

Members

Diane Dillon
Mark Luce
Michael Novak*
Steven Rosa
Mark Van Gorder
Gary Kraus
Leon Garcia
Jim King
Jeff Reichel
Phill Blake
Don Gasser
Kate Dargan
Jeffrey Redding
Robert Steinhauer
Charles Slutzkin
Marc Pandone
Chris Sauer
**pending confirmation*

Alternate

Harold Moskowite

- MINUTES / ACTION SUMMARY -

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, July 26, 2007
4:00 p.m.**

**2nd Floor Conference Room, Hall of Justice Building,
1125 Third Street, Napa CA**

Staff Representatives

Patrick Lowe,
Secretary
Deputy Director,
Conservation Div., CDPD

Jeff Sharp,
Watershed Coordinator
Planner III,
Conservation Div., CDPD

Laura Anderson,
Counsel
Attorney IV,
County Counsel's Office

1. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL** (Chairman)

Members Present: Diane Dillon, Mark Luce, Gary Kraus, Jim King, Phill Blake, Don Gasser, Kate Dargan, Robert Steinhauer, Charles Slutzkin, Chris Sauer

Members Absent Excused: Steven Rosa, Leon Garcia, Jeff Reichel, Jeffrey Redding, Marc Pandone

Members Absent: Mark Van Gorder,

Staff Present: Patrick Lowe, Jeff Sharp

2. **APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES**

Meeting of **May 24, 2007** (Chairman)

Outcome: *Approved as presented.*

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

In this time period, anyone may comment to the Board regarding any subject over which the Board has jurisdiction, or request consideration to place an item on a future Agenda. No comments will be allowed involving any subject matter that is scheduled for discussion as part of this Agenda. Individuals will be limited to a three-minute presentation. No action will be taken by the Board as a result of any item presented at this time. (Chairman)

Outcome: *None presented.*

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Board/Staff)

- a. **WICC WebCenter launches new tools and services** to support watershed groups and enhance site usability (Staff)

Outcome: *Informational. Staff presented the Board with examples of improvements done to the WICC WebCenter (group website hosting, project database, improved library structure and targeted outreach pending) as of July 15th.*

- b. Others (Board/Staff)

Outcome: None provided.

5. UPDATES/REPORTS:

- a. Update on the County **General Plan Update** process and timeline, and **Steering Committee activities** (Staff)

Outcome: Informational. Hillary Gitelman, County Planning Director, gave the Board a brief update on the General Plan Update timeline, the Committee's progress as of July 25th and hosting of Public Comments on the County's General Plan website.

- b. Update on the Napa County Regional **Park and Open Space District** activities (District Staff)

Outcome: Informational (taken out of order (heard first) to facilitate presenter's need to leave early). John Woodbury, Park and Open Space District staff, provided the Board with an overview of the District's recent activities/project, including work relating to Fagan Marsh, Milliken Reservoir, Camp Berryessa, DFG Yountville Ecology Preserve, Vallejo Lakes and Lake Curry. John noted that at this point the District is focused on providing access to existing public lands.

- c. Update on **Coordinated Permitting pilot project** in Napa River watershed (NRCS/Staff)

Outcome: Informational. Phill Blake, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist, gave the Board an update on the status of the pilot program and provided examples of what type of projects are being considered in this first-round of coordinated permitting. A field review of six potential projects was conducted with agency staff. The agencies involved (DFG and RWQCB primarily) are moving forward on reviewing and permitting the proposed projects. Letters to the landowners are expected in early October. Phill also mentioned that the NRCS is working with state legislators as well as state and federal resource agencies to further a coordinated permitting process at a state and federal level, which would define a clear consultation process for landowners to reduce confusion, costs and time involved. Charles Slutzkin asked if there is anything the WICC Board could do to assist the work of NRCS. Phill recommended that the WICC and the County could host a local forum of some kind to help formalize a working coordinated process with key agency personnel. Charles asked that a future item be placed on the WICC's agenda to support the coordinated permitting effort.

- d. Update on the **Rutherford Dust Napa River Restoration** project (Staff)

Outcome: Informational (taken out of order (heard second) to facilitate presenter's need to leave early). Rick Thomasser, Watershed and Flood Control Operations Manager for the Flood Control District, provided the Board with an overview of the Rutherford project, which included an update on current project activities; including additional funding for hydraulic analyses, preliminary design timeline, environmental review, landowner agreements and new facilitation efforts.

- e. Others (Board/Staff)

Outcome: None provided.

6. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION:

Update and discussion on pending **State Board approval of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)** for the Napa River, the **Regional Water Quality Control Board's Basin Planning** process, and other State and Regional water quality policy developments (Staff)

Outcome: Update and discussion: Staff provided an update on progress of the Stream and Wetland System Protection Policy currently under development in both the North Coast Region (Region 1) and San Francisco Bay Region (Region 2) and the scientific studies and background materials that the Water Boards will use to defend the need and scope of the proposed policy. A draft policy for public review is expected in December for Region 1 and early next year for Region 2.

7. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

Discussion, consideration and possible direction authorizing the Chair to submit **comments on the County's Draft General Plan Update** relating to watershed management and water quality matters as recommended by a WICC Sub-committee (Sub-committee Members/Staff)

Outcome: Report, discussion and direction: Kate Dargan reviewed the sub-committee's approach and work on the draft comments with the Board. Kate additionally noted that watersheds are highly impacted by fire and that is the reason why there is mention of fire (and role of fire) in the suggested comments. Charles Slutzkin suggested the WICC send a non-political letter to the County Planning Department on the General Plan. Bob Steinhauer voiced his concern over some statements in the draft comments, particularly those that discussed property rights, made recommendations to replace shoulds with shalls and speak to the reduction of permanent timber conversions (where such authority lies in the State's prevue). Mark Luce mentioned that the comments should be un-debatable and be non-political. Don Gasser suggested the tone of the comments be of recognition rather than advocacy. Members further suggested that the comments tell of the importance and service function of the watershed (including timberlands) and leave it to the policymakers to define policy language. After further discussion the Board directed staff to work with the sub-committee members and members of the Board (Charles and Bob) to revise the suggested comments and bring the revised comments back to the Board for consideration at their August meeting.

8. **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION – NAPA FIREWISE PROGRAM:**

A presentation of **Napa Firewise**, a community-based fire awareness program focused on education, protection and preparedness (<http://napacounty/firewise/index.html>) (Napa County Fire/Staff)

Outcome: Informational. Gabrielle (Gabby) Avina, Napa County Fire Marshall, presented the Board with a presentation and handouts on the Napa Firewise program. Gabby outlined the fire problems in Napa County and presented the Board with a historical fire map, illustrating where past fires have occurred and areas that have a high potential to burn given present fuels. Also discussed were the increased amount rural structures and associated fire risk in the County's wild land areas. The risk associated with the County's wild land urban interface area was also mentioned. The Napa Firewise program was developed to confront many of the County's wild fire challenges. Program accomplishments include education, newsletters, defensible space workshops, fuel reduction/chipping programs, and sponsorship of neighborhood/community Firewise stewardships. The program is moving towards a non-profit standing and is looking to other sources of funding for future support (beyond competitive grants). Gabby also informed the Board of a new Countywide Weed Abatement Ordinance that went into effect June 22nd, requiring landowners to maintain adequate fire defensible space (100') around structures regardless of property lines.

9. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (Board/Staff)

- a. **Hyper Spectral Imaging** – remote sensing presentation; pending for August or September meeting
- b. **2006 Salmon Spawning Report** for the Napa River – presentation by Napa County Resource Conservation District fisheries biologist (Staff)
- c. Others (Board/Staff)

Outcome: Coordinated permitting assistance, Continuation of General Plan comments

10. NEXT MEETING:

Regular Board Meeting: August 23, 2007 – 4:00 PM

Hall of Justice Building, 2nd floor Conference Room, 1125 Third Street, Napa

11. ADJOURNMENT (Chairman)

Note: If requested, the agenda and documents in the agenda packet shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. Please contact Jeff Sharp at 707-259-5936, 1195 Third St., Suite 210, Napa CA 94559) to request alternative formats.



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