

Members

Diane Dillon
Mark Luce
Del Britton*
Gary Kraus
James Krider
Leon Garcia
Jim King
Jeff Reichel
Phill Blake
Don Gasser
Jeffrey Redding
Robert Steinhauer
Charles Slutzkin
Marc Pandone
Chris Sauer
Alexander Pader
**pending confirmation*

Alternate

Keith Caldwell

- MINUTES / ACTION SUMMARY -

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 22, 2009
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
Principal Planner,
Conservation Div., CDPD

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

Melissa Gray,
Admin. Assistant
Admin. Secretary II,
CDPD

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL (Chairman)

Members present: Diane Dillon, Marc Luce, Jim King, Don Gasser, Bob Steinhauer, Charles Slutzkin, Marc Pandone, Chris Sauer, Alexander Pader

Members excused: Gary Kraus, Jeff Reichel, Jeffrey Redding

Members absent: James Krider, Leon Garcia, Phil Blake

Staff present: Patrick Lowe, Jeff Sharp, Sharon Borunda

2. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES

Meeting of November 20, 2008 (Chairman)

Minutes were approved as presented.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

a. **Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair** for year 2009 (per Bylaws§ II.A.) (Board/Staff)
The Board elected Marc Pandone as Chair and Phil Blake as Vice-Chair.

b. Discussion and **adoption of 2009 Meeting Calendar** (per Bylaws§ III.A.) (Board/Staff)
Adopted as presented.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. Announcement of **new WICC Board Member nominations** and pending appointments (Staff)
Jeff Sharp announced the nomination of Marjorie Mohler from the Town of Yountville and Del Britton from the City of St. Helena to serve on the WICC Board. The nominations for appointment are scheduled to go before the Board of Supervisor's on February 24, 2009.

The WICC Board also received notice from Jim King as to his resignation from Napa County Planning Commission and thus his membership on the WICC Board.

- b. Announcement of **required AB1234 ethics training for WICC Board Members** and opportunity to fulfill mandatory training hours (Staff)
Jeff Sharp announced that each WICC Board member needs to complete a qualified AB1234 ethics training program and provide staff a copy of the 'certificate of completion' for the Board/County files.
- c. Announcement of **2009 Watershed Education Calendar** distribution, "Hiking in Napa County's Watersheds" (Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Staff)
District Manager, Leigh Sharp from the RCD reported the distribution of the calendars to the community in support of watershed education. She announced that approximately 4000 calendars have been distributed and that the RCD is receiving positive response from the community. She reported that there is a very large interest in hiking in Napa County.
- d. Announcement of **WICC participation in 13th Annual Flyway Festival**, Feb. 6th – 8th, Mare Island (Board/Staff)
Jeff Sharp announced that WICC will be participating in the Festival for the first time, partnering with other environmental groups and will be presenting a display and other WICC materials. Marc Pandone reported that he has been involved in the festival for Solano County in the past and it was well attended. He also spoke about the facilities at Mare Island, and suggested that WICC promotional give-a-way's would be very popular if more funding was available in the future. Leigh Sharp, from the RCD announced that they will also be attending and sponsoring a hike as well.
- e. Others (Board/Staff/Public)
A member of the public questioned the Board regarding the State Water Resources Control Board mandating a State wide examination of private septic tanks/systems. Jeff Sharp replied that this issue will be answered by Steve Lederer who will be discussing State Board items later in the agenda particularly related to pathogens related to septic systems.

Marc Pandone and Jeff Sharp announced Berryessa Trails and Conservation had sponsored a lake-shore clean-up at Lake Berryessa on January 19th. 75 people came out to clean up the shore in and around Pleasure Cove. Pleasure Cove operators donated their boats, and, Solano County Water Agency donated money for a picnic lunch. It was also reported that the lake is 30 – 35 feet down from its normal line.

4. REPORTS, UPDATES AND DISCUSSION:

- a. Report on **state freeze of bond money** and the **impact on local resource conservation projects** (Staff/Napa County RCD, Public Works & Flood District Staff)
Patrick Lowe reported that the State Bond freeze has impacted many of the County's grant-funded conservation programs, and that many programs have not received payment on outstanding invoices and it is unknown when funding will be released to resume work on the projects. Patrick further reported that RCD, among many other organizations, is also not receiving funding/payment from the state due to the state's bond rating and cash-flow problems.

Jeff Sharp reported that the County's Watershed Assessment Framework (WAF) grant which is funded through the Department of Water Resources, under Prop. 50, has also been frozen. It is unknown when that work can resume due to the state's financial crisis.

Rick Thomasser from the County's Flood Control Dist., reported that the Rutherford Project grant is also frozen and may not be able to continue after the end of the contract in September of 2009. This affects the design work on reaches 1 and 2 and could halt construction on the project which is scheduled for summer 2009. The District is presently covering the loss with match money funded by

the County. If the funds continue to be frozen the District will have to go to the Board of Supervisor's to decide on further funding of the Rutherford Flood Project.

Leigh Sharp of Resource Conservation District (RCD) reported that they have two contracts that are ending during this fiscal year, and if these contracts end during the freeze, the projects will not be continued. The RCD is also in a position of having outstanding invoices amounting to approximately \$300,000. The RCD does not have sufficient reserves to wait for payment, but at this time no staff has to be laid-off. If the freeze is not resolved this fiscal year, the RCD will be severely affected next fiscal year.

Laurel Marcus, of California Land Stewardship Institute reported that her non-profit group does not have any state contracts that would expire in the near-term, but that her group is also affected.

Deborah Elliot from Napa County Public Works Department reported that they are waiting for approval of the \$50,000 Groundwater Grant that they received through Prop 50. The Public Works Department sent it to DWR and is waiting to hear back.

Diane Dillon was asked to report to the Board on the cumulative impact the state financial crisis is having on Napa County.

The Board requested staff bring back an item for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the state freezing all bond funded projects and that contract extensions should be considered so that work on these projects can continue when funding becomes available.

- b. Update on **Zinfandel Lane bridge** fish passage project, design and environmental permitting phase (Rick Thomasser, Napa County Flood District)
Rick Thomasser reported on the RCD geotechnical investigation, and conceptual design that the Gasser Foundation and Army Corp developed for possible solutions. He added that his staff working with Napa County Public Works and the RCD to apply for grants for construction in 2010.
- c. Update on Napa County **Watershed Symposium 2009**, May 21st, 9:00am – 4:00pm, Elks Lodge (Staff/Napa County RCD)
Patrick Lowe reported that the venue for the Watershed Symposium 2009 has changed from Copia to Elks Lodge, resulting in a significant savings for the event. Jeff Sharp reported that the theme for this Symposium is "Napa County Watersheds in a Changing Environment."
- d. Update on **WICC WebCenter** updates for 2009 and future site transition (Staff)
Jeff Sharp provided the Board and update on progress related to improving the look and function of the WICC WebCenter and Board of Supervisor approval for continued web support from MIG scheduled for January 27th.
- e. Update on efforts towards development of a locally based **Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP)** for Napa County (Staff)
Jeff Sharp provided an update of local IRWMP efforts and larger efforts taking place in the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento River Area. Napa County's IRWMP work will need to be divided between the SF Bay Funding Area (Napa River Basin and Suisun Basin) and the Sacramento River Funding Area (Putah Creek Basin). IRWMP planning staff has met with a consultant to help develop a plan for Napa County. It has taken some time to develop a mutual funding agreement between various local government agencies and services to fund an IRWMP scoping effort. This initial effort is funded with small amounts of cost-share adding up to \$50,000. There will be a future need to put a planning grant in place to identify and organize water resource projects in Napa County for possible future funding.

- f. Report and discussion on various **Regional Water Quality Control Board** and **State Water Resources Control Board** water quality control plans and policies affecting Napa County's watersheds, including possible future Regional Board hearings on the revised Napa River Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) (Staff)

Jeff Sharp distributed and reported on a revised spreadsheet used to track various state planning efforts. The sheet highlighted many delays in the state's planning process. More updates will be posted to the WICC website.

Steve Lederer, Director of the County's Environmental Mgmt. Dept., reported on the pathogen TMDL and the AB885 regarding septic tanks, particularly those within 600 feet of streams. With the help of the RCD, Environmental Management has identified 3 creeks with pathogens issues (Browns Valley Creek, Salvador Creek, and Murphy Creek). Steve also reported that the State Board has put together new regulations that may be overly restrictive in regards to septic systems and the Board of Supervisors has put in a letter to the state stating as such. Steve summarized that requirements are to have your tank inspected and pumped every 5 years, costing approx. \$400 to \$500/pumping, also if you have a well in the vicinity of your system, you may have to sample the well water for a range of constituents, many which don't have anything to do with your septic tank and its function. Well testing costs could range from \$500 to \$1000/test. The State Board is holding a public comment meeting in Santa Rosa next Tuesday, January 27th at 7pm.

Jeff Sharp reported that the revised Sediment TMDL is expected to be available for public comment in February 2009. The In-Stream Flow policy is being re-drafted and should be out in the middle of 2009 for public comment. The State's Stream and Wetland Protection Policy will be re-drafted and expected out mid-year 2009. The State Board's Water Quality Enforcement Policy Workshops were scheduled for January 16, 2009.

Diane Dillon reported on the activities of the Putah Creek Watershed Group.

- g. Report and update on various **vineyard erosion control plan projects** in Napa County (Brian Bordona, Napa County Planning Dept.)

Brian Bordona gave an overview and update regarding the January 6th newspaper article by Paul Franson, on various large-scale vineyard projects in for permit with the County Planning Department
(1) The Rodgers Project is in final EIR and the County is in the process, along with the consultant, of responding to the comments received

(2) The Stagecoach project was approved in August of 2008. Primary issues of the Stagecoach project were related to rare plants.

(3) The Circle "S" project is also in the EIR comment period which just closed. There were several areas of concern regarding that project including; loss of oak woodland, greenhouse gas / carbon sequestration, groundwater, native plants and various listed wildlife species.

(4) The Walt Ranch project has not presented enough information to start the environmental analysis (CEQA document) at this time.

- h. Others (Board/Staff)

None.

5. **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION:**

Presentation and discussion - “**Napa River Enhancement Plan: Oakville to Oak Knoll – Results of Phase 1 Existing Conditions Analyses and Concepts for Restoration,**” a project to control erosion and flooding, as well as to preserve fish habitat (Laurel Marcus, Executive Director, California Land Stewardship Institute)

Laurel Marcus handed out data examples and updated information about their project’s source funding and project impacts due to the state’s financial crisis. The intent of the Oakville to Oak Knoll project is to reduce property damage from floods, lower the rate of channel erosion, increase the natural stability in the river system, predict and consider future changes in the river channel, improve the quality and sustainability of fish and riparian habitat, integrate economic use of the floodplain and the river with environmental improvements, and provide an implementation strategy and timeline that recognize both public and private needs.

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

7. **NEXT MEETING** (Chairman)

Regular Board Meeting: February 26, 2009 – 4:00 PM

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

8. **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.

