



Oakland Measure DD Trust for Clean Water and Safe Parks Community Coalition

Meeting minutes – September 18, 2023, 7:10 p.m.

A [video recording of this meeting is available here](#)

Additional [meeting files are available here](#)

Welcome by Agenda Committee: Mandolin Kadera-Redmond (facilitator), Myra Redman, & John Bowers

Review of Zoom meeting protocol: recording, chat, mute, raise hand, and transcription.

Call for any volunteers to facilitate future Measure DD Coalition meetings. Please email measuredd@oaklandparks.org if interested.

1. Introductions of Coalition meeting participants [Note: Coalition is open to the public]

Mandolin Kadera-Redmond	Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation (OPRF), Measure DD Coalition
Rick Rickard	Bike East Bay
Bill Threlfall	Waterfront Action
Naomi Schiff	Oakland Heritage Alliance, Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt
Jennie Gerard	Lake Merritt Weed Warriors (LMWW), LM Advocates, & LM Conservancy Coalition (LMCC)
Myra Redman	Measure DD Agenda Committee, Lake Merritt Institute (LMI), LMWW
Bob Redman	Essex Community Action Committee, LMCC
Sam Burd	Essex HOA, LMCC, LMWW
Kyaira Talton	OPRF, MDD Coalition
Hazel Tesoro	OPRF, MDD Coalition
Lee Aurich	LMI, Oakland resident
John Bowers	LMI, Measure DD Agenda Committee
Robert Kidd	Waterfront Action
Nancy Forbord	LMCC, Essex HOA
Daniel Franco	Oakland resident
Katie Noonan	Rotary Nature Center Friends, LMI
Can Liu	Landscape Architect & Project Manager, WRT
Brenda Ivey	Jack London Neighborhood Council
Richard Bailey	LMI
Louis White	Environmental Science Associates (ESA)
Jorgen Bloomberg	ESA
James Vann	Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt

City of Oakland Attendees

Terri Fashing	Oakland Public Works, Acting Manager for Watershed & Storm Water Management Division, Measure DD Bond
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2. No changes to 9/18/23 meeting agenda**3. July 17th, 2023, meeting notes were not posted online as of meeting time.**

Minutes will be posted and brought up for review at the November 20th meeting. (Link to [July minutes](#))

4. DD Program Manager's Report..... Oakland Public Works, Acting Manager for Watershed & Storm Water Management Division, Measure DD. [Links to [MDD Project Update Slides](#) and [Project Update Table](#)]

- **Project Update Table:** New version will be uploaded to website. See Terri's action items below.
- **Projects with no updates:**
 - Glen Echo Creek
 - Beaconsfield Creek Restoration
 - MDD Coalition Admin Support Contract: Last update OPRF assisting, Mike to update maps
 - East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Waterfront Trail Sites (Crowley, Gallagher & Burk, and Hanson Aggregates)
 - Lower priority projects at this time next to storm-caused & higher priority permit compliance projects. Terri will work on getting updates for projects that have not received updates for a while.
- **7th Street Tide Gate:** Flood Control District responded to questions sent by OPW that include a compilation of MDD Coalition questions. Link to [document with questions and responses](#).
- **Acquisitions:** Terri plans to ask PM Mike Perlmutter to give an update at November meeting if MDD coalition is interested. Mike is working with a consultant to revise modeling and can explain the process in November.
- **Courtland Creek Restoration:** Moving along with completion expected by spring of 2024. Completion of in-channel work to comply with environmental permits is on schedule to be finished by the end of October. Now with construction management team.
- **Estuary Park:** More detailed update from Christine Reed, WRT, and ESA below. See also page 9 of [MDD Project Update Slides](#).
- **Oakland Waterfront Access, Parks, & Cleanup**
 - **Fruitvale Land Crossing Bay Trail Segment:** Christine Reed is the PM. Construction began to complete 420 foot segment and is anticipated to continue through November 2023. Now with construction management team.
 - **Lake Merritt Decomposed Granite Path Repair:** Terri to check in with Project Manager (PM). PM has not secured a contract to complete work and is experiencing issues with contracting. PM has received a quote that exceeds available funding. Issues. Terri will check in with PM to get the quote and ETA on issue.
 - **Lake Merritt Channel Improvements at 10th Street:** Project is on hold until a plan is developed to prevent impacts that growing encampments may have on mitigation areas. As previously reported, a fence has been put up to protect a larger section of the mitigation area but some smaller areas that need replanting and two bio-retention areas are unprotected. See page 6 of [MDD Project Update Slides](#). OPW working with Encampment Management team.
 - **Union Pt. Park to 23rd Avenue Trail:** No project manager available at this time. Terri will meet with Project & Grants Management Division, East Bay Bicycle Coalition, EBRPD, and other parties involved to figure out next steps.
- **Financial Reporting:**

- Terri shared expense tracking spreadsheet (See [video recording](#) time 00:25:31 to 00:49:25.)
- Certain amounts were authorized for each MDD project category. Initial total of funds to be allocated among projects was \$198,250,000.
- 6.5% was subtracted out of the initial amount to cover 5% administrative costs and 1.5% public art allocation. \$ amounts for admin and public art are shown in the adjusted column in the corresponding row.
- Interest allocations: Interest changed initial authorized amount as shown in the adjusted column. But due to changes in accounting programs, a portion of interest is difficult to track regarding which categories funds were allocated to. Terri accounted for portion on spreadsheet and is investigating how interest was allocated
- Initial Authorized amount minus 6.5% Admin/Public art plus Interest equals Adjusted. Totals for this column will change based on how interest was actually allocated between project categories.
- Discrepancy in Lake Merritt category that shows a remaining funds balance but also shows that amount appropriated exceeds adjusted authorized amount.
- Terri will meet with finance department in October to review and get guidance on how to move remaining funds from one project category to another. Terri thinks \$3.5 million remaining funds could be used for Estuary Park and Union Point Park to 23rd Avenue projects and almost \$1 million for 10th Street project but still needs to sort out issues concerning the latter project this project.
- Terri estimates \$35 million is left to spend in project series D tranche and has started a conceptual plan. Terri will give additional updates in November.

5. **Estuary Park Renovation & Expansion UpdateChristine Reed, Project & Grants Management Division, Oakland Public Works; Can Liu, Landscape Architect & Project Manager, WRT; Louis White, Coastal Engineer, ESA; and, Jorgen Bloomberg, ESA [\[link to slides\]](#)**

Christine: OPW has secured a grant from the California Coastal Commission (CCC) for technical studies and augmented design related to nature-based, resilient shoreline approach. WRT (Landscape design architecture firm) and ESA (environmental consultants) are working with OPW on design.

Can's (WRT) presentation:

65% site design (page 3 of slides). Major components are the Bay trail, a nature-based, resilient shoreline, a multi-purpose lawn, a dog park, a restored park lot, a gathering park plaza, and a recreational boat facility.

Birds eye view (page 4 of slides) of Bay trail, resilient shoreline, a multi-purpose lawn, and park lot. Overarching goals center on community needs, diverse recreational opportunities, and fostering environmental awareness and design to enhance resiliency and adaptation in response to sea-level rise. Based on research, the Bay Trail and resilient shoreline are the top 2 priorities for the community. The project team will consult with scientists, engineers, biologists, ecologists, and other needed experts. Bird's eye view rendering does not show specific species of trees, but WRT is considering trees from a list of species that are low maintenance and drought-resistant.

Tasks 2 through 5 of CCC grant work is Augmented Shoreline Design Phase, schematic design, CEQA compliance, and construction documents. Task 2 is currently in progress. Tasks 2-5 are planned for year 2024, and deliverables will be implemented into the 95% construction documentation. See page 6 of slides for project timeline.

Team includes City of Oakland, WRT, ESA, Botanist Peter Baye, Smithsonian Institution, and Marine Taxonomic Services. Project's long-term goal for design is to accommodate sea-level rise. The plan will include a strategy for the Jack London Square Aquatic Center (JLAC) and surroundings. JLAC is anticipated as a future project that will require more investment and collaboration among various stakeholders.

Louis White/Jorgen Bloomberg (ESA) Presentation:

ESA working with WRT on nature-based, resilient shore enhancement concept for the south end of Estuary Park (see pages 9-11 of slides). Current state is a grassy field that meets the Estuary, rubble, loose rip rap. Vision is to create a gravel beach that will be shaped by the waves. Structures on each end of the beach will contain sediment to ensure it keeps to natural processes. Subtidal area offshore will contain an eelgrass bed that ESA is currently doing a feasibility study on. ESA also looking at other opportunities with oysters and other habitats, logs and plants in transitional area. Goal is to integrate habitat with recreational park user experience. The design is being used in other park projects around the Bay Area as a resilient design with sea-level rise in mind. ESA experts and CCC have identified a suite of habitat types for the offshore, beach, and backshore areas and are looking into parameters/criteria (listed on slide 11) for feasibility.

Terri: OPW has to fully invoice for remaining funds in series C before series D tranche. Christine/Terri looking into how construction can be done in phases.

Project team will give additional updates in future meetings. Next update TBD.

6. Discussion of dredging Lake Merritt Richard Bailey, Lake Merritt Institute

Table showing years Lake Merritt was dredged: <https://lakemerrittinstitute.org/detailed-evaluations/>
From 1893 to 1995, Lake Merritt (LM) had been dredged approximately every 11 years. It's been 28 years since LM was last dredged. Accumulated sediment build-up is related to eutrophication, algal blooms, low oxygen, and fish kills, and also contributes to why LM is listed as an impaired body of water. Mr. Bailey recommends the MDD Coalition to consider passing a resolution that supports dredging as soon as possible. If the City purchased a dredge boat, dredging could be done by the City. This could possibly be done as a capital expense under MDD. But Mr. Bailey recommends dredging whether the boat can be purchased or not, as this would be a big part of water quality improvement.

MDD Coalition comments include looking into costs of dredging; a second to support recommendation but funding should be looked for outside of MDD because of MDD funding shortages and dredging may not be included in water quality improve category; several requests for a comprehensive, bigger picture plan from OPW for improved water quality project, including costs, timing, infrastructure, and science, evidence-based approach.

Terri response to comments: OPW can give an update on the pilot project and the LM water quality management plan at the next meeting. OPW has applied for federal funding through Rep. Barbara Lee's office and is waiting to hear back. Jennifer Stern is now the project manager. One aeration device has been installed, an oxygenation device to be installed in the coming week. Terri will take recommendation on including sediment study as part of the pilot project back to her team.

7. Discussion about whether the Coalition should resume meeting in person and when..... Agenda Committee

Agenda Committee will continue to look into possible locations, including the [Block's Community Space](#) which is free to nonprofits and can accommodate hybrid meetings. Block requires a 15-person minimum but is booked

through the year and will open for 2024 reservations in October. OPRF will also look into the Lakeside Park Garden Center, where the MDD Coalition previously held in-person meetings. Agenda Committee asked for in-meeting vote on how many participants support going to in-person or hybrid meetings by January, and the majority showed support.

8. Announcements

- a. [Rotary Nature Center Friends](#)
 - i. [US/Climate Change Chaos, Native Communities and Bering Sea Ecology](#)
 - ii. Creek to Bay Day, September 23, 2023: RNCF will be at the sailboat house marsh doing marshland restoration, water quality testing, and general cleanup; Lake Merritt Institute will have annual lake cleanup; and staff of Rotary Nature Center will have a program going on.
- b. [Lake Merritt Weed Warriors](#)..... Volunteer Day, Saturday, September 30th, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, meet at Harrison at 21st Street. Tools and gloves will be provided.
- c. Lake Merritt Conservancy..... Next Meeting, October 21st, Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, Star Fellowship Room, Contact Bob Redman, bob@lakemc.org, for any questions.

9. Assigned tasks & agenda suggestions for next meeting, November 20, 2023

Terri Fashing:

- Fix [Project Update Table](#) and upload new version to website.
- Rework, check with finance department, and present Financial Report of all project updates, including subcategories in simplified spreadsheet.
- Check with project manager (PM) on updates for decomposed granite path project at Lake Merritt.
- Ask Acquisitions project PM to give update on modeling and progress at November meeting.
- Get update from Glen Echo consultant.
- Meet with EBRPD staff to get updates projects transferred to EBRPD.
- Present remaining funds with vision/strategy and recommendation with time for Coalition to provide feedback for future allocations.

MDD Agenda Committee:

- Find location for hybrid meeting for January 2024 meeting.
- Add to November agenda: Terri to present Comprehensive Infrastructure plan and design about how to dredge, aerate, and oxygenate as part of the Water Quality Management plan.

OPRF:

- Post July 2023 meeting minutes, ask Michael to email to listserv, and include in next agenda.
- Distribute September Meeting Minutes including action items by Sept 25.