

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY  
**BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY**  
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**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
of the  
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2013**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was assembled on September 20, 2013, at 9:10 a.m. and was held inside the Community Room at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, at 4100 South La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90056. David McNeill, Executive Officer, announced that as the Chair had not yet arrived and the Vice Chair would not be in attendance, an Interim Chair would have to be elected. Member Guiney nominated Allan Boodnick as Interim Chair and was seconded. Call for the vote; all ayes and carries.

The Chair stated that roll call and approval of minutes would be heard once a quorum and the meeting would proceed with Item III on the agenda.

**II. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing a Matching Grant in an Amount Not to Exceed \$141,000 of BHC Prop 84 Funds to the University of Southern California (Spatial Sciences Institute) for the Urban Biodiversity Assessment: Baldwin Hills Biota Update – David McNeill, Executive Officer**

Mr. McNeill stated that this was a voting item and since there was no quorum, recommended reports on Items V and VI on the agenda be heard instead. The Chair stated he would pass on Item V, as a full board would need to be present to discuss it, and the meeting would advance to Item VI on the agenda.

**III. Executive Officer Report**

**Project Status Update – Gail Krippner**  
**Fiscal Update - David McNeill**  
**Legislative Update – David McNeill**

**Local assistance capital outlay project report.**

Mr. McNeill stated that currently the Conservancy has three Prop 84 projects and five Prop 40 project in various stages of completion:

- 1) Today – completion of the Los Angeles County Eastern Ridgeline Development Project. The Department of Toxic Substances Control did the majority of monitoring the site and they have come up with a soil management plan to deal with any soils that may cause problems.
- 2) Norman O. Houston Park Improvements. The City of Los Angeles is still working on pre-construction of the sewer connection for the restrooms being installed.
- 3) Infrastructure Academy Grant. Mr. McNeill stated he worked with them and the Council for Watershed Health and they were not able to come to an agreement to continue work as proposed in the amendment. He will be coming back to the board to rescind the recommendation. They are going straight to project closeout and he has done all due diligence collecting key information and the grantee is transferring the Greenhouse to the County of Los Angeles as a donation; they are working on a MOU to have the L.A. Audubon Society take over the greenhouse and related facilities.
- 4) Stoneview Nature Center Grant. Los Angeles County Parks' planning and design program is in progress and there has been several meetings in regards to the interpretative programming of the site and how it will work. The County has hired a new consultant group to look at options on how to integrate agriculture, water management, and a number of other opportunities for habitat interpretation at the site.
- 5) Park-to-Playa. Project on Stocker (across the street from the current Eastern Ridgeline Project) is one of three projects meeting at the intersection of Overhill, Stocker, and La Brea. One has just been completed, one is in the design stage, and the other one has just started

### III. Executive Officer report (cont'd)

#### **Fiscal Update (Attachment II).**

Mr. McNeill reported on expenditures - the Conservancy is working on a new FY since June and this report is as of end of July.

- The Prop 40 and Prop 84 positions. Interviews are scheduled for the Prop 84 position for September 23. Patrick Reynolds (Culver City) and Sean Woods (State Parks) will be assisting him with the interviews.
- Capital Outlay. BHC has approximately eighteen million dollars remaining in Prop 84 and Prop 40 funding. The balance of funds is tied to the Strategic Plan and over the next five years will contribute to accomplishing parts of our mission.
- Bond Cash. This is basically cash which the Conservancy can spend on these projects immediately and totals five million dollars. It's sufficient to get the Conservancy through its monthly projections and expenditures.
- Legislative Updates - Senate Bill 184 (County of Los Angeles sponsored bill). The bill was signed by the Governor and the measure becomes effective January 1, 2014. This allows for the County Supervisor to appoint a designee to represent Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas on the Conservancy's board. Karly Katona will serve as his designee.
- SB4 is the oil and gas well stimulation bill that was put together by Senator Fran Pavley. The bill has passed the Assembly and concurrently was passed by the Senate with some amendments. It is prepared to be placed on the Governor's desk for approval.
- Water Bill – two different bills are going through the Senate and the Assembly. Both are in committee and being proposed for a water bond/climate change bond for November 2014. Both are similar in terms of their objectives. In regards to the funding and spending, they have several different chapters in which the spending will be allocated for different priorities. The Conservancy is certainly interested in being part of these priorities. A committee meeting will be held on September 24 in Sacramento and the Conservancy will have representatives from the community to speak on its behalf.

At this point, the board was still without a quorum; the Chair stated Agenda Item III could not be discussed, and apologized to the guests present scheduled to speak on that item. Member Dixon thought it would be worthwhile to allow them to go through the materials on Agenda Item III. The Chair stated he had considered the idea to proceed with the item without acting on it. Mr. McNeill asked Travis Longcore (USC) to go ahead and give his presentation for discussion only until such time a quorum could be met; Mr. Longcore complied.

#### **IV. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing a Matching Grant in an Amount Not to Exceed \$141,000 of BHC Prop 84 Funds to the University of Southern California (Spatial Sciences Institute) for the Urban Biodiversity Assessment: Baldwin Hills Biota Update – David McNeill, Executive Officer**

Travis Longcore, Regent Professor, USC Spatial Science Institute, stated he had been approached sometime ago by Bill Vanderberg who was interested in having them do an updated biota of the Baldwin Hills. They have done projects in the past and have worked with the Baldwin Hills Conservancy on them. They are proposing an update to the 2002 study, as time has elapsed and with the changes in technology, they can now create on-line maps that can be accessed and used as a framework to keep track of what goes on in the natural areas. His proposal involves several major species inventory and tracking components. Mr. Longcore expects to integrate with education programs going on through L.A. Audubon and others and also expect to integrate with systems science projects out of the Natural History Museum; with the possibility to get people to do a Baldwin Hills specific mobile phone app. He's received a number of letters of support from colleagues and hopes that the Baldwin Hills Conservancy will support it as well. The funds will be matched pending action on a grant from the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority.

#### **V. Public Comments**

Bill Vanderberg, Baldwin Hills Conservation Regional Authority board member, stated he served several years ago served on the executive committee who came up with the vision of "one great park." When the initial study of the Baldwin Hills biota was done, he was impressed with the details, but as it's a book, he

## V. Public Comments (cont'd)

Finds it not very useable. He's a frequent park user and see signs warning of certain animals that don't exist in reality, as this is an urban park. He feels these signs and misconceptions scare away potential visitors. He's very excited about the opportunity to support this project and asks that the Conservancy support it as well.

Ron Webster, member of the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force and Sierra Club, represents the Sierra Club in the Baldwin Hills area; they highly support the update of the biota assessment.

At this point, the Interim Chair turned the meeting over to the Chair who had arrived during the discussion. The Chair asked if there were any further comments

Member Guiney stated County Parks supports the study and they would look into the mountain lion signage.

Member Jones stated he would like the idea of having signs warning of rattlesnakes put in place.

### **Quorum present – this portion of the minute reflects discussion and board approval of Agenda Item III (Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing a Matching Grant in an Amount Not to Exceed \$141,000 of BHC Prop 84 Funds to the University of Southern California (Spatial Sciences Institute) for the Urban Biodiversity Assessment: Baldwin Hills Biota Update)**

Mr. McNeill stated staff was seeking approval of Resolution 13-12 authorizing approval of a matching grant in an amount not to exceed \$141,000 from Prop 84 funds, but first informed the board that the first Item III, which says "supplement in the board package," should be removed and to proceed to the second Item III. He deferred to their ad hoc committee chair, Member Lloyd Dixon to give an update of their committee's review of the grant in terms of criteria.

Member Dixon reported their committee had met last Monday to review the grant and evaluate it based on the criteria the Baldwin Hills Conservancy has in place for these types of submissions. They found that overall the grant complied with different aspects with different criteria. They also assessed ways in which the project could contribute to the goals of the Baldwin Hills Master and Strategic Plan. They found first that it would help restore natural habitat and in addition, improve watersheds connected to the Santa Monica Bay.

Mr. McNeill added they will have technical reports for each survey area and will also be working with USC's project managers throughout the project and receive updated reports from them. They will be working with some local support groups and non-profits (in terms of the field work) and training them on how to use the database. Member Alvis suggested that if the board approves this item that the geo-spatial data be made available to California's geo portal. Mr. Longcore (USC) responded that they have their own geo portal and can port it over to anyone else who wants to have it. Member Guiney made the motion to approve and the motion was seconded. The Chair called for the vote; all ayes, motion carries.

## VI. Roll Call

### **Members Present:**

Julie Alvis, Allan Boodnick, Lloyd Dixon, Russ Guiney, Robert Jones, Chair Allan Kingston, Jason Marshall, and Craig Sap.

### **Members Absent:**

Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker\*, Karen Finn\*, Yolanda Gorman\*, Starlett Quarles\*, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Sara Amir\*, Joan Cardellino\*, Patricia O'Toole, Joe Edmiston, Patrick Reynolds, and Marina Voskianian\*.

(\* = advance notification of absence)

### **Staff Present:**

David McNeill, and Gloria Dangerfield.

## **VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes (June)**

The Chair called for the motion to approve June's minutes. Member Boodnick made the motion and was seconded. The Chair called for the vote. All ayes, motion carries.

## **VIII. Discussion and Possible Action on the Baldwin Hills Conservancy 2013 Strategic Plan Update – David McNeill, Executive Officer**

Mr. McNeill reported the update will translate the goals of the Baldwin Hills Master Plan into actionable steps towards achieving the agency objectives. The Conservancy has done the Strategic since 2004, with several updates. Mr. McNeill finished with an overview of the plan. Member Boodnick made the motion to approve and was seconded. The Chair called for the vote. All ayes, motion carries.

## **IX. Ad Hoc Committee Reports -**

Board Development – Allan Boodnick

Member Boodnick stated that in the next board meeting (if there's a quorum) he would like to revisit this report. Today, he will lay down the foundation. The Baldwin Hills Conservancy is comprised of individuals committed to its mission and apparently, the governor has determined to keep it that way; at least for those he ultimately appoints, giving the board the opportunity to recommend their own choices. He went over current vacancies that exist on the board. He proposed a board development committee to assist those whose terms have expired or will expire with their re-application process; pre-screen and recruit potential candidates, replace those who choose not to re-apply; assist active members with the completion of their annual Conflict of Interest Form (Form 700) identify legislature or legislatures who will sponsor change to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's statute (relative to extending term limits) and assist members with on-line ethics training. Suggestions were made by members on how to make it a priority for elected members to be present.

## **X. Board Announcements**

A public comment was made by George Rheault who is a resident Village Green. December 14 marks the fifteenth anniversary of the collapse of the Baldwin Hills Reservoir and he is curious if the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was doing any type of acknowledgement. Village Green is planning a lecture/event on the afternoon of December 14 to commemorate and would like anyone to have who would like to participate. He feels it's important and asked Mr. McNeill if it was on his radar and maybe has spoken with DWP and other county people who might, themselves, want to pull together some of their history. Mr. McNeill responded he appreciated Mr. Rheault's offer of partnership and there's already been a kick-off meeting to talk about it. Irma Munoz has been spearheading talks with County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, County Parks, and the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. They've had discussions about doing something inside Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Mr. McNeill would love to partner with Village Green and like Mr. Rheault to join the next planning meeting.

Member Dixon expressed that he was disappointed that the Infrastructure Academy project fell through, he thought it was a great project and the type of thing that he would like to keep doing. He encouraged Mr. McNeill to solicit other proposals to do the invasive species removal and habitat restoration.

Member Boodnick mentioned the handout from the New York Time's article about diversity in parks didn't really apply to the Conservancy, but thought it was an interesting article for them to read.

## **XI. Adjournment**

There being no further business brought before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m. to attend the Eastern Ridgeline Facilities Dedication Ceremony.

Approved:

G. Allan Kingston  
Chairman