

FINAL Minutes of Technical Advisory Committee
Virtual Meeting – No Physical Location
June 7, 2021

Attendees: Easter Ledesma, City of Santa Rosa
Gina Perez, City of Santa Rosa
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
Christina Goulart, Town of Windsor
Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District
Lucy Croy, Marin Municipal Water District

Staff: Grant Davis, SCWA
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Jay Jasperse, SCWA
Steven Hancock, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Brad Sherwood, SCWA
Barry Dugan, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Michael Thompson, SCWA
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa
Sandi Potter, Town of Windsor
Ben Horenstein, Marin Municipal Water District
Tony Williams, NMWD

Public Attendees: Bob Anderson, United Wine Growers
David Keller, FOER
Brenda Adelman, RRWPC
Evan Jacobs, California American Water
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1. Check-in
Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
2. Public Comments
Brenda Adelman saw the presentation on drought by Grant Davis and Don Seymour but there was no mention of impacts to the lower Russian River. She expressed concern about flows going from 85 cfs to 35 cfs at Hacienda She stated there is still water in Lake Sonoma and feels there hasn't been adequate analysis as to why more water can't be sent down the lower Russian River.

No public voicemail or email comments were received

3. Election of TAC Leadership

Drew McIntyre- Elect TAC Leadership. Motion was made by Colleen Ferguson, City of Sonoma to reaffirm existing TAC leadership, seconded by Kent Carothers, City of Petaluma; unanimously approved appointing Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District, the TAC Chair and Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, the TAC Vice Chair for the full two-year term.

No public voicemail or email comments were received.

4. Water Supply Conditions and TUCP Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA. Comment period for the Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) ended June 2, 2021. Many comments were received, and State Water Board staff are working on incorporating the comments. They also received comments from individuals and resource agencies. The Temporary Urgency Change Order (TUCO) is expected by week ending June 12, 2021. Lake Mendocino, as of Saturday June 5th, was at 34,391 acre ft. Projections were done for Lake Mendocino storage to have 20,000 acre ft in the reservoir in October this year and at this time projections indicate Lake Mendocino will be several acre ft above that. Lake Mendocino is in bad condition and it is where it should be at the end of the season. Changing stream flow requirements will not save the reservoirs alone, there will have to be substantial changes in use patterns. The State Water Board is aware of the situation and are working on an emergency regulation to help them have more tools regarding water rights. They have asked those that support this regulation to show their support by attending the State Water Board meeting June 15. Lake Sonoma storage is at the lowest it has been since it was filled in 1986. It is currently at 137,804 acre ft. Sonoma Water is concerned about Lake Sonoma based on projections and looking ahead if there is another dry fall and winter.

Public comment: Brenda Adelman, RRWPC. She has been watching the levels go down faster than usual. Contractors are doing a lot of work gearing up on conservation, but it seemed like in 2014 there was a lot more being done at this time than what she is seeing lately. She stated that saving the fish in one part of the river in Dry Creek and killing them in another is ridiculous. She doesn't feel she's seen enough in conservation efforts, programs like cash for grass. Drew McIntyre, NMWD noted that water diversions to the retail contractors are down almost 30% than what they were over 10 years ago so there has been a significant reduction in river diversions.

Public Comment: David Keller, FOER. After reviewing the Draft Order, he asked State Water Board staff what the enforcement in the upper Russian River is. He was told the State Water Board has only funded 20 enforcement positions in the entire state and was not optimistic that enforcement staff will be there for the diverters on the upper and middle Russian River that are not permitted or licensed. David Keller asked if Sonoma Water can assist in identifying where losses are happening that are not being reported to the State Water Board to help Lake Mendocino storage levels. Pam Jeane stated they have talked to the State Water Board regarding this. They anticipate one item in the Order will be some analysis by reach between the gages. When asked a question on other water users instituting mandatory curtailment of deliveries for their customers, Pam Jeane shared that at least one district has implemented reductions.

Public comment: Evan Jacobs, Cal American Water. They did file for mandatory conservation measures with their Geyserville System and have a public hearing June 17 on the order.

Public comment Bob Anderson. Rate payer in City of Healdsburg and was sent notice they are requiring mandatory 20% conservation.

No public voicemail or email comments were received.

5. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership

a. Approve New Member- City of Cloverdale

Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District. Refer to handout. Paul Piazza provided an overview of the Water Conservation Subcommittee's recommendation on this item. Moved by Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, seconded by Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert Park; unanimously approved City of Cloverdale to become a member of the Sonoma Marin Water Saving Partnership. No public comments.

b. 2020 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District. Refer to handout. Water use year to date is down 8% compared to the 2013 benchmark. No public comments.

c. Drought Outreach Messaging and TUCO Term 9 Reporting

Paul Piazza, SCWA. They have completed 3 of the monthly reports required for Term 9 of the current TUCO that was initiated back in January. The Partnership is showing just under 4 million gallons in water saving from the programmatic measures the Partnership has implanted in the last 3 months. All the partners have very robust water conservation programs including Cash for Grass that are ongoing and very active. In terms of outreach, the Partnership is trying to get the word out about the regional "Drought Drop By" event and have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on outreach and drought kits. "Drought is here, Save Water" is the current messaging. Sonoma Water is looking into additional outreach in the near future ie: events, lawn signs, banners, billboards etc. No public comments.

6. Biological Opinion Status Update

Pam Jeanne, SCWA. Refer to handout.

Fish Flow Project: Staff continues to do a lot of work on the project. Videos that were viewed at the last Public Policy facilitating committee meeting can be viewed on their website. Additional information on the Russian River and the fish life cycle etc is also available on the website.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement: A contractor is on site this year to finish up two remaining projects as part of Phase III. Hanford has submitted their master schedule and weekly construction planning meetings have begun. They are starting work outside of the stream and are staging their equipment now.

Phase IV-VI: Phase IV, Interfluve has completed the design and comments and the Corps is reviewing changes to Right of Way agreements that were requested by the property owners. Construction will most likely not start until next year. Phase V, ESA has completed the 99% design and construction is scheduled to begin in 2023. Phase VI, Cardno is addressing comments for the 99% designs and construction is not scheduled until 2024.

Fish monitoring: There were 7 downstream monitoring traps out this year but due to low river flows from the drought, the traps are not operating. Staff did have to pull the traps and stop the monitoring earlier than normal. The good news is they had robust numbers of Chinook salmon smolts and steelhead.

Russian River Estuary Management: Several closures and self breaches already this year. Closures can happen at this time of year until mid-summer when closure opportunities are not as good. They have submitted the 2021 Adaptive Management Plan to the Resource Agency for review and expect to finalize it this month.

Interim Flow changes: Sonoma Water filed a TUCP in January and was approved in February. Applies only to minimum flow requirements in the upper Russian River and the impact to Lake Mendocino. It is still in place and will be replaced if a new Order is issued this week. The petition in May addresses both Upper Russian River and Lower Russian River flows. Sonoma Water committed to a 20% reduction in diversion from July through October compared to last year.

Public Comment Brenda Adelman, RRWPC: One thing that happens at the lower river there starts to be a disconnect between the river and the tributaries where the fish like to come and go. This is a serious problem, and Ms. Adelman asked if NMFS expressed any concerns about this situation. She hasn't heard of any suggestions of how to address it.

No public voicemail or email comments were received.

7. Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeanne, SCWA. Trying to find money, hoping some State money will come from a revised State budget. PG&E did file a variance request with FERC, essentially reducing the diversions to the Russian River significantly. The variance was conditionally approved by FERC and PG&E started implementing it. FERC also opened a public comment period on the variance request and if anyone wants to comment or intervene, they would have needed to file a letter by last week. Comment letters and notices of interventions have been filed. No public comments.

8. Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study Update

Jay Jasperse, SCWA. Summarized that the project is intended to collectively look at combined assets and resources such as pipelines, reservoirs, groundwater basins etc. The study is intended to apply stress tests to the system including drought and seismic factors. The goals are to increase our overall water supply resiliency. The model should be completed by the end of June and will move forward with assessing the impacts of drought. No public comments.

9. Items for Special TAC Meeting July 12, 2021

Update on the Temporary Urgency Change Order
Presentation on SCWA Capital Improvement Projects
No public comments

10. Check Out

Meeting adjourned at 10:39am.