

## **MINUTES (Approved)**

Chairperson: Andy Pease  
Vice Chairperson: Thomas Burhenn  
Secretary: Brendan Clark

The following action minutes are listed as they were acted upon by the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) as listed on the Regular Meeting agenda for **June 7, 2023** together with staff reports and related documents attached thereto and incorporated therein by reference.

The video recording of the meeting and materials submitted to the WRAC are available online: [https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/Water-Resources-Advisory-Committee-\(WRAC\).aspx](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/Water-Resources-Advisory-Committee-(WRAC).aspx)

Call to order at 1:30 PM

### **1) Determination of a Quorum and Introductions**

The number of voting Members present is 17; quorum met.

### **2) Approval of May 3, 2023 WRAC Meeting Minutes**

*Item start time ~ [00:07:44](#)*

A. Pease introduces the item and asks for questions or comments from the Committee.

J. Hendrickson comments on Item 5 regarding agency name corrections for Atascadero Mutual Water Company.

E. Greening moves to approve the corrected May 3, 2023 meeting minutes and C. Mulholland seconds the motion. Motion carries 15-0-2.

### **3) Presentation from County Staff on Lopez Lake**

*Item start time ~ [00:08:55](#)*

A. Pease introduces the item and D. Spiegel from County Public Works presents updates on Lopez Lake.

E. Greening asks about the effectiveness of cloud seeding, the types of data the program has produced, and if there is any correlation between cloud seeding and decreased rain amounts in nearby watersheds. D. Spiegel responds.

C. Mulholland requests clarification on the amount of increased rainfall produced from the cloud seeding program. D. Spiegel responds.

L. Chipping comments on the differences in sediment load levels related to the Salinas and Lopez Dam spills.

C. Mulholland asks if the geological watershed differences had an impact on the spill timing and volume for both Salinas and Lopez. D. Spiegel responds.

G. Grewal asks about the use of drones with the livestream agreement and comments on 200AF of water taken away from Santa Margarita Lake between 1949-1999. D. Spiegel responds.

D. Chipping asks if the County will be changing their long-term modeling projections. D. Spiegel responds.

D. Heimel comments on the amount of sediment seen for both Salinas and Lopez reservoirs and asks when the last studies of the reservoir bottoms were conducted. D. Spiegel responds.

A. Pease asks if the County has methods to assess or measure the siltation or loss of capacity for the reservoirs. D. Spiegel responds.

A. Villa asks if there are any policies for releasing water from Lopez Lake prior to future rain events. D. Spiegel responds.

A question is asked if the County has any water rights from Twitchell Reservoir. D. Spiegel responds.

J. Edwards asks why more water wasn't being stored in Lopez Lake during the early part of January 2023; adding comments on the pending Habitat Conservation Plan and management discretion towards future releases. D. Spiegel responds.

E. Greening asks if the HCP will go all the way to the mouth where the creek breaches to the ocean, adding how the pacific steel head and tidewater goby rely on the conditions of the mouth. D. Spiegel responds.

#### **4) Presentation from County Staff on Master Water Report Update**

*Item start time ~ [00:38:30](#)*

A. Pease introduces the item and B. Clark presents on the Master Water Report update.

L. Chipping asks for clarification on what DIMS is. B. Clark responds.

D. Chipping asks if performance guidelines are to be implemented and enforced with the Master Water Report. B. Clark responds.

E. Greening comments that the Master Water Report can be seen as more of an inventory than a Plan. B. Clark responds.

A. Pease asks about the timeframe for shifting from the development version to the production version. B. Clark responds.

G. Grewal asks who will oversee updating the CASGEM data. Clark responds.

A. Pease comments on the importance of the Master Water Report project and how this report could be used, such as for housing and infrastructure needs.

**5) Update from Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws**

*Item start time ~ [01:05:30](#)*

A. Pease introduces the item and provides an update on the Ad Hoc Committee's initial review of the WRAC Bylaws, adding that the group will continue working through the summer and will bring back recommendations to the WRAC for consideration.

**6) Consider Endorsing Ag At-Large Application of Jon Winstead and Review At-Large Membership Vision**

*Item start time ~ [01:06:08](#)*

A. Pease introduces the item and Jon Winstead introduces himself to the Committee and provides background on his experience for endorsement consideration.

B. Burchett moves to endorse Jon Winstead's application for the Agriculture At-Large position and E. Greening seconds the motion. Motion carries 17-0-0.

A. Pease provides an overview of the WRAC Membership Vision and the Interested Organizations list and asks for suggestions from the Committee on which agencies should be edited/added to the list to be notified of open WRAC positions.

The Committee discusses adding the following organizations: SLO Beaver Brigade, Creek Lands Conservation, Central Coast Green Building Council, and SLO Coast Wine Collective.

B. Clark comments that Members can provide additional edits/recommendations via email to be considered for a future update.

**7) Consider Forming an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review and Comment on the Water Impacts of Dana Reserve Project EIR**

*Item start time ~ [01:11:52](#)*

A. Pease introduces the item and L. Chipping explains the purpose of this item being brought to the WRAC for consideration, the history of WRAC reviewing significant development projects, and the timing and approach for reviewing/commenting on the EIR.

E. Greening states that the source of the EIR comments, whether submitted from an individual or a body, must be responded to in the same fashion; adding that the standing of the commentators *can* make a difference, and then discussing the various ways the EIR comments may be provided over the summer break.

A. Pease summarizes the potential options for providing comments on the EIR: (1) as individuals, (2) as a subcommittee, or (3) bring back comments to submit on behalf of the WRAC.

E. Eby comments that the September 6<sup>th</sup> WRAC meeting will occur after the August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup> Planning Commission hearings, noting that public comments on the Draft EIR closed within 30-days of its initial release, and now the comments will be addressed and presented at the upcoming hearings.

C. Mulholland asks when the final EIR will be available to the public. E. Eby responds.

J. Guthrie asks if the WRAC provided comments on the Draft EIR. B. Clark responds.

E. Greening supports the idea of forming an Ad Hoc Subcommittee and suggests that individuals can make a request to the Planning Commission on the need for an additional EIR study session.

L. Chipping comments on the value of having WRAC Members come together to discuss comments on the EIR via an Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

C. Mulholland comments that there is value in forming an Ad Hoc Subcommittee over the summer to review the EIR and to bring back a discussion in September to inform the WRAC of its findings.

The Committee discusses timing for reviewing and submitting comments to the County Board of Supervisors.

T. Burhenn motions for forming an Ad Hoc Subcommittee and L. Chipping seconds the motion.

A. Pease and B. Clark propose an amendment to the motion to include volunteers wishing to serve on the Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

The following WRAC Members volunteer for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee: E. Eby, J. Guthrie, E. Greening, D. Chipping, L. Chipping, D. Howard, and S. Wald.

E. Greening comments on the conditional need for the subcommittee to agree not to comment on anything WRAC related until WRAC has had a chance to meet and discuss.

C. Mulholland concurs, adding that comments on the EIR may be submitted by individuals, and not as representatives of the WRAC.

L. Chipping comments that it may not be out of order for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to present comments with a preface that the group has not had the opportunity to present to the WRAC as a whole.

J. Guthrie asks for clarification on if the Ad Hoc Subcommittee will be reporting back to WRAC for recommendations. A Pease responds.

C. Mulholland proposes an amendment to the motion to form an Ad Hoc Subcommittee, requesting that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee present their findings to the WRAC at the September meeting. T. Burhenn approves the amendments to his motion.

E. Eby comments that the EIR is over 1000 pages long and that the NCSO responses to initial comments are over 100 pages long. B. Clark responds.

A. Pease reviews the motion to form an Ad Hoc Subcommittee comprised of the noted WRAC Member volunteers, who will then present their findings at the September WRAC meeting. Motion carries 17-0-0.

## **8) Ongoing Updates**

*Item start time ~ [01:33:40](#)*

### a) Rain & Reservoir Report

C. Mulholland comments that 0.25" of rain was recorded earlier in the week.

### b) California Drought Monitor Summary

G. Grewal comments that 100 additional wells are being added to Paso Basin monitoring program.

### c) Groundwater Basin Management Efforts

E. Greening asks about the outcome of the County Board of Supervisors decision regarding the June 6<sup>th</sup> Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District GSA item. G. Grewal and P. Wilmore respond.

D. Chipping comments on the implications of Santa Margarita Ranch joining CSA 23. E. Greening responds.

### d) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

B. Clark announces the County was awarded the full grant amount for the recent IRWM funding round.

### e) Master Water Report (MWR) Update

No comments.

f) State Water Project (SWP)

No comments.

g) Desalination Executable Solution and Logistics Plan (DESAL Plan)

No comments.

h) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

No comments.

i) Updates on AG Creek Levee

No comments.

j) Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information

No comments.

**9) Future Agenda Items**

*Item start time ~ [01:38:37](#)*

A. Pease comments on upcoming agenda items, including a presentation on evapotranspiration, updates from the Bylaws Ad Hoc Subcommittee, and updates from the Dana Reserve Project EIR Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

**10) Public Comment for Items not on Agenda**

*Item start time ~ [01:39:10](#)*

E. Greening comments on the Diablo Decommissioning EIR and the ongoing water implications, noting that the Diablo Decommissioning Engagement Panel is expected to meet in mid-July.

L. Walder comments on Primary Secondary Water.