

California Blue Carbon Collaborative (BCC) Meeting #4

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

3:00pm – 4:30pm

Summary Notes

For a complete recording of the meeting please watch the following recording: [LINK HERE](#)

Presentation slides are attached in the email with these notes.

Meeting Agenda:

3:00pm	Welcome, Roll Call, Agenda Review
3:10pm	Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30x30 ○ Project updates and developments ○ Funding for blue carbon
3:30pm	BCC Purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input from participants on <i>BCC Straw Proposal</i> <i>Short Q&A</i>
3:50pm	BCC 2022 Learning Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input from participants on <i>BCC Learning Objectives</i>
4:20pm	Next Steps
4:30pm	End of Meeting

Welcome

Tegan Hoffmann from Coastal Quest and Angie Kemsley from WILDCOAST welcomed participants to the meeting. Tegan reviews the agenda.

Project Updates

- *Angie*, 30x30 comment letter, submitted yesterday, more updates to come
- *Heather*, report coming summer/fall on sampling of carbon
- *Chris*, working on a blue carbon data base, has 600 cores in CA, working on stock synthesis paper now and will be working on a sequestration paper
- *Zach*, shared on sea grass carbon market on east coast (TNC, others) in Virginia
<https://www.pilotonline.com/news/environment/vp-nw-seagrass-blue-carbon-program-20220205-ake65u7pzbbkbbkipe7rjihacm->

[story.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Today%27s%20Top%20Stories&utm_content=6261644092988#nws=true](https://www.wildcoast.org/story.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Today%27s%20Top%20Stories&utm_content=6261644092988#nws=true)

- *Andrew*, updated the group on San Diego's effort to rewild Mission Day
- *Alex*, Bay Area/SFEI blue carbon project, completed in the next month
- *Angie*, WILDCOAST Blue Carbon video with US Nature4Climate!
<https://usnature4climate.org/2022/01/19/blue-carbon-restoring-coastal-wetlands-in-southern-california/>

Funding Updates

- *Zach*, state funding is moving forward
- *Alex*, Pew is funding SFEI and an inventory for San Francisco Bay Area to use for state-wide example for blue carbon
- *Melissa*, Air Resources Board questions about what are the data gaps to push for the inclusion of blue carbon?
 - *Cyndi*, SFEI project will assess the existing data available and try to plug and play state-wide approach given the already available data.
 - *Tegan*, Air Resources Board do not have expertise in wetlands, the model is trying to build the expertise and trust in data

BCC Purpose, Straw Proposal

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Discussion Key Highlights

For a full dialogue listen to the webinar at this link: [LINK HERE](#)

The group discussed the following:

Vision

- Several "thumbs up"
- *Matthew*, likes it, big picture, restoration and keeping carbon stocks in the group, third focus could be "active management" to manage habitat to sequester carbon faster
- *Jim*, add developing skills and technology and applied knowledge
- *Zach*, add "durability/climate resilience" to adaptive management piece

Mission

- *Jena*, who is the audience for the straw proposal? Funders?
- *Andrew*, research and case studies/management should be called out
- *Melissa*, value of a collective is the "internal" – reducing redundancy, sharing - not sure if this fits in the mission since it seems outward facing?
- *Carol*, how to explain to the public the importance of proposal

- *Chris*, along the lines of research, identifying data gaps is an important exercise. That has helped us in the Pacific Northwest in terms of being targeted for specific proposals and directions for the working group.
- *Jim*, leave out “United States”

Goals

- *Alex*, need clarity around building capacity – what does that mean?
- *Udo*, explain monetizing blue carbon, e.g., leverage mitigation funds, etc.
- *Zach*, the Coastal Carbon Network at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (CCRCN) has the most wetland coverage <https://smithsonian.github.io/CCRCN-Pew-Project/>
- *Neysa and Heather*, goals seem very broad, are their more focused/local goals as well? Regional or state goals? Regional approach at a scale that will capture regional approach
- *Jena*, appreciates the goals are focused on models for CA as demonstration, and then US as scale goal for mission. Do you have a ballpark amount for funding need to establish and staff the BCC?
 - No, but additional funding is always on our minds and can scope it out.
- *Neysa*, community focus for resilience
- *Jim*, create an outline that is not regional but can express a national/global approach if asked/requested
- *Chris*, regional approach is preferred. CA is a large and topographically diverse state. The north coast is different from the San Francisco Bay Area, which is different from southern CA, both in terms of climate/geography, and development and impacts to tidal wetlands
- *Zach*, create a toolkit for outreach and another around blue carbon restoration to help with storytelling and shopping the BCC
- *Andrew*, maximizing blue carbon as it overlaps with habitat and recreation would be helpful for groups like Audubon that are focused on restoration
- *Carly*, would like to see blue carbon mentioned in local Conservation Action Plans
- *Chris*, Pacific Northwest example, the group started out by having a meeting, writing proposals, then developed a bio-physical framework outlining blue carbon ecosystems in the region
- *Zach*, incorporating frontline community priorities is a priority, but how are we engaging these communities, and will they be made central to the goals of the BCC? And/or will the goal be to balance those priorities with scientific evidence for promoting blue carbon practices? Curious how we address this if there isn't alignment between the two communities
- *Ashley*, quantifying and having strong data
- *Jena*, send contact information to share BCC names

BCC Learning Objectives

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The group discussed the following:

- *Zach*, separate out Climate Action Planning and Financing
- *Neysa*, continual education on funding, etc.
- *Michael*, elevator pitch!
- *Neysa*, we talk about blue carbon amongst ourselves but not much with decision makers – how do we make the change to build political will for financing blue carbon and have smaller on-the-ground orgs have the tools and language to do so
- *Jim*, would it be worth investigating what regulations would get in the way of blue carbon projects and seeing how they might be worked on ahead of time?
- *Zach*, Cutting the Green Tape
 - *Tegan*, Coastal Quest’s Coastal Resilience Conference with Cutting the Green Tape session March 22 and 23
 - <https://www.coastal-quest.org/conferences/accelerating-solution-for-a-resilient-coast/>
- *Zach*, brand as “multi-benefit projects”! Blue carbon, habitat, SLR, etc.

Next Steps

Tegan reviews next steps for the BCC team.

Thank you for your input. We will take input and revise straw proposal, create roadmap and share prior to next meeting.

Contacts

Angie Kemsley: angela@wildcoast.org

Tegan Hoffmann: Tegan@coastal-quest.org

Attendees

Angie Kemsley - WILDCOAST
Tegan Hoffmann – Coastal Quest
Lily Verdone – Coastal Quest
Carlos Callado - WILDCOAST
Carol Kerridge – Del Mar Lagoon Committee
Udo Wahn – Surfrider Foundation, San Diego
Michael Quill – LA Waterkeeper
Tannia Frausto, WILDCOAST
Carly Kupka – Surfrider San Diego
Shiva Polefka - RLF
Julie Kawasaki – Del Mar Lagoon
Alex Clayton – Pew
Cyndi Dawson – Pew
Jim Peugh – Audubon



Aubrey Folwer - MPA Collaborative Network
Jena Thompson -
Zinnia Dagostino – Pew
Lisa Gilfilan – WILD COAST
Melissa Ward – UC Davis
Heather Kramp – Port of SD
Chris Janousek – Pacific Northwest Blue Carbon Working Group
Mariela Rios – Sea Grant Fellow
Margaret Pilaro – Port of San Diego
Alicia Juang – ESA
Paula Sylvia – Port of San Diego
Matthew Costa – Scripps
Andrea Sanchez Davis – RLF
Andrew Meyer – Audubon
Zach Plopper – Surfrider
Neysa Frechette – Friends of Ballona
Ashley Eagle-Gibbs - Environmental Action Committee of West Marin