

## **MINUTES (Approved)**

Chairperson: Andy Pease  
Vice Chairperson: Ray Dienzo  
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 **February 1, 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 14; quorum met.

### **2) Approval of October 5, 2022 WRAC Meeting Minutes**

*Item start time ~ [00:05:55](#)*

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

T. Walters moves to approve the October 5, 2022 meeting minutes and C. Mulholland seconds the motion. Motion carries 14-0-0.

### **3) Approval of November 2, 2022 WRAC Meeting Minutes**

*Item start time ~ [00:06:27](#)*

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

E. Greening moves to approve the November 2, 2022 meeting minutes and B. Burchett seconds the motion. Motion carries 13-0-1.

C. Mulholland comments on November Agenda Item 4 regarding the Ad Hoc Committee bylaws and asks if that item will be revisited again at a future meeting this year. A. Pease responds.

D. Chipping comments that the format of the meeting minutes is insufficient, and requests additional details to be provided.

E. Greening comments in agreement with D. Chipping and provides an example of how the minutes could be improved.

D. Logan comments that the WRAC meeting minutes are formatted similar to how other public agencies format their minutes and are usually accompanied by a recording of the meeting to provide additional information.

J. Guthrie comments in agreement with D. Logan adding that the WRAC minutes are far more detailed than the action minutes produced for the Arroyo Grande City Council.

T. Walters asks if a link can be provided to the audio/video meeting recording on the minutes with added timestamp notations for agenzized items. B. Clark responds.

E. Greening comments on the thoroughness of the minutes produced by the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments and the required support and compensation for that level of detail. A. Pease responds.

**4) Consider Endorsing Application by Tayler Simpson for Member, Development At-Large**

*Item start time ~ [00:12:45](#)*

A. Pease introduces the item and B. Clark comments on the Committee's role in the process of endorsing At-Large positions.

T. Walters comments in support of endorsing Tayler Simpson for Member, Development At-Large.

T. Simpson introduces himself and provides background on his experience for endorsement consideration.

C. Mulholland moves to endorse Tayler Simpson's application for the Development At-Large position and E. Greening seconds the motion. Motion passes 14-0-0.

E. Greening comments on an Alternate Environmental At-Large vacancy, noting that Tom Burhenn is now the Member representative for District 4.

B. Clark comments on the application process moving forward after WRAC endorsement and expects endorsement to be presented to the County Board of Supervisors for approval at the end of February with 10 other City Council and CSD appointment changes. A. Pease responds.

**5) Presentation from County Staff regarding updates to the County's LID Manual**

*Item start time ~ [00:18:00](#)*

*NOTE: Items 5 and 6 were switched from the original order presented on the Agenda.*

A. Pease introduces the item and Ann Gillespie presents updates to the County's LID Manual.

D. Chipping comments on onsite irrigation storage and asks if the manual will have any requirements on cisterns. A. Gillespie responds.

E. Greening comments on impermeable surfaces such as roofs and asks if there are any incentive programs for cisterns. A. Gillespie responds.

E. Greening asks whether chains being used as a method of water drainage, which had been done for a brief period, would be promoted in the manual. A. Gillespie responds.

A. Pease asks if the rain chains are just an aesthetic down spout. A. Gillespie responds.

A. Pease asks if any training opportunities would be available and who that training would be targeted for. A. Gillespie responds.

T. Walters asks if the draft is available now and if WRAC would have an opportunity to review the draft. A. Gillespie responds.

A. Pease asks, in terms of magnitude, if the 2500 square feet of hardscape is the trigger and if there is a requirement below that. A. Gillespie responds.

A. Pease asks which groups will be contacted for plan review. A. Gillespie responds.

T. Walters asks about presenting to the Regional Board and if feedback is expected after review. A. Gillespie responds.

D. Chipping asks if there will be a water table to depth analysis for the region. A. Gillespie responds.

C. Mulholland comments on drainage issues in a subdivision near Laguna Lake in San Luis Obispo and how this analysis could be beneficial during development review processes.

A. Pease asks if there are enough case studies and example projects. A. Gillespie responds.

**6) Open Discussion regarding recent storms and flooding**

*Item start time ~ [00:40:27](#)*

A. Pease introduces the item and B. Clark begins open discussion on the January storm and flooding events.

E. Greening asks how soon it was anticipated that the storm was going to be intense and comments on the need for an improved warning system to advise drivers not to be out due to a severe storm approaching. B. Clark responds.

G. Grewal comments on the need for an improved local storm warning system, the mismanagement of clearing pathways for water drainage, replenishment of the Paso Basin via local watersheds, and reporting of water diversions to DWR.

D. Chipping asks for clarification on the Approximate Recurrence of Peak Rain Intensity table provided during the presentation. B. Clark and T. Barnhart respond.

B. Zuniga presents on the on the storm response efforts in the Arroyo Grande Creek and Oceano area.

E. Greening asks how the knowledge gained from these storm systems would affect the implementation of Central Coast Blue and what decisions or approvals still need to be made for the project. J. Guthrie responds.

J. Edwards asks when downstream releases were stopped at Lopez Lake. B. Zuniga responds.

L. Chipping asks why the AG Creek levee breached and comments on debris/logs being the cause of the levee breach in 2001. B. Zuniga responds.

D. Chipping comments on Lopez Lake spilling over and asks if the County is preparing for more rain/flooding events in the future. A. Pease and B. Zuniga responds.

WRAC members share and comment on submitted photos of flooding that took place throughout the county (*discussion/photo presentation begins at [01:04:50](#)*).

C. Mulholland describes recent and past flooding/rain events from 1995 on and around her property in the Laguna Lake area.

D. Logan describes recent flooding of a Templeton CSD treated percolation pond.

N. Teague describes the recent flooding of numerous areas, creeks, and roads throughout the City of San Luis Obispo.

C. Mulholland comments on the Mid-Higuera plan, the efforts of a Zone 9 project to bring a section of the SLO Creek up to a 25-year flood capacity, confluence and creek flows within the watershed, and how a large area of the landscape and City of San Luis Obispo is in a floodplain.

D. Chipping comments that strands of sediment clearly show that at some point, the SLO Creek had spilled the bank on the west side of HWY 101 near Madonna Road prior to being developed.

C. Mulholland describes HWY 101 at Los Osos Valley Road and at Marsh Street being completely underwater during recent and previous storm events, and periodic flooding will likely continue in these and other areas.

D. Chipping comments on flooding and the water levels in Choro Creek and Los Osos Creek, how the woodlands that are now preventing sediment from going into Morro Bay are affecting these water levels, and the need to recalculate what a 100 year storm would do in the flood plain.

J. Guthrie comments on local flooding and debris in Arroyo Grande, that 7 homes were flooded from the Talley Ho Creek, and adds that many of the new drainage projects were successful during recent storm events.

N. Teague comments on operations and capacity of the Salinas and Whale Rock reservoirs during the recent storms.

A. Pease comments on the nexus between recent storm events and the LID and keeping in mind what tools may be put into place to prepare for stormwater.

L. Chipping appreciates the County Public Works real-time rain, stream and reservoir website. A. Pease and B. Clark respond.

## 7) **Ongoing Updates**

*Item start time ~ [01:24:20](#)*

a) Rain & Reservoir Report

No comment

b) California Drought Monitor Summary

E. Greening comments on the recent rains and hopes they were enough to replenish the reserves for tree roots to negate any potential fire damage when temperatures begin to warm up.

c) Groundwater Basin Management Efforts

A. Pease comments on the Groundwater Sustainability Commission meeting for the SLO/Edna Basin to take place on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm.

E. Greening asks when communication from DWR is expected regarding the Paso Basin GSP. B. Reely responds.

d) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

B. Clark comments that the IRWM Prop 1 Round 2 grant application was submitted before the deadline.

E. Greening comments on a grant currently available for Central Coast Blue and asks how much of the total is now in hand and how much still needs to be collected.

J. Guthrie responds.

e) Master Water Report (MWR) Update

B. Clark comments that the data and information audit phase of the project is near completion.

f) State Water Project (SWP)

No comment

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

No comment

h) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

D. Chipping asks about the status of the Paso Basin Planting Ordinance and upcoming Board hearing. E. Greening and B. Burchett respond.

B. Clark comments that the County Planning Department did send out a Notice of Hearing a few hours prior to the WRAC meeting and it will be posted to the WRAC website after the meeting.

i) Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information

No comment

**8) Future Agenda Items**

*Item start time ~ [01:31:41](#)*

A. Pease notes that a follow up item on Committee bylaws will be agendaized for the March meeting, and that a macro weather presentation from John Lindsey is planned and awaiting confirmation.

**9) Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda**

*Item start time ~ [01:32:10](#)*

J. Edwards asks if rainwater capture and storage concepts will be agendaized for an upcoming meeting; comments on the use of inflatable or rubber dams for stormwater capture during future rain events. A. Pease responds.

D. Howard comments that the February 3-4<sup>th</sup> SLO Beaver Brigade fundraiser is sold out, adding that the SLO Beaver Brigade will host its first annual SLO Beaver Festival on April 1<sup>st</sup> at Mission Plaza.