



Board of Directors

Diane Dillon
Mark Luce
Peter White
Gary Kraus
James Krider
Belia Bennett
Richard Hall
Mike Basayne
Jeff Reichel
Rita Steiner
Jeffrey Redding
Susan Boswell
Jim Lincoln
Marc Pandone
Chris Sauer
Mitchell Klug
Jason Lauritsen

Alternate

Keith Caldwell

Staff

Representatives

Patrick Lowe,
Secretary
Deputy Director,
CDPD

Jeff Sharp,
**Watershed
Coordinator**
Principal Planner,
CDPD

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

Sarah Minahen,
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- MINUTES / ACTION SUMMARY -

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, September 29, 2011, 4:00 p.m.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL (Chair)

Members present: Mark Luce, Peter White, Belia Bennett, Jim Lincoln, Marc Pandone, Mitchell Klug, Jason Lauritsen, James Krider, Diane Dillon, Chris Sauer, Susan Boswell, Richard Hall, Jeff Reichel, Rita Steiner

Members excused: Gary Kraus, Mike Basayne, Jeffrey Redding

Staff present: Patrick Lowe, Jeff Sharp, Sarah Minahen

2. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES

Meeting of May 26, 2011 (Chair)

Approved as presented. Susan Boswell abstained.

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. (Chair)

Warren Flint of Five E's Unlimited, Sustainability Consultant Firm, wanted to direct the Board to helpful indices available online: Watershed Sustainability Index and How to Rate Watershed Sustainability recently published in the Water Environment Technology Journal; publication - Water Environment Federation.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION:

Informational reports and updates for discussion - presented by staff, members of the board and invited public (WICC Staff; Board, Others)

- a. Update on the Napa County Groundwater Resource Advisory Committee (GRAC) (WICC staff, Public Works) (10 min)

Patrick Lowe reported. Board of Supervisors has appointed members of committee. They reviewed 25 applications for 15 positions and are in the process now of notifying them. First meeting will be on October 27, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. to be held at the Ag Commissioner's Offices on Soscol Ave. Members are appointed for a 3 year term. GRAC will have an annual joint meeting with WICC, likely in July.

We are wrapping up an RFP process for consultants. A recommendation to the Board will probably be made within the next month.

- b. Update on the S. F. Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's waste discharge requirement (WDR) waiver programs for vineyard facilities and grazing operations in the Napa River watershed, Irrigated Lands Agricultural Waiver program in the Putah Creek basin, and other State and Regional Water Board policy/regulatory programs (Morgan Doran, University of California Cooperative Extension; Leigh Sharp, Napa Co. Resource Conservation Dist.; WICC Staff)

Jeff Sharp introduced item. Update on Sediment TMDL Waiver Program: Stakeholder advisory group has not met recently. They have undergone some staff changes at the regional board. They have assigned a new staff person to the program, Sandi Potter.

Leigh Sharp, Resource Conservation District reported. Putah Creek Ag Waiver program is "conditional". For about 4 years intensive monitoring was conducted in the Putah Creek Watershed. The monitoring revealed no "smoking gun", not a lot of exceedences, and not bad water quality, etc. The program focuses on a survey of growers' management practices, and use of BMPs to protect water quality, etc. Water Board has set increasing compliance thresholds for growers. They have met the thresholds so far and have received two glowing letters from the Water Board. Program has been a success.

Diane Dillon has been on the steering committee for the Ag Waiver program for quite some time. A big part of the program/implementation involved educating the State Board in Sacramento about Napa County agriculture/industry. The program is a huge success and remains a "low-threat waiver." program for the State Board.

Morgan Doran from UC Cooperative Extension, Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor reported. The basic framework of the TMDL waiver program is that ranchers in the Napa River watershed are required to submit a letter of intent by November 15 of this year, then a Ranch Plan by the November 15, 2012 deadline. UCCE and partners hope to offer education for ranchers in early 2012 and work individually with the ranchers. It is an ambitious goal to have plans in by November 2012. They are also hoping to implement some sort of continuing education program for local ranchers.

- c. Update on renewal of Napa County's Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4s Permit) requirements for stormwater management to control polluted discharges/runoff, and update on Statewide General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for the discharge of storm water associated with industrial activities (Industrial General Permit) (WICC staff, Public Works)

Diane Dillon met with the Executive Director of the Water Resources Control Board on September 28. Permits are 5-year permits. Water Board staff worked on these permits without any input from stakeholders. Industrial permit came out last January with a comment period that ended in April, and heard from many entities about cost and implementation. The municipal permit affects anyone with a population of more than 50,000. That came out in June with comment period ending August. The result of yesterday's meeting (which included Senators) was that they will be substantially re-writing both permits. This is an opportunity to write letters with suggestions.

- d. Update on Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) efforts in the Putah Creek/Berryessa (Westside Sacramento River) area and Napa River/Suisun Creek (S.F. Bay) area funding regions (WICC Staff, Flood Control Dist.)

Napa County is split between two IRWM Regions and participates in both the Bay Area and the West Side Sac River regions. State has issued a timeline for upcoming grant opportunities.

Both Regions have been awarded planning grant funding. SF Bay Area effort has obtained implementation money. The North Bay Watershed Association and Watershed Council are going to help coordinate submittal of projects in to the Bay Area program. Bay Area has received just over \$30 million in the first round of funding. Of those funds, Napa County has received \$500,000 for the Napa Sanitation District for the Napa State Hospital Recycled Water Project, \$330,000 for Water Conservation programs and rebates, \$250,000 for a rainwater harvesting pilot program, and the RCD received \$90,000 to support fisheries monitoring. Under Prop 84 there is \$94 million left for the Bay Area.

- e. Update on WICC presentation provided to the Board of Supervisors on June 28, 2011 (WICC Staff)

Jeff Sharp reported the presentation went well and the Board praised the work of the WICC.

- b. Other reports and updates (WICC Staff, Board, Public)

Patrick Lowe reported. The State of San Francisco Bay Estuary Conference was held and a State of the Bay Report released. Patrick was on the panel for the opening session to talk about some of the things underway in Napa County that benefits the health of the Bay. Attendees were impressed by the nature and scale of our local activities.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION:

- a. Presentation and discussion on "Marin County's Watershed Program: A watershed approach to flood protection and habitat restoration - An overview of the Watershed Program's purpose and goals" (Liz Lewis, Principal Planner and Chris Choo, Senior Planner, Marin County Dept. of Public Works)

Liz Lewis and Chris Choo gave the presentation. Floods of 2006 were a catalyst for a watershed approach. The community was very responsive. Everyone knew they really needed to work together. In order to obtain funding, you need to be integrated throughout the community.

Liz Lewis gave description and breakdown of area coverage and stakeholder process. The stakeholders report to their Board of Supervisors/Flood Control and Water Conservation District. A policy group sets the direction and makes decisions regarding financing and timing, outreach, etc. Interim group consists of City Managers, Public Works Directors; and a separate technical group handles a large part of the work.

Chris Choo discussed community outreach. First goal was to compose a watershed plan and get it out to the general community. This was done through a grant from DWR.

Chris gave a tour of the website and resources available. Website contains a lot of information and history dedicated to the eight flood zones and landowner resources about how to take interim measures, learn about sandbagging, prevention, etc.

Staff and WICC Board members shared and discussed tools they have used for data collection and budget structure and funding for the WICC

- b. Presentation and discussion of 2011 Napa River salmon and steelhead monitoring results (Jonathan Koehler, Napa County Resource Conservation Dist.)

Jonathan Koehler gave the presentation. Water levels were high in March of this year when the screw traps are normally installed and they had to wait until April. As a result, a fair amount of the sampling season was missed.

Over a three year period they have learned that steelhead smolt size is fairly consistent. They tend to be large (bigger than 150 mm) and survival in the ocean is relatively high—more than 50% survival, and our watershed can produce large fish. They currently do not know if these fish are coming back to the Napa River as long-term monitoring is needed (10yrs). That's a challenge they are working on meeting. The data collection has been very helpful about timing of migration.

Funding is available for at least the next two years to continue the work they are doing. Long term goal is to look at population trends over time.

- c. Presentation on "Lobesia: Our Newest Catalyst for Conservation," an overview of how a local European Grapevine Moth control program led to other conservation actions (Rita Steiner, Natural Resource Conservation Service)

Rita Steiner gave the presentation. History of introduction of the European Grapevine Moth in the Napa Valley and the economic impacts. The moth made its first appearance here in Napa in 2009, but they had been looking for it since 1986. Primary hosts are grapes and olives, secondary are stone fruits.

Economic impacts have been great in Napa County. Insecticides - \$7.7 million; trapping and mating disruption \$800,000, trapping, detection and monitoring, There are also many additional costs for agriculture to comply with the State's regulatory agencies. To address the moth impacts multiple agencies worked together and it gave us the opportunity to create new 'customers' which meant new opportunities for discussion about conservation.

After all of the discussion and action, sightings have been extremely reduced; from 2010 to 2011 sightings decreased from over 100,000 to 110. The program has been a success and has broadened the discussion and awareness of conservation.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Informational announcements presented by staff, members of the board and public (WICC Staff; Board, Others)

Deborah Elliott, Napa County Department of Public Works, discussed upcoming water conservation workshop on December 1st. They will provide more information before next meeting. The workshop will include groundwater updates, TMDL updates and climate change.

Jeff Sharp reported on creek cleanup workday. 581 volunteers cleaned 16 miles of river and creek banks. Well over 4,000 lbs of trash and 2500 lbs of recyclables were lifted from the waterways of Napa County. Leigh Sharp added that the cleanup day was funded by the Flood Control District and coordinated by the RCD. Ms. Sharp also thanked the Flood Control District for sponsoring two annual events like this.

Warren Flint reported that sustainable water resources roundtable federal entity has been in existence since 2003. They hold two meetings a year in Sacramento.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (Board; WICC Staff)

Patrick Lowe reported. Rick Thomasser will provide us with an update on Rutherford and Oak Knoll project, Napa Creek project, and Zinfandel Lane bridge projects.

8. NEXT MEETINGS (Chair)

Regular Scheduled Board Meetings:

No meeting October 27th.

November 17, 2011 (Note: this is the 3rd Thursday because of Thanksgiving Holiday)

Location:

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

9. ADJOURNMENT (Chair)

Motion to adjourn approved.

