

Watershed Information Center & Conservancy OF NAPA COUNTY

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 Moskowitz

AGENDA

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, August 23, 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, Steven Rosa, Leon Garcia, Jim King, Jeff Reichel, Phill Blake, Don Gasser, Jeffrey Redding, Robert Steinhauer, Charles Slutzkin, Marc Pandone,

Members Absent Excused: Kate Dargan

Members Absent: Mark Luce, Mark Van Gorder, Gary Kraus, Chris Sauer

Staff Present: Patrick Lowe, Jeff Sharp

2. **APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES**

None at this time (Chairman)

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. **2007 California Watershed Forum** – A roundtable discussion to create a statewide watershed program, September 20, 2007, Sacramento (Staff)

Outcome: Informational. Staff reviewed the flier provided in the Board's agenda packet and encouraged those interested to attend.

- b. Others (Board/Staff)

Outcome: Informational. Staff presented an article from the Napa Valley Register on upcoming Senate hearing to approve the 2007 Farm Bill. Phill Blake mentioned that the Farm Bill is a conglomeration of numerous bills from crop subsidy programs to resource restoration programs. In the past, projects in Napa County have received around \$400,000 annually from provisions included in past Farm Bills; mostly in support of resource protection and restoration projects.

5. UPDATES/REPORTS:

- a. Update on **grant award** to Napa County for **\$394,000.00 to support the County's Watershed Assessment Framework** proposal, submitted to the 2007 DWR/CALFED Watershed Grant Program. (Staff)

Outcome: Informational. Staff presented the Board with the County's award letter from the Department of Water Resources and gave a brief overview of the grant work program, timeline and statewide coordination efforts related to the work effort.

- b. **American Canyon Middle School** interested in **utilizing WICC WebCenter** to support science instruction and restoration of nearby creek (Staff)

Outcome: Informational. Staff has been in contact with Anna Niklewicz, school teacher, who plans to use the WICC WebCenter as well as the nearby creek as an instructional tool.

- c. Others (Board/Staff)

Outcome: Informational. Staff informed the Board of Rick Thomasser's (Flood District Watershed Operations Manager) presentation to the Flood Board and request that the Flood Board consider the WICC Board serve in an advisory capacity to the Flood Board as needed on issues related to common watershed goals and objectives. The Flood Board was receptive to the idea and Staff will be working with District Staff and the Board of Supervisors to expand the WICC Board's advisory role.

Staff also reported on the activities of the Wildlife Conservation Commission and their funding of a number of grants in support various wildlife conservation activities throughout the county.

6. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION:

- a. Update and discussion on pending **State Board approval of Pathogen 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, with assistance from Steve Lederer, Director of Environmental Management, provided an update on the pending Napa River Pathogen TMDL and its associated Implementation Plan. It is expected that the State Water Board will approve the TMDL on September 4, 2007.

Staff also informed the Board of an upcoming public workshop hosted by the State Water Board and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board on the implementation of the Irrigated Lands Waiver Program (affecting irrigated lands with in the Putah Creek watershed).

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

Outcome: Update and discussion: Staff provided an update and summary on the planning effort. The Committee will consider the Conservation Element at their August 29th meeting. The Planning Commission hosted a session on the General Plan Update on August 15th; which was well attended. Jim King, the WICC's

Planning Commission representative, thought the meeting went well and that the public offered very good comments. The Commission's hearing on the matter was continued to an evening meeting on September 5th in Yountville.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

- a. *Continued from July 26, 2007:* 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 the WICC Sub-committee (Sub-committee Members/Staff)

Outcome: Report, discussion and direction: Marc Pandone, sub-committee member, introduced the committee's comments. Charles Slutzkin stressed the need to recognize forestry as a desired land use practice and that comments from the WICC should not state a preference nor make policy recommendation for one land use over another (i.e., forestry vs. vineyard development). The issue of forestry and vineyard should be looked into but the WICC should remain neutral. The Board discussed the various benefits and concerns of forestry and vineyard development and the need for the WICC to remain neutral in its position. The Board directed the removal of the word "discourage" from the comment letter in 2nd paragraph on page 3 and qualifying the last sentence in 3rd paragraph on page 3. Jim King, Jeffrey Redding and others stressed that what ever land use practices are being considered, they should be implemented in the best interest of the watershed. After directing the changes mentioned the Board directed staff to forward the letter.

- b. Discussion, direction and possible **recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding ways to encourage conservation of water resources** during drought or dry water-years to protect sensitive aquatic resources in the Napa River and its tributaries (Staff)

Outcome: Report, discussion and direction: Staff briefed the Board on the observed low flow of the Napa River this summer and the public's concerns over fish survival. Cause of the low flow condition is not completely known; whether due to direct diversions, streamside pumping of groundwater, or lower than average winter rainfall. Staff reviewed some action steps already taken by various community groups stressing the need for conservation, particularly in dry years (e.g., targeted water conservation reminders and educational outreach efforts) and proposed the WICC Board support a water conservation campaign focused toward streamside property owners. The Board further recommended support of recycled water use and the need to overcome the stigma of its use. It was also recommended that the WICC Board get an update on Napa Sanitation District's efforts in developing and providing recycled water.

The Board requested to hear Item 8 as it relates to fisheries and flows in the river.

After the presentation of Item 8 the Board continued its discussion on water conservation. It was directed that the WICC sponsor a number of forums and workshops throughout the county (in the evening) on water conservation and reuse (in partnership with various water districts/departments in the county).

8. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION – NAPA RIVER SALMON MONITORING PROJECT:

A presentation and discussion of the **Napa River Salmon Monitoring Project Spawning Year 2006 Report**, by Jonathan Koehler, Fisheries Biologist with the Napa County Resource Conservation District (Staff/RCD)

Outcome: Informational. Jonathan Koehler, Fisheries Biologist with the Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD), provided the Board with a presentation on the RCD's 2006 salmon monitoring results and a comparison of those results with the prior study years. Jonathan noted that resident/native Chinook salmon are less affected by the low river flows than steelhead.

No hatchery fish (strays) have been identified in the past three years of the study. There is a relatively high density of spawning redds in the watershed. 2006 was a good year for the survey as compared to 2005 due to the frequency and magnitude of storm events.

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

- a. **Hyper Spectral Imaging** – Update on test application in Napa County (possibly September meeting)
- b. Others (Board/Staff)

Outcome: None

10. **NEXT MEETING:**

Regular Board Meeting: September 27, 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.

