



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

Meeting Minutes - January 22, 2024, 7:10 p.m.

(Note: January meetings will now be on the 4th Monday to avoid MLK Day. Other meetings will continue on 3rd Mondays.)

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

Additional [meeting files are available here](#).

Welcome by Agenda Committee: Adrian Cotter (facilitator), Myra Redman, & John Bowers

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

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

Adrian Cotter	Measure DD (MDD) Coalition Agenda Committee
Mandolin Kadera-Redmond	Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation (OPRF)
Bill Threlfall	Waterfront Action
Naomi Schiff	Oakland Heritage Alliance & Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt (CALM)
John Bowers	LM Institute & MDD Coalition Agenda Committee
Rick Rickard	Bike East Bay
Dee Rosario	East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD)
David Wofford	Rotary Nature Center Friends
Jennie Gerard	MDD Coalition, LM Advocates, LM Weed Warriors, & LM Conservancy
Kira Pascoe	OPRF
Sam Burd	Essex, LM Conservancy, LM Weed Warriors, East Bay for Everyone, & other groups
Myra Redman	LM Institute, LM Weed Warriors, & MDD Coalition Agenda Committee
Bob Redman	Essex Community Action Committee & LM Conservancy
Katie Noonan	Rotary Nature Center Friends & LM Institute
Lee Aurich	LM Lake Borough Apartments & Interested Citizen
Hazel Tesoro	OPRF & MDD Coalition Administrative Support
Josh Gunter	Friends of Mandela Parkway, Friends of Raimondi Park, Friends of Willa Park in West Oakland, & Interested Citizen
Rhonda Nelson	East Bay Rowing Club
James Vann	Coalition of Advocates for LM, MDD Coalition
Vince Geronimo	Interested Citizen

City of Oakland Attendees

Siew Chin Yeong	Assistant Director of Bureau of Design and Construction, Department of Public Works (OPW)
Terri Fashing	Acting Manager, Watershed & Stormwater Management Division & Acting Manager for MDD Bond
Mike Perlmutter	Watershed Specialist, Watershed & Stormwater Management Division
Stephen Acker	Bond Manager, Finance Department

2. Changes to meeting agenda

i) Clarification on introductions: Mandolin Kadera-Redmond will no longer be the OPRF point-of-contact for the MDD Coalition meetings administrative support. Hazel Tesoro will take over the role going forward. Contact MeasureDD@oaklandparks.org.

ii) Call for new MDD Coalition Agenda Committee members. Current committee members have each fulfilled one or more year-long terms. All members are willing to step away from the role if others are interested. Choices will be made at the March 18th meeting. Please email MeasureDD@oaklandparks.org if you are interested.

3. Review of minutes for [September 2023](#) & [November 2023](#)

i) No changes requested for September 2023 meeting minutes

ii) James Vann submitted questions and recommended changes for November minutes, particularly to the discussion on Union Point Park to 23rd Avenue bridge trail. OPRF will review minutes and recording of November meeting along with James's comments and send any changes to Terri and MDD Coalition Agenda committee for approval.

4. [Acquisitions Project Manager Update](#).....Mike Perlmutter, OPW, Watershed and Stormwater Management Division ([Link to presentation slides](#))

OPW worked with Montrose Environmental to create a GIS mapping tool to help with decision-making. The tool overlays conservation and equity map layers to identify most suitable areas in Oakland. The model is weighted heavily towards Oakland's portion of [Conservation Lands Network](#) (CLN) and Oakland's priority equity areas. The CLN contains robust recommendations for priority conservation areas throughout the region. Oakland's OPW priority equity areas represent targeted Oakland opportunity zones. The mapping tool allows OPW to look 'top-down' across Oakland's landscape to find the 'best fit' for model. However, they will still need to confirm in real-time whether the identified areas are actually suitable. Economic factors such as tax-defaulted properties are not included in the model, but OPW is also considering these properties. OPW is now at the selection stage and reviewing the feasibility of parcels scored highly by the mapping tool.

The series D \$1.2 million shown on [presentation slide 11](#) is NOT an accurate amount. Final dollar amount is TBD. OPW is also looking into other funding sources including the Coastal Conservancy.

Demo of mapping tool ([Link to section of recording](#)) Demo end at 37:58

Mapping-tool Q&A ([Link to section of recording](#))

Equity neighborhood data is from [OakDOT Geographic Equity Toolbox](#).

OPW wants to move quickly through the selection process to make recommendations. Comment/recommendation to add a data layer to mapping tool that shows other local and regional efforts currently underway in equity neighborhoods to acquire land. OPW is coordinating with East Bay Regional Park District.

5. [DD Program Manager's Report](#).....Terri Fashing, Oakland Public Works, Acting Manager for Watershed & Storm Water Management Division, Measure DD Bond ([Link to slides](#) and [project table](#))

Financial Report & Series D Vision/Strategy: Terri invited Siew Chin Yeong and Stephen Acker (both present). Financial information not ready but in progress. OPW will continue to work with finance to prepare a report by the March meeting. As part of the financial report, Terri will add financial information to the [project table](#). Terri also working on vision/strategy for series D funds.

Administrative & Tech Support: OPRF, Hazel Tesoro, will continue with admin support for meetings; Adrian Cotter continues to provide volunteer support including for the MDD website.

Lake Merritt Water Quality, Restoration, & Channel

- [Snow Park/Lakeside Green Street Project](#): Completed. Remaining funds being used for irrigation and close-out items
- [Decomposed granite path](#): Council approved contract extension and amendment. Purchasing Dept is reinstating purchase order (PO). Once done, the project manager (PM)

can resume work with the contractor. PM in process of obtaining an updated quote because the previous one was above budget. Due to high costs, only the most degraded parts of the path will be prioritized. Terri will email the PM regarding recommendation from James Vann to install lightweight concrete. Ask about previous OPW project that put concrete down close to Children's Fairyland as example of materials to use. MDD Coalition recommends creating a long-term plan to maintain the LM path in addition to completing this project.

- [LM Channel/Improvements at 10th Street](#): OPW is looking into installing new fencing around Peralta Park (around 10th Street to East Drive to Lake Merritt Blvd). Fencing with gates would only be on the west side of the channel, so it would remove encampments there but NOT on the east side. Fence would have 4 access gates and signage of open/close hours. Tentative timeline would be to start installation around late spring. Then, encampment closures would occur mid-summer with the site secured, project area repairs, and planting to be done mid to late summer. All work to be completed by the end of 2024. This timeline/plan still needs approval. Estimated cost is \$2.7 million. Funds to come from MDD, but OPW will check if other sources of funding are available. MDD Coalition question about whether any funding would come from Horton (developer for Henry J. Kaiser center) or whether any funds would be taken from other MDD projects.

Objecting opinion from Adrian Cotter: Encampments (which the fence is supposed to deter) are a social issue and not a capital improvement issue, and MDD funds should not be used for this. Recommendation for OPW to work with Laney College, Kaiser auditorium, Oakland Museum of California, Oakland Unified School District, and other stakeholders to come up with alternative solutions.

Terri reminded that [OPW Director G. Harold Duffy](#) attended the November 2023 MDD Coalition meeting, and approved of, with the MDD Coalition's support, using MDD funding to achieve the planting objectives to close out Water Board permits. Per Stephen Acker, permits need to be closed out to sell series D bonds.

Waterfront Trails

- [Fruitvale Land Crossing Bay Trail Segment](#): Almost complete except for missing section of guardrail that was incorrectly fabricated.
- [Estuary Park](#): In progress. SEQA completed. 90% documentation anticipated in early February. Phase 1 construction targeted for summer 2025 using series D funding. Terri is working with PM and Stephen Acker to figure out how to sell series D funds to do construction of phase 1 and move towards construction of phase 2 also. Remaining funds in series C can be used for phase 1, but phases 2 and 3 require series D funding.
- [Union Point Park to 23rd Avenue Trail](#): Per discussion from the [Nov. 20th, 2023, Coalition meeting](#), PM noted that the original project design should be canceled due to excessive costs (at least \$50 million) and extensive duration for property acquisition and permitting (9+ years). OPW is looking at alternatives such as pursuing bikeways via city streets and sidewalks for pedestrians. OPW is awaiting both a final determination to cancel the original project design and an approval for the alternative. One dissenting vote from John Bowers who recommends looking into an over-water (OW) trail. See additional discussion below.
- [EBRPD trail sites](#): No additional updates. TF to reach out to EBRPD to get updates on progress

Creek & Waterway Restoration

- [Glen Echo](#): No update. OPW will try to resume work in April and will provide an update when work starts again.
- [Courtland Creek Restoration](#): Construction is in progress and expected to be completed in spring 2024. Revegetation is in progress and expected to be completed January 2024. Trails, benches, fences, and signs are PRAC-approved and will be installed in early 2024.

PM is working on getting the creek protection and minor conditional use permits that are needed to install trails, benches, fences, and signs.

- **Acquisitions:** Presentation by Mike Perlmutter done earlier in the meeting. Mike is also working on resuming landfill closure inquiry at Dunsmuir/Chabot and coordinating with City partners on reducing development pressure on vacant creekside and other lands with natural resources value. Last bullet, "Conservation easement monitoring anticipated in February," is not funded by MDD; Terri will ask Mike to provide more information. Regarding the Dunsmuir/Chabot landfill closure project, OPW is looking into this as a way to spend remaining Acquisitions funds. Landfill must be closed for EBRPD to install a connecting trail to existing trails.

6. [Additional discussion on Union Point Park to 23rd Avenue Trail](#).....MDD Coalition & OPW

OPW is seeking City approval to drop the initial plan for a waterfront trail due to the high dollar and time costs to negotiate with property owners. OPW recommends pursuing an inland route instead. John Bower dissented stating that the waterfront trail should be kept under consideration given the information available to the MDD Coalition and to also look into an over-the-water option based on submerged land owned by EBRPD. John said that pursuing an inland option is substantially different from the original plan of a waterfront trail. Rick Rickard supported continuing to pursue the waterfront trail and added that Oakland Dept. of Transportation (OakDOT) is already working on an inland route for bicyclists to get through Fruitvale.

Dee Rosario said that even though EBRPD owns submerged land, it still needs more upland access to build an overwater trail. He continued that EBRPD has not completely abandoned the project but is prioritizing other projects for the time being. EBRPD will continue to look out for opportunities to acquire land in the long term.

A majority of the MDD Coalition support OPW's recommendation to pursue an inland route at this time and request that all work done thus far for the waterfront trail, including all discussions, be archived so if this needs to be revisited in the future, there's no need to begin from 'ground zero.' [End at 1:53:28 in recording.](#)

7. Discussion on [7th Street Station Questions](#) ([Link to section of recording](#))

Coalition members sent follow-up questions for the Flood Control District (FCD) to OPW to clarify answers for a first set of questions from the Coalition. OPW reviewed and sent to FCD who has not yet replied. Terri will follow up with the FCD and discuss with the Coalition when there's more information.

8. [Community Monitoring Water Quality Results in Lake Merritt Fall and Winter Report](#)Katie Noonan, Rotary Nature Center Friends (RNCF)

(Link to [maps](#))

RNCF is an independent, educational nonprofit run by volunteers. RNCF worked with approx. 50 youth/young adults and Oakland California Climate Action Corp fellows to collect data on water quality in Lake Merritt. Using a professional sonde, RNCF focused on gathering data for dissolved oxygen. Map on left of shared screen shows data for dissolved oxygen concentration in the Lake from Aug. 28th, 2022. Map on right shows dissolved oxygen concentration levels have increased as of early Jan. 2024, and are above the EPA objective of 5 parts per million. RNCF has been collecting data for the last 1.5 months between various rains and has seen tide gate closures and low oxygen levels that have not persisted. Thanks to the City of Oakland, Lake Merritt Institute, and Lake Tech for installing buoys that allow for the collection of data from different parts of Lake Merritt. RNCF is hoping that the data will help in understanding the algal bloom and consequential fish kill in 2022. Contact Katie Noonan at ktnoon@aol.com with any questions.

9. [Discussion on returning to in-person or hybrid meetings](#).....Terri Fashing, OPW

Update on available City meeting rooms. City Hall's Hearing Room 2 is available/tentatively held for the March meeting. Paperwork needs to be completed, and the room could potentially be reserved for MDD Coalition meetings for the rest of the year. Garden Center (located at 666 Bellevue Avenue) could also be used for in-person/hybrid. Meeting attendees expressed preference for the Garden Center. Room availability needs to be checked. There is also potential for tech issues with a hybrid meeting and no tech support at this location. The Coalition had previously avoided custodial fees for in-person meetings at the Garden Center by scheduling meetings next to Orchid Society meetings. This is something to be looked into if in-person meetings are resumed at the Garden Center. One recommendation for picking either a full Zoom or full in-person meeting and not hybrid. Another suggestion that if there is no strong desire to meet in person, Coalition meetings should continue on Zoom. Only one objection to Zoom meetings. After discussion, the Coalition agreed to have the March 18th meeting by Zoom and to check in again on whether to have an in-person or virtual meeting in May.

10. [Document regarding Coalition organization](#).....James Vann

Coalition does not currently have written language on its organization and procedures. James is putting together a document that will include the Coalition's mission, structure, and basic procedures. He will send it to OPRF & OPW to distribute and will check at the March meeting to see if the Coalition will adopt it. If adopted, he will request it to be posted on the MDD website.

11. Announcements

- a) [Rotary Nature Center Friends](#) on-line events.....Katie Noonan
Next Lakeside Chat on Feb. 2nd, with James Ervin on nutrients in San Francisco Bay ([Link for more info & event registration](#))

March 12-13, State of the Estuary Conference at the Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center for the Arts ([Link for more info](#))
- b) [Lake Merritt Weed Warriors](#).....Jennie Gerard

Next volunteer event on Saturday, 1/27/24. Tools & gloves will be provided. Meet at Lakeside Drive across entrance from Snow Park.
- c) Lake Merritt Conservancy.....Bob Redman

LMCC had monthly general meetings for most of last year, which were great for capturing public sentiment and spreading the word of what LMCC is about. In 2024, LMCC wants to move into more of a working mode and have smaller meetings in groups of 2-4. If you are interested in participating in this work, email Bob at bob@lakemc.org.
- d) [Water Quality Reporting online](#).....Richard Bailey

12. Action items to complete for next meeting, March 18, 2024

Terri Fashing:

- Financial report (with assistance from Stephen Acker and Siew Chin Yeong). Financial report should include:
 - Rework, check with the finance department, on all project updates, including subcategories in simplified spreadsheet. Also include staff expenditure & overhead report, administrative costs by project.
 - Present remaining funds (tranche D) with vision/strategy and recommendations with time for Coalition to provide feedback for future allocations.
 - Conceptual allocation plan for Tranche D, ncluding Proposal for fencing to complete 10th Street channel Water Board permit and where \$2.7 million impact other MDD and/or wishlist projects
 - Amount remaining for Acquisitions which may not be accurate amount shown in PM

- presentation above
 - **CIP** funding allocations. CIP Book 2023-2024. Plan for moving forward with MDD remainder fund (aka wishlist) projects
 - Report on Outcome of meeting with Treasury and Budget
- Check if any funds for LM Channel fence will come from developers working on Henry J. Kaiser Center or any other stakeholders (Laney, Oakland Museum, Oakland Unified School District).
- Email PM for Lake Merritt decomposed granite path regarding James Vann's recommendation to put in lightweight concrete. Ask about previous OPW paving job by Children's Fairyland as an example.
- Get update from Glen Echo consultant.
- Reach out to EBRPD to get updates on progress of waterfront trail sites.
- Get more info from Acquisitions PM on "Conservation easement monitoring anticipated in February." This is not funded by MDD but is the last bullet point on the Acquisitions update slide.
- Check with OakDOT (Jason Patton) on bike trail in project from Union Point Park.
- Archive all work done so far on Union Point Park to 23rd Avenue Trail regarding waterfront, over-the-water, and inland trails, so it can be referenced in the future (Detailed notes on additional discussion from this meeting are provided above).
- Follow up with Flood Control District re: follow-up questions from Coalition.
- Get update from PM on Lake Merritt water quality.

James Vann

- Draft MDD Coalition organization document, and email to OPRF (Discussion on document to be included in March meeting agenda)

OPRF

- Review November meeting minutes and make applicable changes requested by James Vann by email on Dec. 22, 2023.
- Draft meeting minutes for Jan. 22nd meeting.

Agenda Committee

- Prepare March meeting agenda