



-- ACTION MINUTES --

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, March 28, 2019, 3:00 p.m.

**2751 Napa Valley Corporate Drive, South Campus, Building A
First Floor, Willow Conference Room, Napa CA 94558**

--- Note Meeting Location ---

Board of Directors

Susan Boswell
Barry Christian
Liz Colby
Tosha Comendant
Anne Cottrell
Diane Dillon
Marita Dorenbecher
Geoff Ellsworth
David Graves
Jason Lauritsen
Kenneth Leary
Alfredo Pedroza
Bill Pramuk
Kimberly Richard
Scott Sedgley
Pamela Smithers
Donald Williams

Alternates

Mariam Aboudamous
Jeffrey Durham
Doris Gentry
Ryan Gregory
Mary Koberstein
Irais Lopez-Ortega
Brent Randol

Staff

Patrick Lowe,
Secretary
Natural Resources
Conservation Mgr.,
Public Works

Jeff Sharp,
Principal Planner,
Public Works

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Napa, CA
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1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (Chair)

Members Present: Susan Boswell, Barry Christian, Liz Colby (late), Tosha Comendant, Anne Cottrell (late), Geoff Ellsworth (late), David Graves, Jason Lauritsen, Kenneth Leary, Bill Pramuk, Kimberly Richard, Scott Sedgley, Pamela Smithers, Donald Williams

Members excused: Diane Dillon, Marita Dorenbecher,

Members absent: Alfredo Pedroza

Staff present: Patrick Lowe, Jeff Sharp

2. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES – January 24, 2019 (Chair) (2 min)

Approved as presented

<i>SB</i>	<i>BC</i>	<i>LC</i>	<i>TC</i>	<i>AC</i>	<i>DD</i>	<i>MD</i>	<i>GE</i>	<i>DG</i>	<i>JL</i>	<i>KL</i>	<i>AP</i>	<i>BP</i>	<i>KR</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>PS</i>	<i>DW</i>
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3. PUBLIC COMMENT – In this time period, anyone may address the Council regarding any subject over which the Council has jurisdiction but which is not on today's posted agenda. In order to provide all interested parties an opportunity to speak, time limitations shall be at the discretion of the Chair. As required by Government Code, no action or discussion will be undertaken on any item raised during this Public Comment period (Chair)

No comments provided.

4. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION:

a) Presentation on Napa County's Groundwater Sustainability Annual Report for Water Year 2018, Department of Water Resources (DWR) Basin Reprioritization, status of DWR review of the County's Basin Analysis Report (Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan), and other groundwater program activities, including community Education and Outreach (Staff/Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers) (45 min)

(cont.)

Staff and David Graves introduced Vicki Kretsinger who provided the Council with a presentation covering 2018 report highlights, SGMA sustainability metrics and implementation progress, and an update on the lowlands Subbasin boundary modification. Ms. Grabert explained that water year 2018 was a dry year and 2019 is looking to be a wet year. She noted that the Napa Valley basin was elevated to a high-priority by the Department of Water Resources. Ms. Grabert displayed a map of the 108 wells that make up the County's monitoring network. She showed a few hydrographs of representative groundwater wells and a handful of special wells designed to monitor the interaction between surface and groundwater in the basin. Ms. Grabert explained the concept of sustainable yield and the components of the water budget that are used to calculate the core elements of groundwater sustainability; noting that the sustainable yield of the Napa Valley Subbasin is 17,000-20,000 ac-ft/yr. Since 2018 was a dry year the annual change in groundwater storage was negative, however the long-term cumulative annual change in storage remained positive for 2018. Recycled water use in the Napa Valley (including MST) is growing and is currently over 1,600 ac-ft/yr. Ms. Grabert discussed 6 sustainability metrics, what would constitute an undesirable result, and how minimum thresholds and measurable objectives are used to account and ensure sustainability and improved groundwater conditions. One monitored well had a level that was below its threshold. Interestingly, the same well recovered by 14ft four-weeks later. Ms. Grabert outlined SGMA implementation progress to date highlighting a few new recent efforts, including the establishment of additional stream flow monitoring sites, update of the outreach plan and work on a stakeholder survey. Staff overviewed the purpose of the stakeholder survey and noted that the WICC will be asked to provide comments on the draft survey before it will be published online. In summary, Ms. Grabert said that groundwater levels were lower in 2018 due to the dry year, but storage remains above 2014 and 2015 – that some wells in the MST have stabilized since 2008/09 and others have stabilized more recently. Recommendations from the 2018 report include: outreach plan update – refine well distribution – continue water quality sampling – improve data collection – continue to evaluate groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDE) – update groundwater ordinance – and develop well testing standards. The Council asked questions of Ms. Grabert and staff about groundwater dependent ecosystems, fish and pumping, discretionary permit review, how people can learn more about the voluntary monitoring program, details on components of the water balance calculations, and the distribution of the wells being monitored, and DWR's review timeline of the County's Basin Analysis Report (alternative plan). Members of the public asked questions about the reasons for designation of a special management area, if pumping is dewatering of the river based upon data from the surface water-groundwater monitoring wells, and why the river is often dry from St. Helena to Zinfandel Ln. It was mentioned that Napa Green participants monitor water use with flow meters and that data may be useful in future modeling efforts. The next required update of the Basin Analysis Report/Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan is 2020.

- b) Presentation on a Lake Hennessy and Milliken Reservoir Watershed Study conducted jointly by the City of Napa and the County (Phil Miller, Deputy Director, Napa County Public Works) (20 min)

David Graves introduced Phil Miller and Joy Eldridge (City of Napa Water Division). Together Mr. Miller and Ms. Eldridge provided the Council with a presentation that gave background on the watershed study, what the study includes and what the next steps are. The study comes from the needs and objectives identified in the County's strategic plan, the City's preparation of a master plan for reservoir operations and shared interests in the county's watershed(s). Syntech Water Resources was contracted to complete the initial modeling effort for the project – tasks included the creation of tools to evaluate watershed dynamics including water quality, develop initial models for the two watersheds, assess software needs and capabilities, and develop a report and a water quality sampling plan. Model components include physical parameters,

historical weather, watershed hydrology and known water quality of the watersheds. The results of effort showed that the hydrology is well understood, but existing tributary water quality data was limited to sufficiently calibrate the model, resulting in high levels of uncertainty at this time for some analyses. More upland data collection is needed improve the model. The model will not be ready for any detailed analyses for several years (allowing for more data collection). Next steps include: implement more monitoring and data collection during wet weather, strategically add more monitoring sites and increase monitoring frequency. The City and the County are working on an MOU to build participation in furthering the study and to improve the model through adaptive management and data collection.

The Council asked about transferring the study approach to other municipal reservoir watersheds. The monitoring cost is still being defined but in likely \$250-500K/yr range for sample analysis only (not including the collection/labor cost). In the future the model could serve as a predictive tool to look at change in climate, changes in land use (even fire) and so on. Pesticides and herbicides were included as water quality parameters in the study/model – and are a large part of the lab analysis cost. The public was interested in learning how the model (study results) could be used to evaluate the impacts of vineyard projects in the municipal watersheds and if the baseline data is sufficient.

5. UPDATES AND REPORTS

- a) Report on the status of Napa County’s Water Quality and Tree Protection Ordinance; which would update the County’s Conservation Regulations, regarding stream setbacks, tree preservation, buffers around municipal reservoirs and other measures to reduce erosion and conserve habitat (David Morrison, Director, Planning, Building and Environmental Services Department) (30 min)

David Graves introduced David Morrison, who provided the Council an update on the status of the Water Quality and Tree Protection Ordinance. Mr. Morrison started by providing background on the County’s current protections regarding trees. The ordinance increases tree retention requirements to 70% throughout the Agricultural Watershed (AW) zone – just about everywhere except the valley floor. Replacement mitigation ratios went up from 2:1 to 3:1 for all tree species. Some exceptions apply with proper approval. The ordinance adds a definition for wetlands and establishes a setback of 50’ from all wetlands. Setbacks from municipal reservoirs were increased to 200’ or 500’ depending on the watershed. Intermittent and ephemeral streams are now defined under the new ordinance and have a 35’ setback. Fire-safe vegetation management (defensive space) is better defined and consistent with other code sections. Those who lost their homes in the recent fires and are rebuilding are exempt from the new ordinance. Vineyard replants remain ministerial projects. The ordinance takes effect May 9th. The Council asked about how the ordinance applies tree service companies and how they should advise their clients. Mr. Morrison said to contact his office and be mindful of how tree canopy is managed. It was suggested that a homeowner info-sheet should be created to guide homeowners. Although not fully quantified, the provisions/regulations in the new ordinance do reduce the amount of land that can be developed into vineyard. There was a question about the management of PG&E’s tree trimming around power lines. The Public Utility Commission likely has the authority over what PG&E can and cannot cut within their easements- not the County. The new ordinance is consistent with and supportive of the County’s revised draft climate action plan

- b) Update on 2019 Watershed Symposium planning, speakers, topics and activities scheduled for May 16th at Copia/CIA (Frances Knapczyk, Program Director, Napa RCD) (10 min)

Frances Knapczyk provided the Council with an update on Symposium planning efforts. Ms. Knapczyk encouraged all to attend the Symposium on May 16th. Filmmaker and Founder of the movement ‘And Beauty for All’, John DeGraff, will be the Keynote speaker, discussing

how we should all think about using natural beauty as a way to inspire us towards conservation and preservation. There will be major 3 sessions with content related to forest and trees, groundwater, post-Measure A restoration of the Napa River and fisheries monitoring. Lisa Michelle will be the MC for the event. Ms. Knapczyk shared that the “whirlwind tour” will be part of this year’s agenda, a time allotted for all of Napa County’s watershed managers and stewards to highlight (using 2 slides in 1 min) their watershed work and projects within Napa County.

6. INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Exchange of informational announcements and events (Staff/Council/Public) (5-10 min)
Tosha Comendant stated that Cal Fire released a 45-day Report (executive order from the Governor), about community wildfire prevention and mitigation. Thirty-five projects were prioritized and none were from the Napa-Sonoma Cal Fire Units. Tosha encouraged the Napa RCD to be actively in pursuit of the Fuel Reduction Project that Cal Fire is offering via the Northern Regional Prioritization Group. Bill Pramuk noted that on April 26th is the Sudden Oak Death Blitz. The Napa branch of a statewide project of the UC Berkeley Forest Pathology Mycology lab, in cooperation with citizen scientists’ volunteers, to collect samples of Sudden Oak Death locally – to map Sudden Oak Death here and all across California. Jeff Sharp stated that the WICC will be having a table for Earth Day on April 28th at the Oxbow Commons and encouraged participation in the event.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Discussion of possible items for future agendas (Staff/Council) (5 min)

- Educational Outreach Plan

8. NEXT MEETING:

Next scheduled meeting: **May 23, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.**
 2751 Napa Valley Corporate Drive, South Campus, Building A
 First Floor, Conference Room, Napa CA 94558

9. ADJOURNMENT (Chair)

Motion and approval to adjourn.

<i>SB</i>	<i>BC</i>	<i>LC</i>	<i>TC</i>	<i>AC</i>	<i>DD</i>	<i>MD</i>	<i>GE</i>	<i>DG</i>	<i>JL</i>	<i>KL</i>	<i>AP</i>	<i>BP</i>	<i>KR</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>PS</i>	<i>DW</i>
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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, 804 First St., Napa CA 94559-2623.

Voting Key

If not unanimous, votes will be tallied (N = No; A = Abstained, E = Excused) using the following Board Member abbreviations: SB = Susan Boswell; BC=Barry Christian; LC = Liz Colby; TC = Tosha Comendant; AC=Anne Cottrell; DD = Diane Dillon; MD = Marita Dorenbecher; GE = Geoff Ellsworth; DG=David Graves; JL = Jason Lauritsen; KL = Kenneth Leary; AP = Alfredo Pedroza; BP=Bill Pramuk; KR=Kimberly Richard; SS = Scott Sedgley; PS = Pamela Smithers; DW=Donald Williams; Alternates: MA = Mariam Aboundamous, JD = Jeffrey Durham, DG2 Doris Gentry, RG = Ryan Gregory, ILO = Irais Lopez-Ortega, BR=Brent Randol.

Example Key:

<i>SB</i>	<i>BC</i>	<i>LC</i>	<i>TC</i>	<i>AC</i>	<i>DD</i>	<i>MD</i>	<i>GE</i>	<i>DG</i>	<i>JL</i>	<i>KL</i>	<i>AP</i>	<i>BP</i>	<i>KR</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>PS</i>	<i>DW</i>
	<i>N</i>				<i>A</i>			<i>A</i>							<i>E</i>	