiatives of importance to the BEACON Coast. The second meeting would involve the science advisors and local and regional agency managers, where there would be an exchange of information between the scientists and the managers focused on discussing, evaluating, and prioritizing data collection and scientific investigations of most relevance to BEACON's mission.</p> <p>BOARD ACTIONS: The Board approved unanimously the Recommended Actions. Moved by Shaw /Second by Richards.</p>

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Item	5B2	<p>BEACON Purchasing Policy. Recommended Actions: i. Approve and adopt a BEACON Purchasing Policy (Exhibit 1); and ii. Adopt Resolution 2020-1 designating the Executive Director to act as BEACON's Purchasing Officer in accordance with the BEACON Purchasing Policy. (Exhibit 2).</p>
Minutes/ Actions:	<p>Executive Director Marc Beyeler explained that previously BEACON has not had a formal purchasing policy and that in order to allow the smooth function of the organization one is required. The policy gives the Executive Director expenditure authority for smaller services agreements.</p> <p>BOARD ACTIONS: The Board approved unanimously the Recommended Actions. Moved by Shaw / Second by Ramirez.</p>	

Item	5B3	<p>Appointment of BEACON Special Projects Staff Recommended Actions: i. Receive a Staff Report on Special Projects Staff; and ii. Adopt Resolution 2020-2 appointing Brian Brennan as Special Projects Volunteer Staff for a period up to June 30, 2021 (Exhibit 1).</p>
Minutes/ Actions:	<p>Executive Director Marc Beyeler explained that as of May 2020, Brian Brennan served as BEACON's Executive Director and was involved in several important ongoing BEACON projects. Upon his retirement, he continues to assist BEACON executive staff on a select number of BEACON projects. He possesses unique knowledge and understanding of the projects and has extensive experience working with project partners that is invaluable. In order to continue BEACON implementation actions, BEACON staff require the assistance of Mr. Brennan. Without a formal appointment, however, Mr. Brennan does not have full access to BEACON project documents and internal communications. Consequently, it is the desire of the BEACON Executive Director to continue Mr. Brennan's involvement in certain BEACON projects to assist BEACON staff on essential project tasks for a period until June 30, 2021 and that the BEACON Board appoint Mr. Brennan as a Special Projects Volunteer Staff.</p> <p>BOARD ACTIONS: The Board approved unanimously the Recommended Actions. Moved by Ramirez /Second by Shaw.</p>	

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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">a. BEACON has a number of active grant funded projects that it is involved in currently such as the OPC grants for the Surfers Point Project and the SB County Debris Basin Project. Further grant applications will be submitted moving forward as opportunities arise.b. The first SLR Adaptation Plan presentation was heard today from the City of Santa Barbara. At the November Board Meeting the County of Ventura will present its SLR Adaptation Plan.c. At the November BEACON Board Meeting Staff will be presenting draft Strategic Planning Goals and Objectives for consideration by the Board.d. Also, at the November Board Meeting, staff will present draft BEACON Legislative Priorities for consideration.e. Staff will begin preparation of a Sediment Management White Paper and participate with the City of Port Hueneme to ensure appropriate level of Fed and State Dollars for the biannual dredging. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director Gregg Hart indicated he is interested in the Legislative Priorities. If Supervisor Bennett is successful in getting elected to the State Assembly, he will be able to assist in these priorities.• Director Carmen Ramirez also endorsed the resurrection of BEACON legislative priorities. Carmen also expressed concern with the drop in agency revenues and wondered how budget cuts may affect essential services during the continuing COVID pandemic.

Adjourn to next regular meeting November 20, 2020 at 9:00 AM by Teleconference or Video Conference.

Meeting Minutes by Gerald Comati, Program Manager, BEACON.