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## ACTION MINUTES

### SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

WATERSHED INFORMATION CENTER & CONSERVANCY (WICC) BOARD  
NAPA COUNTY GROUNDWATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GRAC)

Thursday, July 25, 2012, 4:00 p.m.

Yountville Community Center, 6516 Washington St., Yountville, CA

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

*Members Present: Warren Flint, Mitchell Klug, Jason Lauritsen, Kenneth Leary, Jim Lincoln, Marc Pandone, Matt Pope, Jeff Reichel, Rita Steiner, Peter White, Keith Caldwell*

*Members excused: Susan Boswell, Diane Dillon, Marita Dorenbecher, Gary Kraus, Mark Luce, Scott Sedgley*

*Members absent: Jeffrey Redding*

*Staff present: Patrick Lowe, Jeff Sharp*

#### 2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

*Steve Lederer, Director, Public Works, provided opening comments.*

#### 3. UPDATES FROM THE WICC

*Jeff Sharp, Principal Watershed Resources Planner, Public Works, gave an update on WICC and staff activities since March. The WICC participated in Earth Day on April 20th by staffing an informational booth about the WICC and other Napa County water resources programs. At their first meeting in May, the Board of Supervisors proclaimed May 2013 as Watershed Awareness Month in Napa County. The WICC website posted a number of events that provided recreational and stewardship opportunities involving the watersheds of the county. May concluded with the Napa County Watershed Symposium being held at the Copia Theater on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The symposium was well received with over 100 people attending and coincided with the launch of the redesigned WICC website. The new website utilizes modern web services and tools to provide a more user-friendly experience. A connect tab at the top of the home page lets users enter their email address to receive the latest news, calendar of events and site updates. A new mapping structure on the site highlights Napa County's three main watersheds and provides a variety of information, such as soils, faults, streams and sub-watershed locations. A task for WICC staff for the new fiscal year is to provide more information through the improved mapping features. Mr. Sharp gave an update on the Napa River Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulations mandated by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board). County staff is following the development of an agricultural waiver of waste discharge reporting process related to the TMDL.*

*The agricultural waiver was pulled back by the Regional Water Board due to public comments received. It is likely the permit for vineyards will return in the form of a general permit along the lines of the County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. There is a compliance deadline of October 2014 mentioned in the TMDL. The County is researching if the deadline can be extended or if the Regional Water Board will use their discretion to delay enforcement. In relation to compliance, the County is developing a system to track TMDL implementation through a web-based tool that would catalog the County's efforts and report its progress in simple terms. The County is meeting with the Regional Water Board early next month to show the schematic of the design and to get their input and concurrence that the tool will be a local mechanism to track and document TMDL compliance. Mr. Sharp reported on the progress of Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning, which is the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) effort to manage California's water in an integrated fashion. DWR funding allows agencies to develop IRWM plans and projects across jurisdictional boundaries. Napa County is split by two separate IRWM planning efforts: the Bay Area IRWM Plan, which includes the Napa River and Suisun basins, and the Westside Sacramento IRWM Plan, which covers the Putah Creek basin. The Westside Sacramento IRWM Plan was just completed and adopted by the Flood Board on July 9<sup>th</sup>. A Round 2 IRWM implementation grant submittal requested \$2 million to support some of the water districts around Lake Berryessa and fund a regional water conservation program for the Putah Creek area. The Bay Area IRWM Plan is nearing completion with only a few draft chapters still open for public comment. Comments can still be submitted at the Bay Area IRWM website. There will be a final public comment period on the whole plan. Both the Westside Sacramento and Bay Area IRWM Plans must be adopted by local agencies in order to obtain DWR funding. The Westside Sacramento IRWM Plan will go before the Board of Supervisors on August 6<sup>th</sup> for adoption, as well as the Lake Berryessa and Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement Districts. The next WICC meeting will be held Thursday, September 26. One of the presentations will be on the results of a pilot project conducted by the RCD that monitored streambed scour and gravel permeability funded by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. There will also be a presentation on a new concept of agro-forestry in which truffles could be farmed under oak trees and a possible presentation on fire ecology.*

#### 4. UPDATES FROM THE GRAC

*Michelle Benvenuto, GRAC Vice-Chair, presented a PowerPoint presentation on Napa County's Voluntary Groundwater Monitoring Program. Groundwater in Napa County has been monitored since the mid-1900s. Groundwater levels throughout the Napa Valley Floor are stable with the exception of the Milliken-Sarco-Tulucay (MST) area, but even in that area recent stabilization has been shown. Overall, Napa County's groundwater resource is in pretty good shape. Groundwater quality is generally good with the exception of Calistoga and in southern Napa County (the MST Subarea in the east, south of Soscol Avenue, Carneros and the Napa River marshes near Jameson Canyon). Groundwater recharge potential is also good. There is a need to find out more about the aquifers – what their state is, and what the interaction is between groundwater and surface water. Additional monitoring will help answer these questions. The Voluntary Groundwater Monitoring Program addresses the County's resources goals in the General Plan, coordinates data with other State and federal agencies and addresses monitoring data gaps that have been identified in a couple of past studies. Priority monitoring areas were determined by looking at groundwater basins, sub-basins, subareas, identifying groundwater level and quality data gaps. 18 areas of interest have been identified where additional monitoring wells are needed to fully understand the groundwater resource(s). The objectives of the Voluntary Groundwater Monitoring Program will be fulfilled if one well can be located in each of the 18 priority areas. Wells and well owners have been identified in the areas of interest, and the GRAC has begun outreach efforts. Well owners are asked if their wells can be monitored twice a year – in the spring and fall. If a well owner agrees to participate, they are given a form to complete, which is then routed to County staff for*

*follow-up. In addition to ongoing public outreach, the GRAC will be reviewing the County's draft Groundwater Ordinance and permit process, as well as developing a set of sustainability objectives next month (a sustainability sub-committee of the GRAC met earlier this month). The GRAC's work will culminate with their recommendations being provided to the Board of Supervisors. GRAC outreach is being planned for the agricultural industry, environmental groups (this joint meeting), community events and public speaking engagements. The GRAC members and staff are willing to present to any group upon request. Groundwater sustainability ties directly to the County's General Plan goals and actions and is also an action item for the GRAC as directed in the in the Board of Supervisors. There is no universally accepted definition of groundwater sustainability, but the goal for Napa County is to maintain a stable, long-term supply of groundwater. Although groundwater levels are currently stable in most areas, additional monitoring will help maintain stability, which has been recently demonstrated in the MST.*

*Steve Lederer, Director, Public Works, reported on the current status of the Groundwater Ordinance and the Water Availability Analysis (WAA) report. Both documents are being updated by staff and the County's groundwater consultant, Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, Principal Hydrologist, LSCE, with input from the GRAC. The Ordinance, originally passed in 1999, was primarily in response to the MST groundwater decline. The GRAC has seen a draft of the ordinance and will review an updated draft in August. The WAA is also known as Phase 1 analysis or fair share amount. Since 1990, the County has adopted standards for groundwater use related to discretionary permits. If you use less than one acre foot of water per acre on the Napa Valley floor, less than 0.5 acre foot of water per acre in the hills or less than 0.3 acre foot of water per acre in the MST, it is assumed you are under your fair share. This has worked well over the years as a general standard. There are other sections of the WAA, such as the Phase 2 and 3 standards, which require additional pumping and other tests, that don't work very well. Staff and Ms. Kretsinger Grabert are working on improving the WAA by incorporating more specifics and scientific justification/data and will bring a revised draft of the WAA to the GRAC's August meeting for review and comment.*

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

*None provided.*

## 6. INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Michael Haley, GRAC member, mentioned the sign-up sheets available for any well owners present who might be interested in participating in the Voluntary Groundwater Monitoring Program. Jeff Sharp, Principal Watershed Resources Planner, Public Works, also asked those present if they knew any well owners in the areas of interest who might be interested in participating in the Voluntary Groundwater Monitoring Program to contact staff and they will refer a GRAC member for follow-up.*

*Marilee Talley mentioned the Voluntary Groundwater Monitoring Program, which the WICC will eventually inherit, doesn't monitor just water levels but also water quality and is supported by an enriched database and the updated hydrogeologic conceptualization of the County (LSCE, 2013).*

*Mr. Sharp mentioned the groundwater basin maps developed as part of LSCE's work are on the WICC mapping site, and staff hopes to add to the website a simplified map of the geologic conceptualization (all the information underneath that isn't visible).*

## 7. ADJOURNMENT to the NEXT MEETING

*Motion and approval to adjourn.*