



**Board of Directors**

Diane Dillon  
Mark Luce  
Del Britton  
Gary Kraus  
James Krider  
Leon Garcia  
Marjorie Mohler  
Mike Basayne  
Jeff Reichel  
Phill Blake  
Don Gasser  
Jeffrey Redding  
Susan Boswell  
Jim Lincoln  
Marc Pandone  
Chris Sauer  
Alexander Pader

**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

Melissa Gray,  
Admin. Assistant  
Office Assistant II,  
CDPD

1195 Third Street,  
Suite 210  
Napa, CA  
94559

Tel: 707-253-4417  
Fax: 707-253-4336

www.napawatersheds.org

**- MINUTES / ACTION SUMMARY -**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, June 24, 2010, 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: Diane Dillon, Mark Luce, Del Britton, Marjorie Mohler, Jeff Reichel, Phil Blake, Jim Lincoln, Marc Pandone, Chris Sauer, Alexander Pader*

*Members excused: Gary Kraus, Mike Basayne, Don Gasser, Jeff Redding, Susan Boswell*

*Members absent: James Krider, Leon Garcia*

*Staff present: Patrick Lowe, Jeff Sharp, Carrie Ferneau*

**2. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES**

Meeting of February 25, 2010 (Chair)

*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. (Chair)

*Leigh Sharp, RCD, reported on the preliminary results from the Napa River Rotary Screw Trap - 239 Steelhead, 1371 Chinook and 317 possibly Chum salmon (pink salmon). This is the first time the RCD has documented any spawning or movement (run) of Chum in the Napa River. Funds for the operation of the trap came from the Gasser Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Commission, Napa Valley Steele Head, WICC Board and the Conservation, Development and Planning Dept.*

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS AND UPDATES:**

Informational announcements, reports and updates for discussion, presented by staff and members of the board (WICC Staff; Board) (5 - 10 min.)

*- The Wildlife Conservation Commission's 2010 grant period has opened. Applications are on line thru July, with funding from both the Fish and Game fines and local funds from violations cited through the CDPD.*

*- WICC attended Earth Day Celebration in April*

(Cont.)

- *May was the Watershed awareness month.*
- *The new WICC Website has been launched and getting very favorable responses.*
- *An update on the CDPD's Voluntary Oak Woodlands Management Plan went to the Board of Supervisors and further updating of the plan is in process including best management practices; another version is due in late summer or early fall.*
- *An update on the Rutherford Dust Project was provided: construction on reach I & II are underway and making good progress, reach III received bids and Reach IV will be underway next year, overall the project is making great strides.*
- *In August WICC will receive an update on the Watershed Assessment Frame Work Grant that was completed, along with an update of the Sediment TMDL passed and is off to the State Water Board for final hearing (notices should be coming out soon for public comment).*
- *Five Appointments on the WICC Board expire in August; Del Britton, St Helena; Gary Kraus, Calistoga; Leon Garcia, American Canyon; Don Gasser, RCD; Alex Pader, Public At Large.*
- *Phil Blake made an announcement on behalf of RDC, and distributed the Annual Report.*
- *Del Britton requested an update on the Zinfandel Bridge fish barrier project. Leigh Sharp responded that the CEQA notification had been completed with no public comments received. RDC submitted a final design to the permitting agency, which are still being reviewed. They also applied for a grant from the NOAA, but unfortunately they were not selected for the funding. They are, however, working to gather the funds necessary to complete the project.*
- *Marjorie reported that the Salmon Walk was this Saturday in the town of Yountville*

## 5. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION:

- a. Presentation and discussion of Region 2 Water Board agricultural water quality control waiver programs – Vineyard and Grazing operations, Napa River and Sonoma Creek watersheds

- i. Introduction and overview of the Water Board's conditional waiver programs (Jim Ponton, Senior Engineering Geologist, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFBRWQCB)) (10 min.)

*Susan Gladstone from the SFBRWQCB reported for Jim Ponton. Susan reported on the Sediment TMDL waiver programs under development for Napa River Sediment TMDL (grazing and vineyard activities). She explained the Regional Board's responsibility for implementing the California's Non Point Source Enforcement Policy, the Clean Water Act and the State Water Code. She noted that a Conditional Waiver of the Waste Discharge Requirements allows the Regional Board to adopt a permit for discharges of similar types of activities. Susan also mentioned that the Pathogens TMDL Implement Plan identified grazing lands as one source of pollutant associated with the Napa River watershed. The Sediment TMDL Implementation and Habitat Enhancement Plan identified grazing, vineyards as well as a number of other land use activities as a source of pollutant (excess sediment).*

- ii. Vineyards and water quality, development of a conditional waiver program for vineyard facilities in the Napa River and Sonoma Creek Watersheds (Tina Low, Water Resources Control Engineer, SFBRWQCB) (25 min.)

*Tina Low reported on the water quality issues for the Napa River and Sonoma Creek TMDL. The Napa River and Sonoma Creek provide habitat for protected Salmon and Steelhead, and the beneficial use of recreation. Both watersheds are deemed impaired by sediment, pathogen and nutrient pollutants. Tina presented a slide show on the impacts of the pollutants. In order to help avoid further impacts, and to facilitate compliance with pollutant loading regulations, the RWQCB is developing a conditional waiver program (permit requirements) that is large part self directed. To participate in the waiver program, vineyard owners and operators will need to complete a Farm Plan that assess the land use, identifies*

*pollutants, and identifies the needed management practices to reach compliance. The owners then implement the compliance actions, and required reporting. The heart of the program is the Farm Plan, (or Ranch Plan). A technical advisory committee will meet in June followed by meetings with general stakeholder to help guide the program's development. A CEQA scoping meeting on the program is expected in late 2010; followed by a public testimony meeting and an adoption meeting in 2011. Jeff Sharp reminded the WICC Board that the compliance deadline is 2014*

- iii. Grazing and the development of a conditional waiver program for grazing operations in the Napa River and Sonoma Creek Watersheds (Rico Duazo, Water Resources Control Engineer, SFBRWQCB) (25 min.)

*Rico Duazo reported on the development of a conditional grazing waiver program with a presentation and discussion. The Grazing and the Vineyard waivers are similar. An important aspect of the waiver is that dairies are not included. There will be a dairy permit up for re-evaluation in the near future and chances of double permitting will be eliminated. Rico noted that the Tamales Bay Grazing Waiver was adopted in 2008. The goal is to take their great work and move it to Napa/Sonoma. The conditions of the waiver will be based on the TMDL. As with the vineyard program, the grazing program will also utilize a Ranch Plan approach. The ranchers/farmers are able to decide on their own what management practices work best for them, as long as the actions taken are effective and show progress towards compliance, they can implement the plan on their own timeline. Rico distributed a template of the Annual Certification form that would need to be submitted. Compliance can be documented in many ways and there is no water for sampling/monitoring at this time. Public review of the draft grazing waiver is expected in early 2011.*

*A great deal of discussion (on both the vineyard and grazing programs):took place between the Board and RWQCB staff on different aspects of the two developing waiver programs. Many asked how the programs relate to current and planned ranch/farming programs (Napa Green/Fish Friendly Farming and others). Also discussed was how programs were working elsewhere (i.e., Tomales Bay). There was great interest in understating what baseline the RWQCB is planning on using to gage progress towards compliance and how enforcement was going to be handled.*

- b. Presentation and discussion of Putah Creek Irrigated Lands conditional water quality waiver, Region 5 Water Board – Pilot Watershed Program (Phil Blake, District Conservationist, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service) (15 min.)

*Phil Blake gave an overview of the Putah Creek Irrigated Lands program. Phil mentioned that the program has evolved a lot since they began in 2004. The major change has been a shift towards a Special Pilot Watershed Management Program vs. Monitoring. Phil reported there is about 3200 acres within the waiver group (Putah Creek, Region 5 – Central Valley Water Board. Several people have been involved; Diane Dillon has been proactive from the start, NRCS, RCD, Farm Bureau, Dave Whittmer, the Ag Commissioner's office, and UC assistance as well. From the beginning, the approach has been to develop a concise report on how the growers in the reach practice irrigated agriculture. Annual growers meetings are held. In 2007 a series of Best Management Practices were developed. The BMPs are key in defining what types of management practices are employed. There are 13 management practices that were voted unanimously and adopted in 2007. In 2009 the Steering Committee met the Water Board & Sacramento's Water Coalition staff to discuss potential change of status to Pilot Watershed Program. A formal proposal for Pilot Watershed Program in Napa Co was developed in December 2009, and approved in 2010. The requirements were rigid, but in year one, members nearly met their year two goal. In spring 2010 the Pilot Watershed Program was considered highly successful: over 90% of the growers in the group responded with positive results. Growers currently pay \$7.50 per irrigated acre to participate in the Group Waiver/Pilot Watershed program. 58 members represent the 3200 acres. Fees go back to the Farm Bureau, which pays the various bills from RCD and Sacramento Coalition.*

## 6. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION:

Presentation, discussion and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding membership in the North Bay Watershed Association (NBWA) (Rick Thomasser, Napa County Flood Dist., Harry Seraydarian, Executive Director, NBWA) (30 min.)

*Outcome: Direction to staff to provide a memo to the Board of Supervisors recommending that the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District join NBWA at this time.*

*Rick Thomasser, Watershed Operations Manager for the County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, requested a recommendation to the County Board of Supervisors, regarding membership to NBWA. Staff mentioned that in 2004 this request came before the WICC Board, but at that time a positive recommendation was not offered. However, since then, the NBWA and WICC have experienced a lot of activity and growth. Staff noted that the interests of the greater North Bay will be enhanced with future participation in the NBWA and its activities. Staff advised the Board that the Flood District would be the most appropriate local organization to join NBWA at this time and would serve well to represent Napa County's watershed interests.*

*Harry Seraydarian provided the Board with a presentation and overview of the NBWA's mission, goals, membership, and organization structure. He highlighted a number of NBWA's accomplishments and outlined the benefits of membership.*

### *Discussion:*

*The Board asked questions of Mr. Seraydarian and discussed the merits of membership; including the current membership of the Napa Sanitation District and the possible future membership of the Flood District.*

*Mark Luce requested a motion recognizing the benefits of membership and the past projects sponsored by the Association. Mark also encouraged other cities and the County to eventually join.*

*Del Britton made motion to write a support letter of the Flood District joining.*

*Phill Blake seconded.*

*Marjorie Mohler responded with one more discussion requesting that the matter of others joining come back in 3 years.*

*Marc Pandone responded that Napa has been getting benefits of hundreds of thousands of funding dollars and we have not participated financially.*

*The motion was clarified directing staff to provide a memo to the Board of Supervisors recommending that the Flood Control and Water Conservation District join NBWA at this time.*

*Mark Luce requested a vote.*

*All were in favor with Chris Sauer abstaining*

## 7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (Board; WICC Staff)

*Mark Pandone requested to hear more on the County's groundwater survey/monitoring study, as well and update on land/vineyard conversion projects, which has not been heard in almost 2 years.*

8. **NEXT MEETING** (Chair)

Regular Board Meeting: July 22, 2010 – 4:00 PM

Hall of Justice Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room, 1125 Third Street, Napa

(Note: Possible postponement to August 26, 2010)

*Next meeting would likely be Aug 26<sup>th</sup>.*

9. **ADJOURNMENT** (Chair)

*Motion and approval to adjourn*

**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.

