

MINUTES (Approved)

Chairperson: Andy Pease
Vice Chairperson: Vacant
Secretary: Brendan

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 **March 4th, 2020** 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 20 is established.

2. Approval of December 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes

A motion by C. Armstrong which is seconded by C. Mulholland to approve previous meeting minutes without corrections. (13-0-7)

3. Elections for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

A motion by C. Mulholland to nominate A. Pease to continue as Chairperson is seconded by E. Greening (voice vote: approved).

A motion by C. Mulholland to nominate E. Greening for Vice Chairperson is seconded by D. Chipping (voice vote: approved).

4. Ongoing Updates:

- Rain & Reservoir Report
No comments
- California Drought Monitor Summary
G. Grewal comments on the importance of the awareness of the increased state water allocation from 10% to 15%.
J. Reid comments on drought maps, and B. Clark suggests the inclusion of drought maps in further committee meetings.
- Groundwater Basin Management Efforts

E. Greening comments that CADWR's Paso Basin GSP comment period is open until April 15th.

- Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

B. Clark states that the draft IRWM plan is open for comment until March 20th.

- Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP)

S. Crable comments that SWRP reached concurrence on the 25th of February. They have formed a working group within the RWMG (working group kickoff meeting in a few weeks) and will form a process to review submitted projects. It is anticipated that implementation funding will open end of march or early April 2020.

- Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

K. Hensley comments that the County P&B presented to the Planning Commission with proposed amendments to title 19 and 22 for Paso Basin, primarily to match boundaries with DWR.

G. Grewal suggests a presentation to WRAC before it goes back to planning on April 23rd, and A. Pease confirms they will be presenting at the April 1st meeting.

D. Loucks attended the P&B presentation and comments that WRAC could help to appropriately define "de minimis."

D. Chipping asks if there is a consensus of de minimis, and C. Howard and G. Grewal respond that "de minimis" is defined differently for various applications; SGMA defines it as 2 acre-feet or less per year.

- Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information

No comments

5. Check-in on 02-26-2019 water Conservation Measures Recommendations Letter from WRAC to Board of Supervisors

A. Pease reviews the main items of recommendation letter previously drafted a letter to the Board of Supervisors.

Item 1: Convene a joint ALAB and WRAC subcommittee

A. Pease comments that the past subcommittee's efforts have stalled and asks for redefinition of goals and efforts.

D. Chipping questions if a subcommittee is necessary given agriculture's necessary compliance with SGMA which pulls the basins together.

G. Grewal states that BMP's should include agencies managing their portfolios, and T. Walters suggests that "historic water use" should be a discussion point in the outline of BMP's.

A. Pease volunteers to convene the group and move forward with the subcommittee. S. Carter volunteers to host.

Item 2: Recommend that WRAC work with existing county Partners in Water Conservation Committee

A. Pease references past irrigation education program speaker, and comments that WRAC should remain partners with them and let them take the lead with their work.

Item 3: Extend the required implementation of water conservation measures to include area when designated as a LOS II by the biennial RMS

B. Clark states he met with Planning and currently, water conservation is recommendation at LOS 3. District 2 is being added to RSR this year, and timing with community planning is being aligned.

Item 4: Direct Staff to plan, budget, and prepare hydrological studies for non-SGMA basins and fractured rock sources where needed

B. Clark comments that the Adelaida area hydrological study is starting at the end of the month with the first public kickoff meeting expected in April.

E. Greening comments on the review of Napa County's ordinance with respect to its similarities in application to areas of non SGMA basins.

Item 5: Recommend WRAC work with staff to formalize, maintain, and make available to all county water users an online Resource Library of BMPs on water conservation supply and demand practices

B. Clark states that if WRAC put together a library of resources, it could be hosted by the County's WRAC webpage.

G. Grewal asks about the unincorporated well monitoring areas and why they are not reporting in the same way the rain and reservoirs are. C. Howard responds that there are key well indexes reported on the SLO county water website, and staff have workplan to look at an inventory of properties and identify nonmonitored wells.

S. Sinton suggests WRAC look to NRCS and UC CE for BMP resources. A. Pease volunteers to review a draft a letter to NRCS.

Item 6: Direct staff to analyze physical and regulatory parameters and expand groundwater recharge opportunities in both rural and urban environments

A. Pease mentions that barriers and opportunities are included in Paso GSP, and landowners should work with RCDs.

C. Howard comments that County Staff are working on projects for receiving funds but need a higher understanding of regulatory work before funds are allocated.

T. Walters asks that there be a presentation to WRAC on what smaller users can do as part of the recharge program.

6. State Water Project Overview

- Presentation Outline includes State Water Project (SWP) Overview, Policy-related Activities Update, and Next Steps
- SWP confirmed by voters in November 1960, SLO County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (District) is contracted for 25,000 Acre-Feet Per Year (AFY). The District has 11 subcontractors with a total of 4,830 AFY subscribed. The District represents 0.6% of the total SWP
- Subcontractors of the District include CSA 16 (Shandon), Morro Bay, Cal. Men's Colony, County Ops Center, Cuesta College, City of Pismo Beach, Oceano CSD, San Miguelito MWC, Avila Beach CSD, Avila Valley MWC and San Luis Coastal USD.
- Local Facilities include: Devil's Den, Berrenda Mesa, Bluestone & Polonio Pass Pumping Plants; Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant; Coastal Branch Tank, Tank 2 & Pipeline; Shandon Turnout; Chorro Valley Turnout & Pipeline; Lopez Turnout, Water Treatment Plant, and Terminal Reservoir; Lopez Pipeline.
- The Export Capability in Millions of AFY has been on steady decline since the 1980's due to various agreements & environmental concerns.
- In the last 12 years, with the District's excess allocation and carry-over storage in San Luis Reservoir, the District has been able to meet all Table A (4,830 AFY) subscribed deliveries.
- In the last 12 years, if the District did not have the excess allocation, 5 of the 12 years the District would not have been able to meet subscribed deliveries.
- There are three policy related activities on the horizon as it relates to State Water: Water Management Tools Contract Amendment (WMT), Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) Agreement-In-Principle, and the Contract Extension Amendment

- The WMT would provide more flexibility with transfers/exchanges and opportunity for recovering costs associated with excess allocation. These tools could potentially reduce the Districtwide taxpayer obligations for SWP.
- Two studies are planned that will inform a decision for the WMT. These studies include 1) a joint-study with the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) to analyze the amendment and its opportunities, and 2) a State-wide storage option study
- It is anticipated the WMT contract amendment will be available for decision by the District BOS by June 2020.
- The Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) is expected to be a 30- to 40-mile tunnel, with flows capacity up to 6,000 CFS, long term reliability is expected to increase from 48% to ~65%.
- The project will reduce the reverse flow in the San Joaquin River, reduce dependence of seismically vulnerable levees, bypass much of the delta ecosystem, and mitigate for sea level rise.
- The specifics of the tunnel have changed in the past 10 years, but the effort kicked off in 2010 with an agreement to fund preliminary efforts. This District participated in this effort.
- The State (DWR) and State Water Contractors have been in public negotiations of an Agreement-In-Principle (AIP) since July 2019.
- The AIP is not the Contract Amendment but sets enough details for the project description, CEQA process, design and the contract language itself.
- The current estimated cost for the District, which is based on total allocation, is \$2.5 million, where \$1.05 million would be from the subcontractors and \$1.45 million would be from the District for the excess allocation.

- Upcoming decisions related to DCP include the AIP and a funding agreement for continued design and permitting activities of the project, including CEQA. Timing of these decisions has been a moving target but is expected by June 2020.
- The third significant upcoming policy activity is the Contract Extension amendment, which would extend the Contract to 2085. The current contract ends in 2035. So, all financing related to the existing system (including CIP, maintenance, etc.) has to be compressed for the District to 2035 rather than on a 20yr, 30yr, etc. horizon. Without this contract extension, costs for the District and the Subcontractors will be compressed (more expensive).
- 21 of 29 Contractors, representing 96% of SWP water, have signed the amendment. Locally, Subcontractors have not indicated eliminating SW from their portfolios.
- Next steps for District include monitoring and responding to State-level activities, keeping stakeholders informed (i.e. the State Water Subcontractors Advisory Committee), and continue the water management strategies analysis.

7. Discuss Water Agency Updates for 2020

Postponed to next meeting

8. Discuss Future Agenda Items

No Comment

9. Public Comment

D. Lance Joint Grover, AG, and Pismo meeting on March 30th, at the South County regional center.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:30