



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Planning, Building and Environmental Services

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David Morrison
Director

MEMORANDUM

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| To: | WICC Members | From: | David Morrison, Director Planning, Building, and Environmental Services |
| Date: | October 28, 2021 | Re: | Strategic Plan Discussion (Part 2) |

Below are the currently adopted Mission, Goals, and Roles from the adopted 2015 WICC Strategic Plan, which is also attached. At the July 22, 2021 meeting, the discussion focused on the Mission Statement. A brief summary of the discussion is provided below.

MISSION STATEMENT

Improving the health of Napa County’s watersheds by informing, engaging and conducting outreach within the community.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Benvenuto: We should define watershed consistently with other agencies.

Comendant: Do we know what the current definition is? It should be defined by hydro-geologic unit.

Benvenuto: They are defined on the WICC website: Napa River, Suisun Creek, and Putah Creek. There is no definition on the webpage regarding the health of a watershed.

Cristian: The watershed is different than the Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

Ellsworth: We need to take a holistic view. We can’t look just at natural, have to look at development including fire risk, solid waste disposal sites, etc. We need to cross reference the natural and developed environments.

Dillon: The WICC was formed due to significant events that occurred in the 1990s to create a public forum for discussing these issues. I pushed for all cities/towns to be represented on the WICC. Since then, we’ve seen the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act and other additional programs. We need to keep this going in the spirit in which we started. The watershed boundaries were identified very early in the process.

Cottrell: The WICC is focused more on information sharing than on forming partnerships.

Dorenbecher: I remember 2015 Strategic Plan. We held a water symposium and sponsored an Earth Day booth. There was a lot more public outreach. We never got around to presenting the Strategic Plan to the City and Town Councils. We did a good job on part of outreach, but not all of it. We need to plan better to outreach.

Comendant: We talked about a general outreach Power Point presentation, but that didn't happen. Our website describes assisting the Supervisors in decision making. I wonder how often that happens. We do an excellent job on providing information, but miss opportunities to provide our input. The WICC could serve as a conduit for information, analysis and developing options.

Benvenuto: Instead of fostering partnership, should we conduct outreach?

Gretchen Hayes (public): The public used to receive updates on the various regulatory programs that involved watersheds. Is there a way to expand this vision to the health of all life, including ecological issues?

Benvenuto: A healthy watershed involves everything, including wildlife and fire impacts.

Hayes (public): A lot of people don't know what a watershed is.

Benvenuto: Informing and engaging the public will improve the watershed.

Ellsworth: The watershed is a water source area. To protect water at the bottom of the watershed, we have to protect it at the top of the watershed. All stakeholders share.

Hayes (public): We need a landscape level view of ecology.

Cottrell: We need a definition of watershed in the mission statement. We also need to define the WICC's role in contrast to the GSA in the mission statement.

Ellsworth: There is an equity component. Water has a financial and economic value. We can't just look at it as a natural resource, we also have to look at the economic component.

Dorenbecher: The Resource Conservation District does so much. How can we help them to enhance their efforts and get their work accomplished?

Comendant: I look at the WICC website as a venue for getting information out to the public. We could provide analytics on the website.

Hayes (public): The watershed should support both life and the economy.

Kellie Anderson (public): I appreciate the email newsletter. It has useful links that I share on social media and is a valuable tool. In the years that the WICC has existed, you inform and advise the Board of Supervisors. When will you suggest policy updates to the Board? The WICC needs to be more than informational. The Board of Supervisors needs to hear from everyone.

Comendant: There is a gap there.

FURTHER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is a watershed? Does it define the source area for a river or creek, or does it also include the human activity, plants and animals, and other features within the watershed?
2. Should the mission statement define watershed health? If so, what measures should be used to measure watershed health?
3. What is the role of the WICC? Is it a neutral public information forum? Is it an advocate for County watershed policy and funding? Does it recommendations on watershed issues to the Board of Supervisors?
4. How is the WICC's role different than other watershed interests, such as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Bureau of Reclamation, Parks and Open Space District, Land Trust, municipal reservoirs, and other organizations?

GOALS

- Coordinate and facilitate watershed planning, research, and monitoring efforts among Napa County organizations, agencies, landowners, and citizens.
- Strengthen and expand community understanding, connections and involvement to improve the health of Napa County's watersheds.
- Support informed decision-making on topics that affect the health of Napa County's watersheds.
- Improve WICC Board efficiency and effectiveness.
- Explore additional funding opportunities to support the goals of the WICC.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you describe an effective and efficient WICC Board?
2. Should the WICC initiate watershed efforts or is it limited to coordination and facilitation?
3. How has the WICC strengthened community connections to the watershed?
4. What level of decision-making does the WICC inform?

ROLES

WICC members are responsible for:

- Improving the health of Napa County's watersheds by supporting projects, partnerships and community education that maintain and improve water quality, native plant and wildlife habitat, and ecological and natural processes.
- Collecting, distilling and disseminating the best possible information, tools and education, to help the community discover and understand their watersheds, and make well-informed decisions.
- Supporting collaboration and partnership among all organizations and individuals working to improve and maintain the health of Napa County's watersheds.
- Seeking and facilitating funding for watershed projects in Napa County from foundations, individuals, organizations, and public agencies.
- Being politically neutral, unbiased and non-regulatory.
- Being well-informed about issues pertaining to local water and watersheds.
- Sharing information with their respective jurisdictions, organizations, communities and peers to further watershed awareness and informed decision-making.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does politically neutral and unbiased mean?
2. How should WICC members advocate for watershed project funding?
3. What role do natural processes like fire, drought, and flooding play in the watershed?
4. How should the WICC Board be evaluated in the performance of their responsibilities?