



North Bay Watershed Association Board Meeting

December 4, 2020

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Roll Call and Introductions

2. General Public Comments

This time is reserved for the public to address the Committee about matters NOT on the agenda and within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

3. Agenda Review and Approve November 6, 2020 Minutes

Proposed Action: Approve

AGENDA

Time	Agenda Item	Proposed Action
9:30	Welcome and Call to Order – Roll Call and Introductions <i>Jack Gibson, Chair</i>	N/A
9:35	General Public Comments This time is reserved for the public to address the Committee about matters NOT on the agenda and within the jurisdiction of the Committee.	N/A
9:40	Agenda Review and Approve Past Meeting Minutes <i>Jack Gibson, Chair</i>	<i>Approve</i>
9:45	Treasure's Report <i>Jack Gibson, Chair</i>	<i>Accept</i>
9:50	Guest Presentation– Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) Update <i>Amy Hutzel, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy</i> <i>Luisa Valiela, EPA Region 9, San Francisco Bay Program Lead</i> <i>Ali Weber-Stover, BRRIT NOAA representative</i> Amy, Luisa, and Ali will provide an overview of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) process formed to improve the permitting process for multi-benefit wetland restoration, associated flood management and public access infrastructure projects in the San Francisco Bay and along the bay shoreline.	Presentation

10:45	<p>Executive Director Report <i>Andy Rodgers, Executive Director</i></p> <p>Andy will provide an update on active projects, communications, committees, activities, and developing initiatives since the November 6 Board meeting.</p>	Questions/input
10:55	<p>Board Information Exchange <i>Members</i></p> <p>Members will highlight issues and share items of interest.</p>	N/A
11:15	<p>Agenda Items for Future Meetings <i>Andy Rodgers, ED</i></p>	N/A
11:25	<p>Announcements/Adjourn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBWA Distribution list update process <p>Next Board Meeting: January 8, 2021?</p>	N/A

4. Treasure's Report

Proposed Action: Accept

**Northbay Watershed Association
Treasurer's Report
November 1 - November 30, 2020**

Revenues:

Membership -Stewardship - General Benefits - FY2021	147,323.49
REFUND of 2020 Conference Registrations	(1,328.64)
Misc Revenue	
Total Revenues	<u>145,994.85</u>

Expenses:

Executive Director Professional Services: West Yost	3,754.50
Executive Director Professional Services:	28,200.00
 <u>Admin Professional Fees & Expenses:</u>	
Operating Expense - General Benefit - website, etc..	
SFEI - Website Maintenance	
NCRCD 2020 Conference Support	
Sheraton Sonoma - NBWA 2020 Conference	
Data Instricts - NBWA Outreach & Support	1,975.00
Horizon - Strategic Planning	12,500.00
Total Expenses	<u>46,429.50</u>

Change this period	99,565.35
Fund Balance as of July 1, 2020	<u>\$ 275,906.91</u>
 Fund Balance as November 30, 2020	 <u><u>\$ 375,472.26</u></u>

5. Guest Presentation–Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) Update

*Amy Hutzel, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy
Luisa Valiela, EPA Region 9, San Francisco Bay Program Lead
Ali Weber-Stover, BRRIT NOAA representative*

Amy and Luisa will provide an overview of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) process formed to improve the permitting process for multi-benefit wetland restoration, associated flood management and public access infrastructure projects in the San Francisco Bay and along the bay shoreline.



Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team

Working with the BRRIT

Permitting Restoration Projects in the Bay

- Frequently time consuming, costly, and complex.
- Time to obtain permits impacts project costs.
- Typically requires permits and authorizations from 6 different agencies at a minimum.
- Sea level rise creates need to restore tidal wetlands at an accelerated pace and scale.



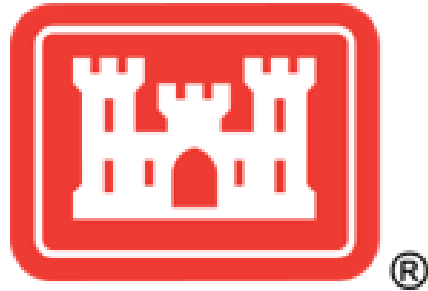
Creating the BRRIT

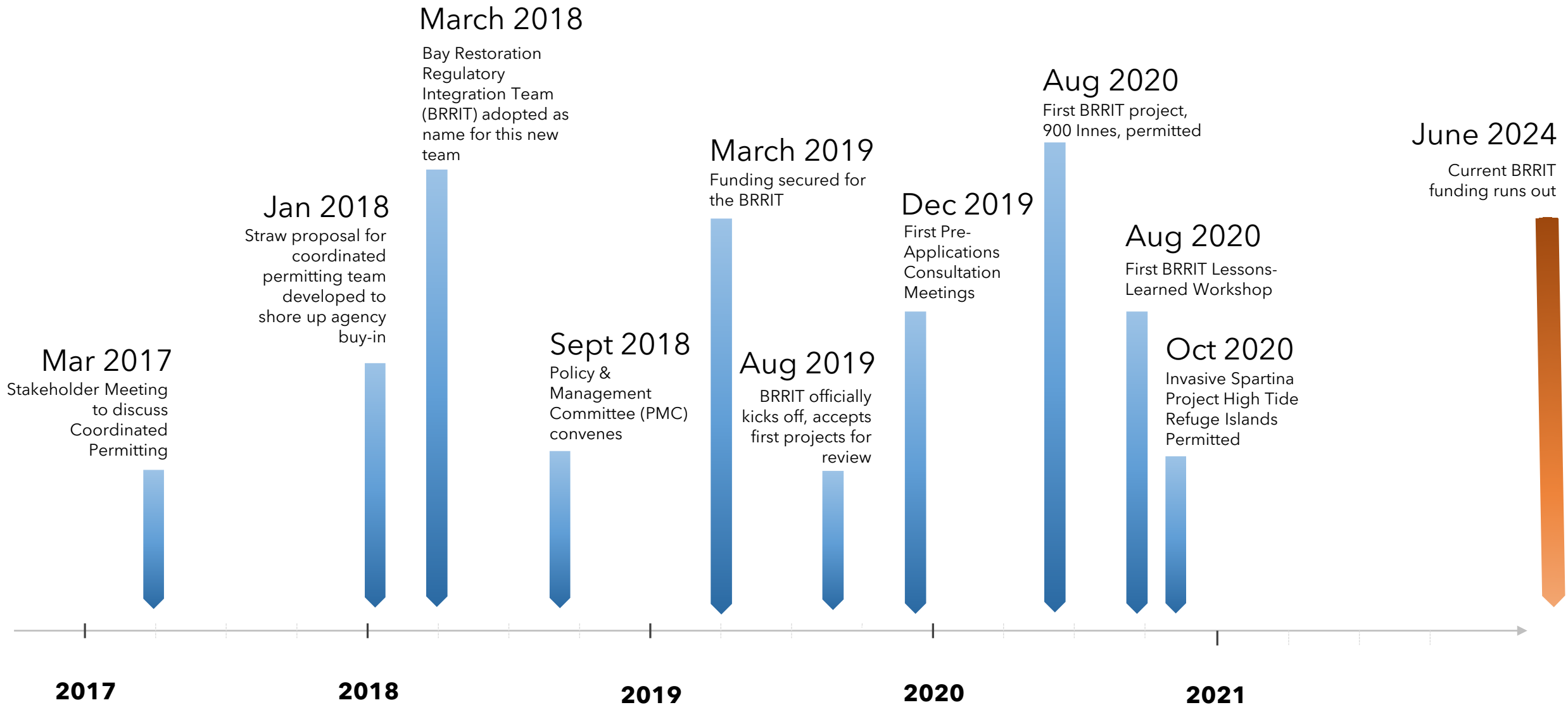
- Stated purpose is "to improve the permitting process for multi-benefit habitat restoration projects and associated flood management and public access infrastructure.."
- Geographic extent is the nine Bay Area counties, excluding the Delta Primary Zone.



Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT)

Forming the BRRIT





Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT)

Funding the BRRIT ~ \$1.2m/year



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
RESTORATION AUTHORITY



Meet the BRRIT

- **Tami Schane**
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
- **Frances Malamud-Roam**
Dina Bowlin
US Army Corps of Engineers
- **Anniken Lydon**
BCDC
- **Valary Bloom**
US Fish and Wildlife Service
- **Agnes Farres**
Water Board
- **Alison Weber-Stover**
NOAA Fisheries
- **Jen Siu**
Environmental Protection Agency



What has the BRRIT done so far?

- Since inception, BRRIT has worked with 16 project applicants, permitted two projects, and is close to permitting three other projects.
- Projects that were already at a permitting phase in 2019 did not have benefit of pre-application discussions and had permitting challenges.
- Permitting challenges of two projects in 2019 provided for learning lessons that will benefit future projects.
- Tools and guidance developed by BRRIT available on the website.
- BRRIT's ongoing remote coordination and collaboration has risen to the challenge of working productively under Covid restrictions and is still expecting to meet the permitting demands of future projects.



The Policy & Management Committee (PMC)

- Developed the Permit and Policy Improvement List - issues identified as limiting the flexibility of design and/or permitting of multi-benefit restoration projects - and are working to resolve the identified issues.
- Review substantive issues raised by the BRRIT or others in project specific cases and propose resolutions at a management or policy level where appropriate.
- Manage the financial agreements needed to support BRRIT staff.



How to get on the BRRIT Project List?

- Sign up for the SFBRA email list! SFBRA staff asks for project submissions approximately two times per year via email.
- Projects must **qualify** for funding under the SFBRA's definition of multi-benefit wetland restoration projects and their associated flood management and public access infrastructure features.
- A project does not have to be receiving SFBRA funding.
- Projects need to be in EcoAtlas or added to EcoAtlas.
- SFBRA staff determines Measure AA eligibility and adds projects to the BRRIT's list.



What You Can Expect from BRRIT

- Pre-application meetings with the BRRIT team.
- Coordinated questions and comments in writing from all the agencies on your project design and suggestions for permitting pathways.
- Feedback while your project is in the planning and design phase.
- Site visits as a team (impacted by Covid).
- Prioritized, coordinated review of your permit applications.
- BRRIT may elevate issues to the PMC as needed.



What BRRIT Expects from You

- Engagement in the pre-application process.
- Sufficient information describing the current conceptual approach to your project.
- As much detail on the project as possible in writing as the project develops.
- Identification of how agency feedback was incorporated or explanations if it wasn't.
- Complete applications, all required attachments, and permit fees.
- A mutual understanding that permits will be issued in a timely manner if adequate time has been invested in the pre-application phase resolving issues that the agencies have identified.



Reflections of One Year of BRRIT Workshop

Share a word or two that best describes BRRIT's first year



What We've Learned So Far

- BRRIT encountered challenges to rapidly permitting a complex project without the benefit of a pre-application phase. Moving forward, the BRRIT expects to be most useful when it can engage with applicants during the pre-application phase.
- Recognition of ongoing challenges for the restoration community. BRRIT is open to receiving feedback from applicants after pre-application meetings
- BRRIT members now provide a unified, coordinated comment letter to project applicants after the pre-application meetings.



Visit BRRIT's Website- It's Useful!

- sfbayrestore.org/san-francisco-bay-restoration-regulatory-integration-team-brrit
 - Tools for Applicants
 - Project List
 - Contact Info
- Site available to upload documents associated with permit applications.



We Want Your Feedback!

- The BRRIT is always looking to improve and we want your feedback and suggestions.
- BRRIT@sfbayrestore.org



6. Executive Director Report

Andy will provide an update on active projects, communications, committees, activities, and developing initiatives since November 6 Board meeting.

Executive Director Report



Updates since last meeting

- Thank you NBWA members for dues payments!



Administrative Activities

- FY 21/22 work plan development started
- Updating distribution lists
- Updating website



Communications

- Board members and member agency staff
- Regional partners
- Subject matter experts and speakers
- Call for newsletter topics and project/program highlights



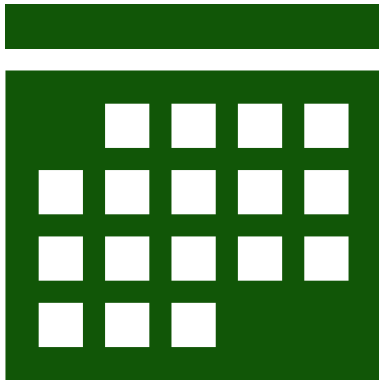
Committees

- Scheduling JTC meetings to resume early 2021
- Conference planning

Executive Director Report *(continued)*

Confirming 2021 calendar dates – First Friday of every month - Except of course for holidays!

2021 Board Meetings



- January 4 **8** (*Tentative Date*)
- February 5
- March 5
- April 2
- May 7
- June 4
- *July 9
- *September 10
- October 1
- November 5
- December 3

* NOTE: meeting date shifted back one week to accommodate holiday

Executive Director Report (*continued*)

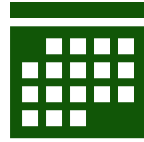


Joint Technical Committee

Scheduling JTC meetings to resume early 2021

- Highlight, build on and track NBWA and member OneWater successes
- How can NBWA's structure bring more value(s) to members and region?
 - Leverage insights and experiences of pan-sector agencies: Mine knowledge, strategies, frameworks, practices, technologies and solutions that address shared challenges
 - Collectively address requirements-in-common
- Position **collaboration** for competitive funds
- Consider other synergistic partnerships/associations

Executive Director Report *(continued)*



NBWA Conference

- Upcoming meeting with Napa RCD to plan and strategize
- Interested to get sense of Board for general options:
 - Spring/summer 2021 (virtual)
 - Fall/winter 2021 (possibly virtual)
 - Spring 2022 (hopefully in-person)

7. Board Information Exchange

Members will highlight issues and share items of interest.

8. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Andy will outline ideas for next and future Board meeting topics and solicit feedback.

Announcements/Adjourn

**Next Board Meeting:
January 8, 2021?**

www.nbwatershed.org