

# **San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan Trust**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **June 13, 2024**

The meeting convened at 1:15 p.m. in person at Redwood Conference Room.

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Clay Holstine (City of Brisbane), Sharon Ranals (City of South San Francisco), Justin Mates (County of San Mateo, standing in for Mike Callagy)

**TRUSTEES ABSENT:** Thomas Piccolotti (City of Daly City)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Nicholas Calderon (SMCP), Evan Cole (SMCP), Greg Mediati (City of South San Francisco), Emma Kroencke (SMCP), Brett Jones (fiscal auditor), Austin Lam (SMCP)

#### **1) Public Comment**

No public comments at this time.

#### **2) Action to Set the Agenda and Approve the Consent Agenda Items**

Consent agenda included minutes from June 2023 meeting and FY2022-23 Audit.

Action: Motion/Second Holstine/Mates to set the agenda and approve the consented agenda items.

Motion carried 3-0.

#### **3) Report Backs**

##### **a) Update on HCP Amendment**

- Evan Cole provided an update on the proposed redevelopment of the quarry, with City of Brisbane as applicant. San Mateo County and USFWS to review changes. At this time, changes to the operating program have been proposed by developer but nothing has been approved yet. USFWS has not received changes but will receive later this year.
- County proposed changes to fee assessment for development which has been received by the developer, but further meetings necessary in coming year.

##### **b) Updates on Grant-funded Project Activities**

- Last year's item regarding a grant for lessingia restoration was closed out, with no more deliverables or actions.

- Current grant for San Mateo County from **Metropolitan agency name** for the proposed grazing program. Deliverables include grazing strategy developed by rangeland consultant, which also addressed infrastructure needs such as barbed wire fencing.
  - Changes since last year: under further assessment, it was determined a better use of the grant would be to pivot funds for use in further CEQA analysis. The HCP's original EIR only took into account the impacts of cattle and failed to address grazing infrastructure, so SMCP plans to use the grant funding to facilitate CEQA analysis of potential infrastructure impacts in the form of an ISM/ND. Grant funding will also be used for engineering analysis regarding water infrastructure. An agreement has also been made with the grantor to change the grant timeline from **September of this year to the end of next year.**
- Comments:
  - Mates: asked about the process of a grazer will be selected for the program. Evan noted that this is one of the next action items and is still in progress.

No action required for this item.

No public comment for this item.

#### **4) Review and Approval of San Bruno Mountain HCP Budget**

##### **a) Review and Update of Planned Expenditures for Habitat Conservation Activities within the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan area for FY 2023-24\***

- There was an increase in fund interest from the previous year
- There was a reduction in the proposed budget for fuels reduction. There are no specific projects planned for the next fiscal year. Some funding will potentially be used for CEQA analysis regarding fuels reduction at San Bruno Mountain, but implementation will not begin any time soon. Any incidental projects will be covered under the separate vegetation management budget.
- Comments:
  - Holstine: inquired about an update on the McKesson parcels. SMCP had a recent field meeting to scope out potential projects. Options include fuels reduction and invasive species management in the parcel (eucalyptus, etc). At this time, SMCP has not finalized project plans but aim to start implementation this fiscal year.
  - Holstine: inquired about an update on restoration at the Toll Brothers / NE Ridge. No recent update on acceptance of parcels into park. Hannah had been point of contact for the County but discussions have largely been outside of County's authority (between HOA and City of Brisbane). Last

heard was that there have been discussions regarding liability of drainage infrastructure, and final acceptance will not be made until that gets resolved. Clay noted that HOA has no intention of accepting responsibility so hopes a creative solution can be found to resolve issue.

Action: Motion/Second Holstine/Mates to approve the budget.

Motion carried 3-0.

## **5) Review of FY 2023-24 Annual Activities Highlights**

- Vegetation management: weedy treatment performed in Hillside Juncus and across mountain (oxalis, fennel). There also has been a pushback of native scrub that threatens grasslands. Hand tools were used to avoid impacts to butterflies and their habitat. Mechanical mastication was also used in more dense areas to remove larger swathes of scrub, with a focus on habitat that has seen more significant reductions in butterfly populations.
- Butterfly monitoring: Mission Blue surveys completed in 2023, Callippe Silverspot and San Bruno Elfin surveys completed in 2024. Some Mission Blue transects that have historically supported populations did not have any observations in 2023, so there has been a focus in improving habitats in those areas.
- Mission Blue translocations: occur annually in partnership with the National Parks Service and USFWSs to translocate butterflies to Sweeney Ridge and help meet the recovery goals for the species. Breeding has been observed, so have begun seeing establishment of a metapopulation.
- Grazing update: grazing strategy and monitoring plan have been completed. Next steps include infrastructure planning, grazer selection, and continued public outreach. SMCP attended a conference last fall advertising program to grazers, also plan to solicit through grazing communities and follow up with field meetings to confirm interest and determine best course of action between licensing or leasing the land.
- Bay Checkerspot reintroduction: finished with reintroductions and have switched gears to monitoring. Breeding has been observed, so current plans are to see how the population expands from the reintroduction areas.
- Rare and endangered plant species restoration: restoring endangered manzanita with help from San Bruno Mountain Watch.
- Fuel reduction update: treatment of invasive gorse using mastication and mulching. Reduction of trees near Crocker Gate.
- Volunteer restoration: Late start but looking to implement more.
- Comments:
  - Mates: asked if grazer solicitation is similar to that on the coast. SMCP has been advice from other agencies using grazing like Midpen, but the

process differs in that the coast is more logistically friendly whereas San Bruno Mountain is more isolated and thus has less incentive for grazers to bring their cattle there. Will need to find way to entice grazers to come.

No action required for this update.

**6) Upcoming & Recent Meetings**

**a) Grazing Technical Advisory Committee**

- i) Ongoing meetings with expert advisors. Next meeting is not currently scheduled but can expect to have meetings in upcoming year to discuss next steps.

**b) Natural Resource Coordination – Quarterly**

- i) Next meeting in August.

**c) Trustees Meeting – June 2025**

Action: Motion/Second Holstine/Ranals to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried 3-0.