

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Friday, January 20th- ReGen Monterey Board Mtg- We began this meeting by recognizing resolutions for the former directors that were leaving the board and a resolution for a retiring employee. Next we heard a presentation on the biochar technology pilot study and after much discussion we agreed to have the staff move forward on an agreement for the pilot study. Next we approved the disposition of an old truck and heavy equipment that is no longer functioning and has already been replaced. Except for the truck, these items can be sold for a small amount of money. Again, similar to the presentation at the finance meeting, we heard a presentation on the new GPS system for our landfill compactors and bulldozers. This system was also approved by the board. Lastly, we approved a contract that would help with long-term intermediate cover for a portion of our landfill. This is work that normally our staff would have done, but given the rains and the work they were doing to shore up areas affected by the rains, it was necessary to bring in this help, especially so since we're due for an inspection next month and wanted to make sure we were ready.

Tuesday, January 24th- City Council Mtg- This was our regular council meeting and the main item on the agenda was interviewing our 6 candidates who applied for the vacant city council seat. Each candidate spoke for 3 minutes, and then using the council approved 4 questions, we interviewed each candidate, as they gave 1 min responses. Afterward, it went out for public comment and then it was back to the council for deliberation. In the end, 4 applicants pulled out of the running and we were left with two candidates and a split vote on the council (myself and Uy for Bill Ragsdale-Cronin and Mayor Donaldson and Hallock for Louise Goetzelt). In the end, Mayor Donaldson called for another special meeting to see if we can come to a solution at another time. Besides the consent items on the agenda, the other item was appointments to regional boards. After asking Mayor Donaldson if we could split the two important positions on the regional water boards (M1W and Seaside Basin Watermaster), he denied my request and said that the Seaside Basin Watermaster would not be filled until we have a 5th member on our council. He remains our representative on M1W. I gave up my AMBAG seat to John Uy (it's a night meeting so more conducive to his schedule) and I'm now on Monterey-Salinas Transit in addition to my Vice-Chair position on ReGen.

Monday, January 30th- M1W Board Mtg- I received an email on Friday, Jan. 27th informing me that Mayor Donaldson was not planning on attending the M1W meeting and therefore M1W was asking me to attend (I am the designated alternate). I was happy to do so. In the beginning, item 11 B. which was the first reading for an ordinance was removed, as there was some last minute responses from the Monterey Bay Aquarium that needed to be addressed. In this meeting we discussed the new Brown Act resolution regarding meetings (AB2449). It was moved that directors will attend the meetings in person, while the audience can zoom in and provide comments when necessary. Directors will also be able to zoom into the meeting (for a limited number of times) if they are unable to make it in person. The next item, which was looking at an appeal for capacity fees for the new hotel project in Sand City, was approved. Lastly, we spent some time talking about the potential expansion of the Pure Water Monterey

recycled water system. This is a shovel-ready project that has funding available, but it can't be moved forward until Cal Am agrees to purchase the new water. Meanwhile, M1W is looking at the possibility of losing state grant opportunities while they wait for Cal Am. Another discussion point was the amount of additional money this delay will cost the project. Just the time that it was delayed during the last half of last year, the rough estimate is that it would cost an additional \$14 million and if the delay continues through June, an additional \$2.7 million would be added. These delay costs include increased construction costs, increased interest rates, and administrative costs. The board agreed that something needs to be done, but the next time they discuss this topic will probably be in closed session given the nature of the potential next steps. This discussion solidified for me that as a council we should be addressing this issue, showing support for our local, public agencies which in turn supports our residents as ratepayers.

Wednesday, Feb. 1st- ReGen Monterey Finance Subcommittee Mtg- At our finance meeting, we're beginning to talk about budget planning for next year. We're specifically looking at costs for construction and demolition material that come into our facility as well as green waste. Additionally, we're looking at increased costs for labor, capital projects, and looking at a closure/post closure reserve. Our next item was supporting an extension of the litter abatement MOU that we have with the county. We also received an update on the joint feasibility study between M1W and ReGen. It's looking at energy generation from organics as well as the possibilities for a microgrid, in terms of usage from surrounding entities and other possibilities for energy generation. Lastly, we began discussion on the potential for entering into a project with M1W for co-digestion. M1W received a \$4 million dollar grant from the state but they are in need of foodwaste for that digestion. It's still unclear if we'd be able to provide this, so I'll be looking forward to the larger discussion at the board meeting. We asked the staff for pros and cons for entering into this project, so we should learn more at that time.

Thursday, Feb. 9th- DRO Special Council Meeting- This council meeting was our opportunity to discuss the two remaining candidates to fill our vacant council seat. After hearing public comments on this item, it came back to the council for discussion. With John Uy and myself still showing support for Bill Ragsdale-Cronin and Jeremy Hallock showing support for Louise Goetzelt, Mayor Donaldson was the deciding vote and graciously put his vote behind Bill Ragsdale-Cronin. This was a great demonstration which showed his commitment towards healing the division within our city. I'm grateful for his action and deeply thankful that his choice prevented us from moving to a special election. Now that we're a complete council, I look forward to all of us working together on the many important topics that will be coming before the council. Thank you again, Mayor Donaldson for your willingness to provide us with a complete city council!

Monday, Feb. 13th- Monterey Salinas Transit- Please see the meeting highlights provided by MST. The biggest discussion for the meeting was around the topic of whether the board would be accepting the new teleconferencing rules provided by AB 2449. Although the staff recommendation was to just rely on the old Brown Act rules, I believe strongly that it's important that directors have the opportunity to participate in a meeting remotely if they have childcare issues or if they get sick (without having to post an agenda and provide a place for the public,

which is how it works with the usual Brown Act rules). I look forward to continuing this discussion at the next meeting.

Monday, Feb. 13th and Saturday, Feb. 18th- Council member John Uy and myself met with Drs. Scott Waltz and Fred Watson to discuss the eastern portion of FORTAG. During our first meeting, we reviewed maps which showed the entire region, including the land owned by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District as well as our land and Monterey's parcel. They shared the history of agreements and discussed their reasoning for establishing their final location of the trail within Fort Ord. The Saturday meeting was an actual 5 mile hike out into Fort Ord to be able to see these locations that we discussed in our Monday meeting. I appreciated their guidance and thoroughly enjoyed getting out and walking around those beautiful areas.

Friday, Feb. 17th- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting- After the consent agenda, we began the meeting with a presentation from the Veteran's Transition Center who has been running the Last Chance Mercantile for the last couple of years. They provided a great presentation (check out the agenda packet if you're interested in seeing the slides and pictures they presented)! I'm so pleased with their work and especially like the care they're putting into the entire store while also integrating collaborative opportunities for students and artists in the region. They are also providing some very good work experience for veteran's (which will begin to include certifications for working a forklift). After the presentation, the bulk of our meeting was focused on a couple of items. The first was an update of the feasibility study between ReGen and M1Water which will evaluate whether it's financially feasible to create additional projects between the two agencies, including establishing a microgrid, looking at organics to energy, and incorporating other renewable energy (wind and solar) in combination with batteries for storage. The ad-hoc committees for both agencies met last month and will continue to meet (Mayor Donaldson is a M1W representative on that committee). We should expect to see results for this study come out in July/August this year. The second topic was tangentially related, in that it was a discussion about co-digestion and the grant that M1W has received from Cal Recycle and whether we'd like our general manager to start negotiating a feedstock agreement based on the amount of commercial foodwaste that we currently receive. Obviously, this organics to energy topic will also be covered in the feasibility study, but since there is current grant money on the line, we're moving forward to see if this is something that would work in both agencies' favor. It was clear that the board supported this negotiation, but it was also clear that we need more education on the topic.

Council Report from Councilmember John Uy

I. Council Report: Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) Board of Directors Meeting - February 8, 2023

I am pleased to present the following report on the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) Board of Directors meeting held on February 8, 2023. The meeting covered several important topics, including presentations, committee reports, and consent agenda items.

PRESENTATIONS

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 - The retired Annuitant, Diane C. Eidam, presented the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Autumn Rossi, CPA and Audit Principal with Clifton Larson Allen, LLP, provided a presentation on the report, and the Board received information regarding the report.

U.S. 101 Business Plan - Heather Adamson, Director of Planning, presented a report on the development of the U.S. 101 Business Plan. Matt Welker, Caltrans District 5, provided feedback, and the Board received information about the plan.

2023 BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS - President Freeman recommended that the Board approve the 2023 Board and Committee Appointments, and the Board approved the recommendation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive/Finance Committee - President Freeman provided an oral report, and the Board received information about it.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting - Maura Twomey, Executive Director, presented a report on the December 9, 2022, SAC meeting, and the Board was directed to receive the report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2023 Goals for the Executive Director - Maura Twomey, Executive Director, recommended that the Board approve the goals for the Executive Director, and the Board approved the recommendation.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board approved the following items under the Consent Agenda:

Resolution in Accordance with AB 361 regarding the Ralph M. Brown Act and Finding of Imminent Risk to Health and Safety of In-Person Meetings as a Result of the Continuing COVID-19 Pandemic State of Emergency Declared by Governor Newsom
Draft Minutes of the November 9, 2022 AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting
AMBAG Regional Clearinghouse Monthly Newsletter
AMBAG Sustainability Program Update
Authorized Check Signers for AMBAG Bank Accounts
Line of Credit Renewal and Extension
Financial Update Report
California Central Coast Sustainable Freight Study – Consultant Agreement - Paul Hierling, Senior Planner, recommended that the Executive Director be authorized to negotiate and execute an agreement with Cambridge Systematics, Inc. for consultant services for the preparation of the California Central Coast Sustainable Freight Study in an amount not to exceed \$273,000, and the Board approved the recommendation.

Amendment No. 5 to the Employment Agreement between AMBAG and Maura F. Twomey - President Freeman recommended that the Board approve Amendment No. 5 to the Employment Agreement between AMBAG and Maura F. Twomey, and the Board approved the recommendation.

Regional Early Action Planning Grants 2.0 Program Update - Heather Adamson, Director of Planning, provided an update on the Regional Early Action Program (REAP) 2.0 Program development activities for AMBAG's Regional Competitive and Local Suballocation Grant Programs.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned after all items on the agenda were discussed and acted upon.

I hope this report provides a helpful summary of the key topics covered during the AMBAG Board of Directors meeting.

II. Council Report: Seaside County Sanitation District Board of Directors Meeting - February 14, 2023

I am submitting this report to provide an overview of the recent Seaside County Sanitation District Board of Directors Meeting held on February 14, 2023. This report will provide a brief summary of the meeting agenda, including the discussions and decisions made by the Board.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jerry Blackwelder, and attended by Ian Oglesby and John Uy, the other board members. The Board reviewed the agenda, and there were no new items added. During the public comment period, no members of the public addressed the Board on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board, but not on the agenda.

The Board considered several items on the Consent Agenda. The Board adopted a resolution making findings in accordance with AB361 and Government Code Section 54953(E) authorizing remote teleconference meetings. This resolution authorizes continued teleconference (Zoom) hybrid meetings, and the recommendation to adopt this resolution was approved.

The Board also approved the minutes from the January 10, 2023, regular meeting, and received the Seaside County Sanitation District Operations Report for January 2023. The report was presented for information purposes only.

The Board also approved the expenditure report for November and December 2022 in the amounts of \$32,961.32 and \$463,077.76, respectively, for the Seaside County Sanitation District.

Under New Business, the Board elected officers for 2023. Ian Oglesby was voted to be the Chair, Jerry Blackwelder was voted to be the First Vice-Chair, and John Uy was voted to be the Second Vice-Chair. The Board also adopted a resolution authorizing a contract amendment to the professional services agreement with Harris & Associates in an amount not to exceed \$28,800 to provide construction management support for the Fremont, Broadway, & Ortiz Sewer Main Replacement Project. The recommendation to adopt this resolution was approved.

The staff reports included items for which verbal reports and presentations were provided. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions or discuss these reports, but no action was taken other than referral to staff or setting a future agenda item.

Lastly, the Board held a closed session conference with legal counsel regarding existing litigation: Successor Agency to the Sand City Redevelopment Agency v. Joe Stephenshaw, et al.; Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 34-2022-80004053.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for March 14, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

III. Council Report: Meeting with Professors Scott Waltz and Fred Watson Regarding the Proposed FORTAG Trail

I recently had the opportunity to meet with Professors Scott Waltz and Fred Watson on February 13 and 18, 2023, to discuss the proposed FORTAG Trail east of Del Rey Oaks. The purpose of these meetings was to gain insight into the proposed trail and to discuss its potential benefits and challenges.

During our meetings, we had the chance to hike the proposed trail on the Del Rey Oaks Fort Ord property, which proved to be an enlightening experience. We discussed the potential impact of the trail on the environment, wildlife, and the community. We also talked about the various factors that need to be considered when constructing and maintaining a trail in a natural setting such as this.

In conclusion, the proposed FORTAG Trail east of Del Rey Oaks has the potential to be a valuable asset to the community, promoting health and wellness while preserving the environment and wildlife. Our meetings with Professors Scott Waltz and Fred Watson provided valuable insight into the construction and maintenance of the trail, and we look forward to continued collaboration with them as we move forward with this project.

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