



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

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- MINUTES / ACTION SUMMARY -

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, August 26, 2010, 4:00 p.m.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Welcome and introduction of newly appointed WICC Board members (Chair)

Members present: Mark Luce, Gary Kraus, James Krider, Marjorie Mohler, Mike Basayne, Phill Blake, Don Gasser, Jeffrey Redding, Susan Boswell, Jim Lincoln, Marc Pandone, Alexander Pader

Members excused: Diane Dillon, Del Britton, Jeff Reichel, and Chris Sauer

Members absent: Leon Garcia

Staff present: Patrick Lowe, Jeff Sharp, Carrie Ferneau

Staff noted that appointments for new WICC Board members (due to expiration of terms of office) will go before the Board of Supervisors on September 14th, 2010.

2. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES

Meeting of June 24, 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)

No public comments provided

(Cont.)

4. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION:

Presentation, discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding Napa County endorsement of Federal legislation HR5061 - The San Francisco Bay Improvement Act of 2010 (Marc Holmes, The Bay Institute) (20 min)

Marc Holmes Program Director of the Bay Restoration Program for the Bay Institute reported on the SF Bay Improvement Act of 2010. The Improvement Act introduced in April 2010 would recognize the SF Bay Estuary in the same manor that a handful of larger estuaries around the nation designated by Congress. The recognition and designation of the estuary for its geographical and economical significance would facilitate opportunities for considerable federal investment/funding for protection, conservation and restoration projects. There are roughly 10 similar programs nationwide. Congressman Spear's Bill has identified San Francisco Bay Estuary as a 1 billion dollar program. If approved, the EPA would specify which programs the funds would be applied to, on a program by program basis. While it is for the purpose of restoring the estuary, it is not limited solely to natural resource restoration programs. There is a broad array of programs the money could be dedicated to at rural and urban levels (green streets, agriculture water quality, water treatment, sewage treatment, recycled water). Matching funds will be required for potential programs. The Bill is pending with a hearing in September and will probably be held over until 2011. Senator Diane Feinstein has already introduced a Senate companion bill. The Bay institute has been working with Napa County on a number of initiatives, and some preliminary foundation building, with the goal of introducing this bill. One effort in particular has been the San Pablo Bay Watershed Restoration Program which passed in 2007. Supervisor Luce helped with that effort, and Congressman Thompson carried that bill. The Bill establishes a North Bay program with 5 counties and contains \$40 million of authorization for watershed restoration in the San Pablo Bay Watershed, which includes most of Napa County. Marc Pandone inquired about Chesapeake Bay and how far upstream these funds can go. Marc Holmes responded that the Bill could contribute funds throughout the entire estuary. SF has relatively the same size estuary as the Chesapeake Bay, but it is all contained within California, and would cover the watersheds of the Sierra Nevada, Fresno, and Reading and everything that flows out the Golden Gate; roughly 60,000 square miles, or 40% of the surface area of CA. Marc Holmes announced that Supervisor Dodd and Supervisor Caldwell, who have worked with the Institute, have both sent personal letters to Congress to endorse the Bill. This would be the first request of the County Board to do the same.

Action Summary

WICC Board motioned and approved a recommendation that the County Board of Supervisors voice support for HR 5061 when appropriate (likely during the 2011 legislative session).

5. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION:

- a. Presentation and discussion of 2010 Napa River salmon and steelhead monitoring results (Jonathan Koehler, Napa County Resource Conservation Dist.) (15 min)

Jonathan Koehler provided an overview of the Resource Conservation District's Rotary Screw Trap and latest monitoring results. The trap was located in the Napa River near Oak Knoll/Trances for a 90 day sampling window. The trap was checked every morning at 9am, and the fish that are caught were counted and released. The location of the trap misses several key tributaries - Napa Creek, Redwood Creek, and much of Tolocay, and therefore is catching only about 50-60% of the steelhead habitat within the basin; however it remains the best spot to install and operate a trap of this kind. The concept is to catch the freshwater phase of the steelhead and

Salmon life cycle as they begin to smolt and leave the basin for the estuary and ocean waters. Jonathan presented photos of the fish species monitored. This year 1300 Chinook were caught compared to only one counted last year. Two size classes were captured, which might mean that there is a mix of stream and ocean type fish within the system. Genetic samples will help get an answer to that question. 25 species in total were found this year; 5 new species that were not caught last year, 4 of which were not documented in the river before, and 1 new species that caught west coast biologists by surprise: Sockeye/Kokanee Salmon. Overall, 33,000 fish were caught; 20,000 were tiny minnows and suckers, 342 Steelhead, 1300 Chinook salmon, and 300 other fish. Fish and Game raises Kokanee in their Yountville facility, so there might be a connection between Rector Creek and the Yountville hatchery. This year a recapture test was performed which indicated a 20% capture efficiency of the trap. On average, the fish captured were large given their age class. There is great value in the data collected (first of its kind for the river) and many are interested in the findings, including DF&G and NOAA/FWS. The RCD received a small grant from the Napa County Wildlife Commission for school field trips to visit the trap. RCD purchased the Trap for \$26,000 in 2009, and estimates it costs roughly \$50,000 annually to run it. RCD is currently searching for funding to keep the project going. Jeff Sharp inquired about the Redd counts the RCD conducted in the past, and if they work together with the Rotary Screw trap. RCD saw results of using both the Redd counts and the screw trap, as complementary to each other.

- b. Presentation and discussion on the development and application of a Napa River Watershed Report Card using stakeholder goals and scientific methods to convey community and environmental conditions (Fraser Shilling, Univ. Calif., Davis) (20 min)
- Fraser Shilling from the department of Environmental Science and Policy at UCD, started off with an acknowledgement to Jonathan and the RCD for their hard work and enthusiastic efforts on the data collecting and many others. He noted that the project was frozen in the bond freeze of 2008 for almost a year. A lot of input came in regarding the project which formed the foundation for how it was to be conducted. It was important in the early phases of the project to determine people's expectations/goals for the watershed and to measure watershed condition and performance accordingly to effectively inform those documented expectations. The project was funded by the Dept of Water Resources along with 6 similar projects throughout the state. The Regional Report Card concentrated mainly on the North Bay Region and utilized the Napa River as a case study/pilot. The project's assessment criteria were guided by established stakeholder goals and a set of defined watershed attributes. The overall concept was used to assess watershed conditions using a Distance to Target methodology. Jeff Sharp noted how the goals were rendered and how they relied a lot on established documents (approved planning documents, city plans, and plans from agencies). Mr. Shilling provided an overview of the draft report card. Phill Blake inquired if this was set up to establish a baseline in order to come back in the future and assess the state of the watershed, and could this be done by assembling a different team of people to do the work? Mr. Shilling responded that the project team did their best to make the assessment process as transparent as possible (being very detailed) so if anyone wanted to replicate the process they could. Mr. Shilling added that the grant program manager said what he saw the work supporting DWR's effort to make the watershed assessment approach applicable to assess the California Water Plan. Phill Blake inquired if they see this as laying the ground work as an example of how a more unified system can be used in other parts of our state. Mr. Shilling affirmed the possibility and responded that nationally Chesapeake Bay has had an Eco Check and a report card (set up by the EPA) for some time to monitor the effectiveness of many of its watershed programs. The Chesapeake effort has an established set of watershed indicators to show how conditions are changing over time, and uses the results to change management strategies at very large scales (scales over states).*

Marc Pandone reported that this is Don Gassers official last meeting, he has been here since day one and is wished good luck in the future.

6. REPORTS, UPDATES AND DISCUSSION:

Informational reports and updates for discussion, presented by staff, members of the board and invited public (WICC Staff; Board, Others) (35 - 40 min.)

- a. Update on State Water Resources Control Board request for public comment on Napa River Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulations and associated Habitat Enhancement Plan (WICC Staff)

Jeff Sharp reported that the TMDL has been approved by the regional board, and is now pending State Water Board approval/acceptance. The State Board comment period closed on August 19, 2010. The State Board hearing will likely be scheduled in a couple of months, possibly September 9, 2010.

- b. Update on County Dept. of Environmental Mgmt. report to the S.F. Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding implementation actions related to the assessment and correction of on-site sewage disposal systems (WICC/EM Staff).

Jeff Sharp reported on behalf of Steve Lederer, Director of Environmental Mgmt. (EM). Jeff stated that the Final Pathogen Report and Summary was submitted to the Regional Water Board. EM performed a series of evaluations and studies on the creeks of concern and found that there was no evidence that pathogens were coming from on-site sewage/septic tanks. EM documented these findings and sent them off to the Regional Board. There has no response from Regional Board staff regarding the report or the findings. EM has plans to continue its educational programs for owners of on-site systems.

- c. Update on vineyard related erosion control plans (ECPs) on file with the Conservation, Development and Planning Dept. (WICC/CDPD Staff)

Brian Bordona, Supervising Planner of the Planning Dept.'s Conservation Division, reported that New ECPA applications hold steady at about 30 in/out annually. This fiscal year has seen a slight increase; due in large part from re-plants. He reported that there are 4 EIR's and the rest are Mitigated Negative Declarations. Marc Pandone inquired how the County was handling Green House Gas (GHG) reduction requirements of AB 32, how those requirements influence whether ECPA projects are Mitigated Negative Declarations or Environmental Impact Reports, and what is the County using as their guidelines for addressing those impacts? Brian Bordona responded that the County is now in the process of developing a Climate Action Plan and it is anticipated that there will be a list of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the plan and associated mitigation measures that may be applicable to vineyard development projects to mitigate or offset climate-change impacts that are determined to be significant. Mr. Bordona noted that one project currently being assessed is looking at how to offset impacts to oak woodlands through the preservation of oaks on-site and replanting areas both on and off-site. Pending projects are also assessing restoration possibilities associated with the legacy effects of cattle grazing. From a vineyard management standpoint people are also beginning to chip and mulch annual byproducts instead of burning them. Marc Pandone inquired on the status of the Climate Action Plan. Patrick Lowe reported that Phase I (the County's Climate Action Framework) headed up by NCTPA was completed a short time ago, and a consultant, ICF, is currently working with the County on the Climate Action Plan, which should be completed within the next few months. Marc Pandone asked

if the WICC would be looking at the Plan. Patrick Lowe responded that development of the Plan was an action item in the General Plan. There were a number of items in the GP to address potentially significant impacts, one of which was to development and implement a Climate Action Plan.

- d. Report on County Flood and Water Conservation District membership in the North Bay Watershed Association (WICC Staff)

Jeff Sharp reported that (per WICC recommendation to the Board of Supervisors) the Flood District joined the NBWA. The Flood District Board acted on the matter at their July 13th meeting. Membership will provide the District, and the county as a whole, greater representation in regional and state watershed funding opportunities and proposed legislative actions.

Mark Luce recommended that the WICC and NBWA have a joint meeting some time.

- e. Report on new grant in support of the Rutherford Reach Restoration Project (WICC Staff)

Jeff Sharp reported that the Rutherford Reach Restoration Project received \$400,000 from the California Department of Parks and Recreation from the agency's habitat conservation fund. Mark Luce inquired on the status of the Zinfandel Bridge fish barrier removal project. Leigh Sharp reported the designs for the Zinfandel Bridge are developed and CEQA has gone through the comment period. She also noted that the project has received clearance from the Water Board. Fish and Game is expected to provide their permit soon. Ms. Sharp added that the project has unfortunately missed this year's construction period and that the RCD is actively seeking funding for the project.

- f. Update on 2010 projects funded by the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission (WICC Staff)

Patrick Lowe reported that the Wildlife Conservation Commission has received considerably more funding in the last few years. Budget for the WCC had been in the range of about \$12,000-15,000 thousand dollars two or three years ago, primarily coming from state funds, and grants awarded were in the range of \$6,000-10,000 thousand dollars each year, whereas at their last meeting, the WCC budget was in \$200,000 plus range. The budget has been building for approximately 2 years now due to fines and settlements from the District Attorney's Office and County Council's Office to the WCC for project funding. This year the WCC reviewed 11 grant applications requesting \$120,000 in total and 10 of the 11 requests were funded.

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

Phill Blake reported on the upcoming deadline for next cycle of the Farm Bill Conservation Program Funds Debra Elliot from the Department of Public Works reported on a successful Energy and Water Conservation Workshop. Ms. Elliot also reported on the finalization of a Groundwater Stakeholder Assessment Report funded through a grant from Department of Water Resources, and mentioned that the Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP) was hired to conduct the assessment. She also mentioned possible presentation of the report to the WICC by CCP if funding and timing would allow.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Informational announcements presented by staff, members of the board and invited public (WICC Staff; Board, Others) (5 - 10 min.)

- a. 18th Annual River Festival – Sunday, Sept. 5th (Bernhard Krevet, FONR)
Bernard Krevet distributed information on the upcoming Festival.
- b. Napa County Boards, Committees and Commissions Workshop – Friday, Sept. 17th (WICC Staff)
Jeff Sharp distributed information and encouraged WICC members to attend.
- c. Other announcements (WICC Staff, Board, Public)
Leigh Sharp reported that the RCD, in conjunction with the Napa Valley Museum and Napa Valley Grape Growers and Napa Valley Farm Bureau, are sponsoring a movie, free to the public called DIRT, an award winning documentary shown recently at the Sundance Festival.

8. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (Board; WICC Staff)**

None provided.

9. **NEXT MEETING (Chair) September 23,2010**

September 23, 2010

Regular Board Meeting: September 23, 2010 – 4:00 PM
Hall of Justice Building, 2nd floor Conference Room, 1125 Third Street, Napa

(NOTE: Possible postponement to October 28, 2010)

10. **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.

