

Watershed Information Center & Conservancy OF NAPA COUNTY

Members

Diane Dillon
Mark Luce
Michael Novak*
Steven Rosa
Mark Van Gorder
Gary Kraus
Leon Garcia
Jim King
Jeff Reichel
Phill Blake
Don Gasser
Kate Dargan
Jeffrey Redding
Robert Steinhauer
Charles Slutzkin
Marc Pandone
Richard Camera
**pending confirmation*

Alternate

Harold Moskowite

- MINUTES / ACTION SUMMARY -

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 22, 2007
4:00 p.m.

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

Staff Representatives

Patrick Lowe,
Secretary
Deputy Director,
Conservation Div., CDPD

Jeff Sharp,
Watershed Coordinator
Planner III,
Conservation Div., CDPD

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

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL (Chairman)

Members Present: Diane Dillon, Mark Luce, Steven Rosa, Gary Kraus, Leon Garcia, Jim King, Jeff Reichel, Phill Blake, Don Gasser, Kate Dargan, Robert Steinhauer, Marc Pandone,

Members Absent Excused: Jeffrey Redding, Charles Slutzkin, Richard Camera

Members Absent: Mark Van Gorder,

Staff Present: Patrick Lowe, Jeff Sharp

2. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES

None at this time (Chairman)

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. (Chairman)

Outcome: None presented.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS (Board/Staff)

- a. Watershed related **grant opportunities** and prospects for WICC program support funding (Staff)

Outcome: Informational. Staff announced the County's submittal of a grant application to the CalFed Watershed Program to support the development of watershed monitoring indicators and pilot application of those indicators in the Napa River watershed. .If awarded, the grant will help support the WICC's county-wide Watershed Monitoring Program.

- b. **WICC WebCenter** will be promoted at the American Planning Association's 2007 National Conference in Philadelphia, April 14-18 (Staff)

Outcome: Informational. Staff presented the Board with a poster illustrating the information and services available on the WICC WebCenter. The poster will be displayed at the National APA conference in Philadelphia.

- c. **WICC Board appointments:** Town of Yountville reconfirms Steve Rosa as WICC representative, and Board of Supervisors appoint Gary Kraus to represent the City of Calistoga and reappoint Kate Dargan as Public at Large representative (Staff)

Outcome: Informational. Staff announced the confirmation of Steven Rosa by the Yountville Town Council to serve on the WICC and the appointment/reappointment of Gary Kraus and Kate Dargan by the Board of Supervisors.

- d. Others (Board/Staff)

Outcome: Informational. Marc Pandone announced the Environmental Education Coalition of Napa County's Earth Day Celebration at Napa Valley College on April 21st; Kate Dargan presented an update on the growing use of Hyper Spectral Imaging in the Bay Area and the possibility of a future WICC presentation on the many uses of the technology; Leon Garcia announced the grand opening of the Gaia (Green) Hotel in American Canyon (highlighting the use of recycled construction materials and "green" technologies) on March 30th, 3:30p; Staff announced the resignation of Richard Camera from the Board (to pursue new work opportunities in Oregon).

5. **UPDATES/REPORTS:**

- a. Update and report on **Bay Area Integrated Regional Watershed Management Planning (IRWMP)** efforts, Napa County's potential involvement in the IRWMP process, and prospective role for the WICC (Staff/Flood & Water Conservation District)

Outcome: Informational. Staff introduced Felix Riesenber, Principal Water Resource Engineer for Flood Control District/County Public Works, who provided an overview of the IRWMP process to date and history of efforts in Napa County. Mr. Riesenber mentioned that there is a possibility that the Flood District Board may submit for funding to conduct a "sub-regional" planning grant that will be tailored to address local needs in Napa County, yet inform larger planning efforts in the greater Bay Area/North Coast regions.

- b. Update on **Coordinated Permitting** efforts to simplify streambank restoration and enhancement projects in the Napa River watershed, and possible pilot program (Staff)

Outcome: Informational. Staff and Phill Blake provided an overview and update on developing a "coordinating permitting (incentive) program" and outcomes of recent meetings (in Oakland) with permitting staff from various resource agencies, and description of a limited pilot program for the Napa River this spring to test the concept/approach.

- c. Update on **WICC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** meeting held March 14th (Staff)

Outcome: Informational. Staff presented an overview of the TAC's March 14th agenda (provided in the Board's packet).

- d. Others (Board/Staff)

Outcome: No others presented/provided

6. **UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF:**

- a. Update, discussion and possible direction to staff regarding the **County General Plan Update** process, circulation of Draft General Plan and Environmental Impact Report, Public Meeting Schedule, and Public Review/Comment Period (Staff)

Outcome: Update and Direction. The first public hearing before the County Planning Commission was held yesterday (March 21st); many individuals requested an extension of time to review and comment on the large volume of documents prepared in support of the draft Plan and update process. Jim King, County Planning Commissioner, felt a broader community voice was needed at yesterday's hearing, so that policy-makers can make more informed decisions relating to the proposed Plan. On Monday the 26th there will be a workshop at the Napa Library to provide the public with an overview the Plan's supporting documents. The General Plan Steering Committee will meet on March 28th to hear additional public comments. The Board of Supervisors will consider extending the public comment period at their April 3rd meeting, an additional public hearing is scheduled for April 4th in the Town of Yountville. Marc Pandone asked the Board if it would be appropriate for the WICC to comment (make recommendations) on the General Plan. Kate Dargan offered her support to weigh-in on the factual content of the Draft Plan and supporting materials, but reminded the Board that their Guiding Principles steer them away from making comments/recommendations on the politics of land use and instead the Board should be "information focused," informing rather than advocating. Mark Luce suggested those areas contained in the Conservation Element that speak to restoration may be appropriate for the WICC's review and comment.

The Board directed the formation of a WICC subcommittee to review and provide comments on elements of the Plan that inform watershed management, water quality and water conservation. Staff reminded the Board that the current public comment period is focused on the EIR and opportunity to comment on the Plan will continue throughout the update process.

- b. Update, discussion and possible direction to staff regarding **RWQCB's Basin Planning** process, possible **State Board approval of TMDLs** for the Napa River, other State and Regional water quality policy developments, report on recent TMDL update provided to the Board of Supervisors, and confirmation by RWQCB staff regarding May 24th presentation on the Stream and Wetland Protection Policy (Staff)

Outcome: Update and Discussion. Staff reported the (March 6, 2007) letter sent from the Board of Supervisors to the SF Bay RWQCB, commenting on the scoping and policy framework of pending Stream and Wetland Protection Policy under development (provided in the Board's packet). Staff handed out a notice on pending SF Bay Mercury TMDL that is before the State Water Board, and presented a one-page chart illustrating the timelines of a number of State and Regional water policies now under development. RWQCB staff will be on hand at the WICC's May 24th meeting to present and discuss the proposed Stream and Wetland Protection Policy.

- c. Update, discussion and possible direction to staff regarding options for **WICC organizational structure** and staff support (Staff)

Outcome: Update and Discussion. Staff presented a draft organizational framework/chart that will be discussed in greater detail at the Board's upcoming Strategic Planning Retreat (April 26th) and summarized the idea of a possible MOU between a number of County departments and local districts that would both create and facilitate efficiencies in watershed information, monitoring, management and education.

7. **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION – CONTRA COSTA WATERSHED FORUM:**

Presentation and discussion on the **Contra Costa Watershed Forum: A Partnership Focused on the Creeks and Watersheds of Contra Costa County** (Contra Costa County/Staff)

Outcome: Informational. Abby Fateman, Contra Costa Community Development Department, presented the Board with an overview of the Contra Costa Watershed Forum (including similarities and differences compared to the WICC) and a summary of some of the Forum's recent programs and projects (Watershed Atlas, Creek Habitat/GIS Mapping, Watershed Monitoring, Creek Signage, and others).

8. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (Board/Staff)

Outcome: Further discussion and direction related to the County's General Plan Update.

9. **NEXT MEETING:**

Special Board Meeting: WICC Board Strategic Planning Retreat

April 26, 2007 – 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Frog's Leap Winery, 8815 Conn Creek Road, Rutherford CA

10. **ADJOURNMENT** (Chairman)

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.

