

FINAL Minutes of Water Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee
Virtual Meeting – No Physical Location
November 2, 2020

Attendees: Easter Ledesma, City of Santa Rosa
Roberta Atha, City of Santa Rosa
Susan Harvey, City of Cotati
Dave King, City of Petaluma
Jake Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park
Dick Dowd, City of Santa Rosa
Jack Baker, North Marin Water District
Jon Foreman, Valley of The Moon Water District
Jack Gibson, Marin Municipal Water District
Craig Scott, City of Cotati
Kent Carothers, City of Petaluma
Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa
Colleen Ferguson, City of Sonoma
Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District
Sandi Potter, Town of Windsor
Matt Foreman, Valley of The Moon Water District

Staff/Alternates: David Rabbitt, SCWA Director Liaison
Grant Davis, SCWA
Jay Jasperse, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Steven Hancock, SCWA
Jessica Martini- Lamb, SCWA
Barry Dugan, SCWA
Michelle Maxwell, SCWA
Brad Sherwood, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Brian Lee, SCWA
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa
Elizabeth Cargay, Town of Windsor
Chelsea Thompson, City of Petaluma
Tony Williams, NMWD
Larry Russell, Marin Municipal Water District Director
James Grossi, North Marin Water District Director

Public

Veronica Blette, EPA WaterSense
Cristian Goulart
David Keller, FOER
Mark Millan, Data Instincts
James Downey, Penngrove/Kenwood Water Co.
Andrea Rodriguez

1. Check-in
Susan Harvey, WAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.
2. Public Comments
No public comments.
3. Recap from the August 3, 2020 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes
Moved by Jake Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park, seconded by Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon Water District; unanimously approved.
4. Recap from the October 5, 2020 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes (TAC)
Moved by Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, seconded by Sandi Potter, Town of Windsor; unanimously approved.
5. Water Supply Coordination Council
Susan Harvey, WAC Chair- The Water Supply Coordination Council met remotely October 19 to develop this agenda
6. Approve 2021 WAC/TAC Meeting Schedule
Susan Harvey, WAC Chair- no objections, approved
7. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership (TAC)
 - a. 2020 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark
Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District. Refer to handout. Year-to-Date water deliveries were 11% below 2013 benchmark year.
 - b. 2020 Urban Water Management Plan Update
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa. Water Suppliers that have 3,000 or more connections or deliver 3,000-acre feet a year or more are under the State requirement to complete an Urban Water Management Plan Update every five years. There are number of new requirements this year driven by the drought that occurred in 2014-16 and climate change concerns. Nine principal water contractors worked together in the Partnership to use one consultant to develop a common methodology to determine future water demands over the next 25 years. Demand projections have been submitted to Sonoma Water through 2045. Consultant EKI is also looking at water conservation measures of each agency and will draft a report for each agency. On November 12, the group will meet and be able to ask EKI questions and will have until November 20 to submit final comments to EKI which will then be submitted to Sonoma Water. July 1, 2021 is the deadline to submit Urban Water Management Plans online through the State's portal. Prior to July 1, 2021, there is a 60-day letter that must go out stating that the Urban Water Management Plan is being worked on, there must be a public review process and adoption by a governing body.
 - c. EPA WaterSense Excellence Awards
Paul Piazza, SCWA and Veronica Blette, EPA WaterSense. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership was recognized for Sustained Excellence as an Irrigation Professional Certifying Organization and was also awarded an Excellence Award for Promoting Labeled Products. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership has been awarded 13 awards since 2013.
 - d. FY2019-20 SMSWP Annual Report

Paul Piazza, SCWA. Refer to handout. Summer ad campaign combined practical outdoor water tips, money saving rebates and shared the message of how saving water helps balance the needs of people and aquatic species. The digital campaign received more than double the nation's average click through rate for this type of campaign. The summer in person programs were adjusted due to Covid-19 and shelter in place orders. Regional water use remains down significantly on a gallon per capita per day (GPCD) basis (down 37% from baseline GPCD). Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership was awarded the 2020 Outstanding Education and Outreach award by Smart Water Application Technology program for the GardenSense program.

8. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order

Don Seymour and Jay Jasperse, SCWA. Refer to handout. Major deviation allowed by the Army Corps to operate in the FIRO Major Deviation Buffer Pool and store the water under their discretion and use the forecast tools to manage the flow. The benefit was over 11,000-acre ft of additional Lake Mendocino storage in February and March. Lake Mendocino storage is at 35,000-acre ft and Lake Sonoma is just under 173,000-acre ft. Flows: Healdsburg is at 78 cfs, Hacienda Bridge 120 cfs. The estuary had been closed for some time, but it is now open and flows in the River are now trying to optimize current for fish passage through the lower river. Public comment: David Keller, FOER wanted to give appreciation to the Water Agency and other agencies for work with FIRO and water demand reduction efforts. He is looking forward to seeing the FIRO paper when it is published and would like the link shared.

9. Biological Opinion Status Update

Jessica Martini Lamb, SCWA-

Fish Flow-Draft EIR will be recirculated with updates and initial discussions are taking place about public workshops in a virtual environment. Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project- Hanford is wrapping up work this week on Phase III sites for in stream work. Staff was able to get extensions to work past the October 15 above the water line for Reach 5 work. They also completed maintenance on Reaches 4, 7 and 8. Staff continues to work with Army Corps of Engineers on Phases IV-VI. Fish Monitoring- Focused on monitoring Chinook salmon through video monitoring at Mirabel Dam fish ladders and only 14 Chinook have been observed so far due to the mouth of the Russian River closing in late September. With more rain, they expect to start spawner surveys soon. Russian River Estuary Management- Season ended October 15. The river mouth closed September 28 but self-breached October 26 and is currently open. Interim Flow Changes- Sonoma Water is continuing to prepare weekly hydrologic status reports and supplemental reports are posted on the Sonoma Water Temporary Urgency Change Petition web page.

10. Potter Valley Relicensing Update

a. Overview of Two-Basin Partnership Sept. 14, 2020 Initial Study Report (ISR) and Oct. 14, 2020 ISR Meeting Summary FERC Submittals

Grant Davis, SCWA. On May 13, 2020, NOI Parties submitted a feasibility study with a project plan to FERC. September 29, an Initial Study Report meeting was held, and detailed analysis was provided. FERC was sent the Initial Study Report Meeting summary in mid-October and now will be hearing any disagreements and study requests. The new study will take it beyond what PG&E was going to do: AQ12 (Scott Dam Removal) and study SE1 on social economics of Scott Dam removal. All the information can be found at www.twobasinsolution.org

b. Approve WAC Comment Letter for PVP Socioeconomic (SE-1) Study

Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District. The WAC in November 2018 set up a subcommittee (WAC Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc Subcommittee) recognizing the need to respond quickly to various actions associated with the Potter Valley relicensing project. The Subcommittee has met periodically. The letter today is the third WAC PVP response letter and it focuses on one of the two new studies, SE1, in an effort to make sure the Socioeconomic study is properly structured to provide meaningful information. David Keller, FOER asked for clarification on page 2 first paragraph letter to FERC, “no water user or class of water users will be obligated to pay any cost that is disproportionate to the benefit to be received.” What is the thinking of how public trust values and instream uses would be covered in obligation to pay for benefits? Drew McIntyre responded that SE1 study consultants can best answer this question. David Keller also asked if there has been any significant outreach to grape growers in Mendocino County and Sonoma County and if they will participate in the cost of the studies. Suggested on comment number 5 on page D5-D6, if the draft fish flow DEIR is to be included, so should all the comments received on the DEIR as well as ISRP (Independent Science Review Panel) Report. There were no objections by the WAC to submit the letter to FERC as written.

11. Summary of LNU Fire Complex & COVID-19 after-action review with water contractors- presentation of results from online survey

Barry Dugan and Michelle Maxwell, SCWA. Water Contractor Coordination calls were being held during Covid-19, fires and PSPS periods to talk about situational awareness. The calls reinforce the need and value in establishing the Emergency Training and Coordinating Subcommittee and strengthens the communication between water contractors and the Agency. An After-Action review was conducted for both Covid-19 and LNU Wildfire responses, the main findings were to continue to hold regular meetings and also to develop a formal mutual aid agreement. Areas to improve upon: adding more risk analysis to capacity and demand issues, mitigation tactics, general fire vulnerability of sites and facilities and improved weather reporting and flood monitoring. They would also like to develop a training and exercise program with water contractors.

12. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan(s) Update

Grant Davis, SCWA. Asked for support and continued involvement in a \$19 million dollar radar program. The radar communication systems will be placed around the Bay Area and will assist with emergency response for potential flooding. On a related front, Director Rabbitt as Chair of the North Bay Water Reuse Authority continues to follow future federal funding opportunities for drought contingency, resiliency planning as well as groundwater planning. Public comment: Mark Millan wanted to express agreement with Grant’s comments regarding competitive times in the State and the more regional efforts that are made helps get funding for projects.

13. Items for Next Agenda

WAC Meeting next year-New WAC member orientation binders
February Meeting- update from the TAC Budget Subcommittee on the draft Sonoma County Water Agency Water Transmission Budget for Fiscal year 2021-2022

14. Check Out

Meeting adjourned at 11:17am