

FINAL MINUTES OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Utilities Field Operations Training Center
35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA
January 8, 2024

Attendees: Dan Herrera, City of Petaluma
Matt Fullner, Valley of The Moon Water District
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Tony Williams, North Marin Water District
Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)
Craig Scott, City of Cotati
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma
Christina Goulart, Town of Windsor
Paul Sellier, Marin Municipal Water District
Michelle Montoya, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Paul Piazza, SCWA
Jake Spaulding, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Kent Gylfe, SCWA
David Royall, SCWA
Alex Bodulow, SCWA
Oriana Hart, City of Petaluma
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa

Public: Duane Dewitt
Bob Anderson

1. Check In
Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
2. Public Comment
Duane Dewitt shared the book, Sustainable Use of Water – California Success Stories. Spoke on the droughts and looking at ways to save water including rainwater retention, and shared that public participation is important.
3. Recap from the December 4, 2023 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes
Moved by Tony Williams, North Marin Water District, seconded by Christina Goulart, Town of Windsor. Unanimously approved with Valley of the Moon Water abstaining and City of Rohnert Park and City of Cotati absent.
4. TAC Finance Subcommittee Update – SCWA FY 24/25 Budget
Christina Goulart, Town of Windsor, presented.
The Finance Subcommittee is expecting a draft water transmission system budget from Sonoma Water and will be meeting on January 22 with Jake Spaulding and Lynne Rosselli, SCWA, to review the draft budget. Lynne Rosselli, SCWA, said December water deliveries are below last December and are below their budget projections. Jake Spaulding, SCWA, added that before December water deliveries were tracking over budget, which is a significant reversal.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, asked if there was enough TAC representation on the subcommittee.

Christina Goulart, Town of Windsor, confirmed there was.

No public comment.

5. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

Lake Mendocino's storage is currently at 64,500 acre-ft, which is about 4,000 acre-ft below the top of the conservation pool and 15,000 acre-ft below the top of the forecast informed reservoir operations pool. Lake Sonoma's storage is currently at 239,000 acre-ft, which is 6,000 acre-ft below the top of the conversation pool and 15,500 acre-ft below the top of the minor deviation operations pool. For the Potter Valley Project, on December 19, Lake Pillsbury went over 36,000 acre-ft which terminated the flow variance. This slightly increased the transfers from the Eel River to the Russian River from 30 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 45 cfs. PG&E intends to file another flow variance with FERC to have in place by May. Once approved, this will reduce summer transfers by 65 to 85 cfs per day.

Temporary Urgency Change Petition was approved on December 27, this moved the hydrologic index from Lake Pillsbury to Lake Mendocino. Based on storage in Lake Mendocino, currently in a "dry" year as of January 1. The minimum stream flow requirements were reduced from 150 to 75 cfs in the upper river and reduced from 125 to 85 cfs in the lower river. The water supply condition will be reassessed on February 1, and then again March 1.

No public comment.

Craig Scott, City of Cotati, joined the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

6. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership

a. 2023 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, presented.

November 2023 water usage compared to November 2013 was down 26% and down by 27% for year to date.

b. Water Use Efficiency Messaging

Paul Piazza, SCWA, presented.

Continuing to maintain presence on social media, highlighting Partnerships programs including rainwater barrel displays. In December, held first qualified water efficient landscaper training for the rainwater catchment program. Thirty-six people attended, with many obtaining a certificate.

Duane Dewitt spoke on rainwater catchment. Suggests municipal and commercial property owners find ways to use runoff from those areas.

7. Biological Opinion Status Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

Fish Flow Project– Work continues especially looking at the changes to the Potter Valley Project. Draft Environmental Impact Report (dEIR) won't be recirculated until they know what is going to happen with the Potter Valley Project.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project – Working with Army Corps of Engineers on Phases 4-6. Implementing Phase 4 and 5. 8 of 9 reaches associated with Phase 4 are completed. One reach did have to be redesigned and will begin in June. For Phase 5, the contractor had most of the features done but had to stop due to the onset of wet weather and had to winterize the site. Contractors will continue the work in June 2024. For Phase 6, Sonoma Water staff is still working with property owners to obtain appraisals and make offers for right of way.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance –No big changes.

Fish Monitoring – The camera was taken down at Mirabel Damn in mid-December. All video has been reviewed. Preliminary count is 1966 Chinook salmon. Average is normally around 2600 Chinook salmon.

Russian River Estuary Management Project – Mouth of Russian River Estuary is open.

Biological Assessment for New Biological Opinion – Sonoma Water has had a number of meetings with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Army Corps of Engineers within the last few weeks in preparation for the formal consultation.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, asked if there would be a Public Policy Facilitating Committee (PPFC) meeting in March or if they will wait until the new Biological Opinion is out. Pam Jeane, SCWA, answered that Sonoma Water staff have an internal meeting coming up and will decide then.

No public comment.

8. Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

The public comment period for Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&Es) initial draft license surrender application and preliminary decommissioning plan has closed. Comments will be posted on PG&E's website.

Sonoma Water was awarded an Ecosystem Restoration Grant, through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, of \$2M that will allow Sonoma Water to take diversion design from 30% to a 60% design. McMillan is working on the facilities assessment, which is part of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant. The Eel Russian Project Authority (Authority) has been formed. Working to schedule the first board meeting of the Authority, likely January 31, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Chambers. All the members of the Authority have been designated by the member agencies.

Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, asked how the work McMillan is doing on the assessment fits with the 30% design phase of the various options that will be put forward.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, answered that they have until the end of June to get to the 30% design and there should be enough information in March to decide which option they will move forward with.

Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, asked if there were still three options, or if one was eliminated.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, confirmed one of the options was eliminated back in fall.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, noted that the WAC Ad Hoc submitted a letter to PG&E in support of the project and asked if they are only moving forward with one design option, how does the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) weigh in.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, said it will be up to the new Authority to decide since they will be the ones paying for the project which is why they are spending a lot of time on the criteria.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, asked about logistics for the Authority, if there would be a website or where people can get on a distribution list for updates.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, confirmed that there will be a website. At the first meeting, the days and times of the meetings will be decided.

No public comment.

9. Russian River Water Forum Update

Grant Davis, SCWA, presented.

The Russian River Water Forum is almost complete. There is still a small amount of funding left which will be used to hold a final Planning Group meeting in March. The terms of the Department of Water Resources grant were met.

Duane Dewitt spoke about Roseland Creek and believes it will be helpful to educate the public on creek pollution.

10. Community and Government Affairs Update

Grant Davis, SCWA, presented.

There will be two WAC/TAC water transmission system tours. RSVPs can be done through Donna Boero. The deadline has passed but may be able to add a few more people in if interested. Governor Newsome should be releasing his proposed 2024-25 budget. The state is facing a \$68 billion deficit, and the concern is that if there are dollars left that were earmarked in prior years that have not been used, it will be vulnerable.

On the federal level facing a deadline for passing a continuing resolution to fund the federal government, which is highly controversial in the current Congress. Sonoma Water and water contractors will need to fight for what is needed, prioritize, and work together. Over 30 letters of support went to Congressman Huffman for the grant that is providing the funding for taking the design for the continued diversion from the Eel River to the Russian from 30% to 60%.

Duane Dewitt would like to know if the public can be part of the tour.

Grant Davis, SCWA, said that there will be upcoming public tours, but these upcoming tours are specifically for WAC and TAC members.

11. Items for Next Agenda (WAC/TAC Meeting, February 5, 2024)

Reminder to send updates on any changes to WAC and TAC members and alternates.

Jennifer Burke, Santa Rosa Water, asked if there were any new WAC members and no new members were named.

No public comment.

12. Check Out

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.