

SLO Library Community Room
995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo CA

Wednesday, October 2, 2019
1:30PM

MINUTES (Approved)

Chairperson: Andy Pease
Vice Chairperson: Linda Seifert
Secretary: Ray Dienzo

The following action minutes are listed as they were acted upon by the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) and as listed on the Regular Meeting agenda for **October 2nd, 2019** together with staff reports and related documents attached thereto and incorporated therein by reference.

The audio recording of the meeting and materials submitted to the WRAC are available online: <http://www.slocountywater.org/site/Water%20Resources/Advisory%20Committee>

Call to order at 1:30 PM

1. Determination of a Quorum and Introductions

A quorum of 16 is established

2. Approval of September 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes

L. Seifert identifies a spelling error of "Seifert" in previous minutes.

A motion by Member C. Mulholland which is seconded by Member J. Garing to approve corrected meeting minutes. (13-0-2)

3. Ongoing Updates:

a. Rain & Reservoir Report

There are no comments

b. Groundwater Basin Management Efforts

Member C. Mulholland comments on the plan for the groundwater basin in paso robles and states they estimate 5 years to enact pumping reduction ordinance. C. Mulholland also comments that there must be intermediate plan to control current over pumping (12,000 acre-ft/year).

Member E. Greening asks how the ordinance will incorporate responses to comments.

Member G. Gerald states comments were due and are available online for review.

Member G. Gerald also comments on a LAFCO meeting that discussed 33,000 acres have been detached from the San Juan district and are now the county's responsibility.

Member M. Boerman mentions SLO valley ground water basin Chapters 1 and 2 are now posted for public review.

c. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

The projects that were selected should have some responses from EWR shortly, it is undetermined when the funds for the projects will be available.

d. Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP)

No comments

e. Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

No comments

f. Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information

No comments

4. Presentation on Baseflow Results for In-stream Requirements for Ecosystem Species by Aleksandra Wydzga from Creek Lands Conservation

Creek Lands Conservation Hydrologist, Aleksandra Wydzga introduces her organization and states that the presentation will focus on a study conducted to measure stream and river flow.

The elements of the presentation are as follows:

- Creek Lands Conservation is a member of the Central Coast Water Conservancy that works to conserve and enhance land-water resources, and identify healthy aquatic ecosystems by using Steelhead Trout as an indicator species.
- The study supported a multi-beneficial outcome to determine feasibility of retrofitting Fox Hollow reservoir to divert winter peak flows and release to Cuesta Park. It also focuses on Santa Rosa Creek to restore aquifers that could benefit farmers.
- Steelhead trout swim into freshwater bodies to lay eggs, and the juvenile steelheads will remain there for 1-3 years. Rainbow trout do not grow as large and remain in freshwater, but they are genetically the same as steelheads.
- Their study measured low flow in the spring and summer, one time each, at 57 sites for the years 2015-2018.
- Environmental water demand of juvenile trout requirements was based on a prior study with demands of 0.5-4 cfs and 0.25-1 cfs in the spring and summer respectively.
- Standards for very dry to very wet rain years were determined by yearly rainfall measurements collected from a Cal Poly rain gage that has collected 148 years of data. Maximum and minimum rain falls for the past 148 years are 55 and 8 inches respectively.

- In 2015, annual precipitation totals were very dry, 2016 was average, 2017 was very wet, and 2018 was dry.
- In the drought years, as expected, the study found that very few locations met the environmental water demand. In 2017, 45% of sites met the demand for the summer season, and the survival of steelhead depended on existing supplemental flows.
- Data from the study is available on creeklands.org.
- Following the presentation, A. Wydzga confirms future studies' primary water quality variable will be temperature in response to E. Greening's question. Member G. Grewal asks about studies in Salinas, and A. Wydzga states it is being incorporated slowly as funding is available. A. Wydzga addresses a question by D. Chipping and states that watersheds have been grouped based on to DNA connection, and fish both wander and remain in their watershed. A. Wydzga responds to T. Bray's question on the consideration of check dams by stating it is beyond current regulations, but they are working on ephemeral channels.

5. Not Used

6. Consider Approving George Kendall as Agriculture At-Large Member; Consider Forming a Subcommittee to Review Other Applications

A motion by C. Mulholland is seconded by T. Walters to approve G. Kendall as an Agriculture At-Large member. Voice vote is unanimous.

R. Dienzo states that there are some vacancies, and as applications come in a subcommittee could review them. As a counter it is argues that the low criteria and number of applications allows for easy review. It is agreed that application review by WRAC members will be added to future agendas.

7. Updates from Other Agencies on Water Issues Relevant to Their Group or Agency

County Farm Bureau Representative J. Green comments on the Bureau's work in developing GSP for the Paso and SLO ground water basins. Additionally, they are monitoring the Paso basin offset ordinance and hydrogeologic study of the Adelaide area, and working with the regional water board's Agriculture order 4.

Estrella El Pomar Representative H. Graves comments on monitoring the final draft of ground water sustainability plan. H. Graves gives her opinion on the offset ordinance's effect of initial increase in demand for planting is now countered with potential overdraft increases if the offset

were removed. H. Graves suggests that the county's goal through the ordinance of reducing pumping is not sustainable without a multifaceted response. H. Graves comments that more knowledge on the basin is needed along with agricultural representation. H. Graves provides a personal view that evapotranspiration rates should be used instead of historic water use to establish pumping needs.

8. Discuss Future Agenda Items

Add the review of applications for memberships when they are available.

9. Public Comment

P. Wilmore clarifies that the current offset ordinance prohibits sending sites to be in the red zone.

C. Mulholland recommends a Tribune article on the San Joaquin Valley.

D. Chipping suggests, in the future, bringing the results from skyTEM's flights in front of the WRAC board.

E. Greening mentions that contracts around the state water project are going to need to be renegotiated in 2030s.

A. Pease states that in a few weeks there will be a presentation by Greengoods company

Meeting Adjourned at 3:05 pm.