

Minutes of Water Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee-DRAFT
Meeting of November 3, 2008

Attendees: Jake Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park
Darrin Jenkins, City of Rohnert Park
Stan Cohen, City of Sonoma
Toni Bertolero, City of Sonoma
Dennis Rodoni, North Marin Water District
Chris DeGabriele, North Marin Water District
Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District
Pam Torliatt, City of Petaluma
Mike Ban, City of Petaluma
Remleh Scherzinger, City of Petaluma
Richard Burt, Town of Windsor
Debora Fudge, Town of Windsor
Spencer Bader, SCWA
Pamela Jeane, SCWA
Lynn Florey, SCWA
Mike Thompson, SCWA
Paul Kelley, SCWA
Ann DuBay, SCWA
Rob Hammond, SCWA
Jim Zambenini, SCWA
Ellen Simm, SCWA
Bruce Kunklo, SCWA
Grant Davis, SCWA
Mark Bramfitt, Valley of the Moon Water District
Krishna Kumar, Valley of the Moon Water District
Susan Gorin, City of Santa Rosa
Carol Dean, City of Santa Rosa
Glen Wright, City of Santa Rosa
Miles Ferris, City of Santa Rosa
Steve Dittmer, City of Santa Rosa
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa
Greg Scoles, City of Santa Rosa
Arline Freebury, City of Santa Rosa
Damien O'Bid, City of Cotati
John Guardino, City of Cotati
Paul Helliker, MMWD

Public Attendees: Brenda Adelman, RRWPC
Paul Stutrud, Owl Foundation
Dawna Gallagher, Owl Foundation
David Keller, FOER
J. Dietrich Stroeh, CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering
Don McEnhill, League of Women Voters
Dave Smith, Merritt/Smith Consultants
Bob Anderson, United Wine Growers
Tom Yarish, Friends of the Esteros/Spawn
Jim Downey, Penngrove/Kenwood Water District
Dan Monte
Craig Lichty, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants

1. Check In:

Jake Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. The attendees checked in.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Recap from the August 4, 2008 WAC Meeting & Approval of Minutes

Stanley Cohen, City of Sonoma, made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 4, 2008 WAC meeting. Susan Gorin, City of Santa Rosa, seconded. All approved.

4. Recap from the October 6, 2008 TAC Meeting & Approval of Minutes

Miles Ferris, City of Santa Rosa, made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 6, 2008 TAC meeting. Darrin Jenkins, City of Rohnert Park, seconded. All approved.

5. Proposed Language for Restructured Agreement Section 5.3(d)

Chris DeGabriele, North Marin Water District, reported that at the September 2, 2008 TAC meeting, the TAC reviewed the proposed language revision for consideration by the WAC at their November meeting clarifying the term for the WAC Chair and Vice Chair. The TAC recommended striking the word "fiscal" from the proposed language, leaving the officer term duration to start when elected by the WAC. The WAC contractors can individually approve the language change and either urge the SCWA to execute an amendment to the Restructured Agreement or hold the language in suspense until such time as the Restructured Agreement is amended for additional reasons. TAC recommends the WAC consider the proposed revision to the Restructured Agreement section 5.3(d).

Stanley Cohen, made a motion to approve the language revision proposed by the TAC and acknowledge the change per the minutes until such time as the Restructured Agreement is amended. Susan Gorin, City of Santa Rosa, seconded. All Approved.

6. TAC Reports:

a. Water Contractor Statistics (September 2008)

Chris DeGabriele reported good news that as of November 1st, Lake Mendocino storage levels are higher compared with the same time last year. DeGabriele stated that September statistics were posted by October 8th and asked contractors to get their October statistics to him by early November.

b. Budget Sub-Committee

Chris DeGabriele reported that he and Krishna Kumar met with Spencer Bader, SCWA to discuss a new financial model to be created. He stated there would be another meeting November 13 to review the model and then they would meet with the budget sub-committee. Jake Mackenzie asked that the financial model be discussed at the December TAC meeting.

c. Fluoridation

Chris DeGabriele informed both the WAC and TAC that in August of 2008 the Sonoma County Department of Health took another look at the possibility of adding fluoride to the water supply. He stated in 1995 legislation was adopted requiring all water agencies to calculate the cost of adding fluoride. In 2006 this cost estimate was updated. DeGabriele suggested to the TAC that they compile all the estimate information from the lists together so when SCWA meets with the Department of Health they have complete information. He asked that all cost information be sent to him prior to the next TAC meeting scheduled for December 1st.

Tom Yarish, public attendee, requested that some independent reporting on environmental impacts to human health and wildlife be reviewed and studied on this issue.

7. Biological Opinion Status Update

Jake Mackenzie reported that he and SCWA representatives traveled to Washington D.C. and met with the Corps of Engineers (COE) and Congressional staff members over two days in late October advocating funding for Biological Opinion Compliance.

Paul Kelley informed the WAC that the Biological Opinion had been released and it was a very large document. Kelley thanked the efforts of the TAC, WAC, Grant Davis, and all SCWA staff who worked with the National Marine Fisheries on the Biological Opinion. Kelley gave a brief history of how the Biological Opinion was triggered and then explained that the Biological Opinion laid out a list of reasonable and prudent alternatives to enhance the habitat of the Dry Creek and its tributaries and recover the listed fisheries. He explained that the Biological Opinion has very specific timelines/dates that must be accomplished to be successful. He stated we cannot wait until the 14th year of the 15 year timeline to start. This was the reason for the trip to Washington D.C. to meet with the COE.

Kelly expressed two concerns. His first being that a lot of people at the COE had not seen a Biological Opinion and were not sure how to handle it, not sure how to fund it, and not sure how to comply with this type of document. His second concern was how to make sure that everyone involved was aware of actual timelines and able to meet the requirements.

Grant Davis added that the Biological Opinion is now called the Russian River Instream Flow and Restoration Project (RRIFR). He confirmed that this is a high priority at the Pentagon, but it may not be enough to get through the budget process and funded. Agencies will need to work closely together and the SCWA will need WAC members to help secure funding.

Anne DuBay, SCWA, distributed information on community meetings that will be held to inform the public and solicit feedback about the Biological Opinion.

8. Water Project EIR Status Update

Paul Kelley, SCWA reported that when the Water Project Draft EIR was set to be released in June, the SCWA Board of Directors decided to hold off until October, awaiting the release of the Biological Opinion. With the release of the Biological Opinion, the Water Project EIR is scheduled to come back before the Board on December 9th.

9. Local Government Dialogue Working Group Update

Jake Mackenzie initiated discussion as to whether or not WAC should form a small working group to help advise SCWA in the matter of examining current government mechanisms.

Pam Torliatt reported that a small group made up of Deborah Fudge, Susan Gorin, and herself, met with Randy Poole, SCWA to discuss the possible restructuring of the governance within the SCWA. Torliatt stated that there was not a lot of information to report at this time. She added that they were waiting for the release of the Water Project Draft EIR, but Torliatt did state there will be another meeting in January and she will be able to report back to the WAC at their next meeting.

10. Transmission System Operation and Maintenance

Mike Thompson, SCWA along with guest presenters, Rob Hammond, Ellen Simm, Bruce Kunklo, and Jim Zambenini, of the SCWA, presented the second of three PowerPoint Presentations on the Water Transmission System. The presentation covered what it takes to run the Water Transmission System including Wohler and Mirabel Caissons. Presentation of Part Three "Future Projects and Maintenance of the System" is scheduled to be given at the December 1st TAC meeting.

11. Items for next Agendas (TAC: December 1, 2008 and WAC: February 2, 2008)

WAC:

1. Officers for next period
2. Local Governance – Update
3. RRIFR
4. Water Project EIR
5. Urban Water Management Plan Challenge

TAC:

1. Water Contractor Statistics
2. Fluoridation

12. Check Out

Unanimous thanks and appreciation was given to Stanley Cohen for his service on the Water Advisory Committee as Co-Chair.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Water Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.