



ACTION MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 27, 2014, 4:00 p.m.

2nd Floor Conference/Training Room, Hall of Justice Building,
1125 Third Street, Napa CA

Board of Directors

- Susan Boswell
- Diane Dillon
- Marita Dorenbecher
- Warren Flint
- Michael Haley
- Gary Kraus
- Jason Lauritsen
- Kenneth Leary
- Mark Luce
- Gretchen Stranzl
- McCann
- Marc Pandone
- Matt Pope
- Jeff Reichel
- Scott Sedgley
- Pamela Smithers
- Rita Steiner
- Peter White

Alternate

Keith Caldwell

Staff

Patrick Lowe,
Secretary
Natural Resources
Conservation
Manager,
Dept. Public Works

Jeff Sharp,
Principal Planner,
Dept. Public Works

Robert C. Martin,
Legal Counsel
Deputy Counsel,
County Counsel's
Office

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1. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL** (Chair)

Welcome to **Gretchen Stranzl McCann**, newly appointed Napa County Resource Conservation District member, followed by roundtable of introductions by the Board.

Members Present: *Diane Dillon, Warren Flint, Michael Haley, Gary Kraus, Jason Lauritsen, Kenneth Leary, Gretchen Stranzl McCann, Marc Pandone, Jeff Reichel, Scott Sedgley, Pamela Smithers, Rita Steiner, Peter White*

Members excused: *Marita Dorenbecher,*

Members absent: *Susan Boswell, Mark Luce, Matt Pope*

Staff present: *Patrick Lowe, Jeff Sharp*

2. **APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES**

Meeting of January 23, 2013 (Chair) (2 min)

Approved as presented

SB	DD	MD	WF	MH	GK	JL	KL	ML	GMcC	MP1	MP2	JR	SS	PS	RS	PW	KC
A		X						A			A						

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

In this time period, anyone may comment to the Board regarding any subject over which the Board has jurisdiction, or request consideration to place an item on a future Agenda. No comments will be allowed involving any subject matter that is scheduled for discussion as part of this Agenda.

Individuals will be limited to a three-minute presentation. No action will be taken by the Board as a result of any item presented at this time. (Chair)

None presented.

4. **UPDATES, REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

- a) Report on **Public at Large opening on the Board**, applications due March 31, 2014 (WICC Staff) (5 min)

Warren Flint's resignation was announced, as well as the open application period to fill his vacancy and deadline to apply.

(cont.)

- b) Update on Napa County **Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee** (GRAC) wrap-up, well monitoring update and recent public outreach workshop (WICC Staff) (10 min)
NOTE: Item 4c was taken before item 4b. Patrick Lowe provided the update and noted the recent workshops provided on groundwater by the Dept. of Public Works. The GRAC will provide their final recommendations to the Napa County Board of Supervisors on April 8, 2014. Mr. Lowe mentioned that many State-level agencies and advisory committees are having multiple hearings and workshops on groundwater and water management in response to the drought and water supply reliability. Mr. Lowe distributed handouts from the California Water Foundation and the Rural County Representatives of California. The handouts covered Sustainable Groundwater Management in California, Groundwater Management, and California Drought Legislation. Napa County conducted its groundwater monitoring for Spring 2014 last week. The volunteer program has roughly 80 wells enrolled.
- c) Update on current conditions and **vineyard management practices to conserve water** use in response to drought conditions (Jim Verhey, Big Ranch Vineyards/Verhey Advisors LLC) (10 min)
Mr. Verhey presented information on the timing of rainfall in relationship to vine growth and viticulture farming practices. Mr. Verhey further explained a number of water conservation and monitoring strategies he utilizes to more efficiently farm the vineyards he manages.
- d) Update on **Integrated Regional Water Management Planning** (IRWMP), upcoming regional and sub-regional project submittal deadlines, expedited drought funding and other grant and funding updates (Leigh Sharp, Napa County Resource Conservation District) (10 min)
Leigh Sharp provided an overview of IRWMP. There is approximately \$470M left in Prop 84 funding statewide. \$200M of that amount is being offered statewide under the current expedited drought relief solicitation administered by the State Dept. of Water Resources (DWR). The Bay Area IRWM group has a call out for regional projects (due March 30th) and sub-regional projects (due April 30th). Drought related projects obtained from the solicitation process may be considered for inclusion in a grant application to DWR once final State guidelines and application timeline(s) are known. Jeff Sharp provided an update on the Westside IRWMP effort covering the eastern portion (Putah Creek watershed) of Napa County. The Westside IRWM group announced a call for projects today. Project submittal deadlines are the same as those in the Bay Area funding region. Although any type of project can be submitted for inclusion in the Westside IRWM Plan, competitive projects that address the expedited drought relief draft PSP may qualify for inclusion in a grant application to DWR. Competitive projects should be focused on meeting urgent drought related needs and the priorities listed in the draft expedited drought relief grant guidelines.
- e) Update on **Regional/State Water Board policies and regulatory programs**, including: Sediment TMDL and Vineyard Waiver and others (WICC Staff) (5 min)
Jeff Sharp provided an update on the SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's development of a Report of Waste Discharge Waiver Program for vineyard developments in the Napa River watershed in response to the Sediment TMDL. Mr. Sharp read an email update he received from the new Waterboard staff assigned to the Waiver's development (Anya Starovoytov). The draft Waiver (for the Napa River and Sonoma Creek) is expected to be publically released for comment in Fall 2014. Regional Water Quality Control Board members recently attended a tour of a number of vineyard sites in the Napa River watershed.
- f) Other reports and updates (WICC Staff; Board)
None presented.

5. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

- a) Presentation on the **Design and Construction of the Napa River Bypass**; a key element in the Napa Flood Control Project designed to manage and convey flood waters, yet also serve as a community park and public access point to the river (Andrew Butler, Associate Engineer, Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District) (15 min)
Andrew Butler provided a handout (a conceptual plan) and a presentation to the Board. Mr. Butler described the different elements of the dry bypass (tidal wetland, kayak launch, ADA accessibility, park areas, natural areas, pump stations, pedestrian access, ...) and how the bypass will function when the river reaches flood-stage. The project design was started in 2004. \$10.6M in Federal cost-share was recently received. Construction is scheduled to commence in April.
- b) Presentation on the **Napa Youth Ecology Corps (NYEC)**; a new hands-on conservation program designed to empower youth 18-25 through conservation work experience and career development skills training (Jim Cassio, Workforce Development Analyst, HHS Self Sufficiency Services) (20 min)
Jim Cassio provided a presentation to the Board. Mr. Cassio discussed the role of the Napa/Lake Work Force Investment Board and how the NYEC came to be. The NYEC is modeled after a similar program in the North Bay (in Marin & Sonoma County). Local partners include the Flood Control District, Parks and Open Space District, Conservation North Bay, CA Conservation Corp and others. The program is set to begin this summer and outreach will be targeted to young adult/youth at risk who meet the minimum income qualifications.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION

Discussion on the **WICC Strategic Plan Update 2014** for input/ideas on plan topics and meetings (WICC staff, Board) (15 min)

Staff provided the Board with background on the last strategic planning effort and the desire to update the WICC's current Strategic Plan. A facilitated half-day planning workshop with the WICC Board was proposed as well as one to two follow-up meetings during the Board's regular meeting time. Meeting monthly (rather than every other) during the strategic planning process was also proposed to keep ideas fresh and the update on schedule. A July workshop was suggested with an August meeting follow-up. It will be an important to consider the role and mission of the WICC during the planning process, particularly given the recent interest in groundwater and the importance of water resources and water supplies for the County. This will be the first strategic session for the WICC Board with all of the Cities/Town participating directly (rather than only two of the five selected from the City Selection Committee). It was encouraged that the Cities and Town provide input into strategic planning process on benefits the WICC provides them and the greater community they serve.

7. INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Exchange of **informational announcements and events** (WICC staff, Board, and Public) (10 min)

- a) **Water Resources Management: What, Where and How** – North Bay Watershed Association Conference, Novato, Friday, April 11, 2014
Registration for the conference closes April 8th. WICC Board members were encouraged to attend.
- b) **Earth Day Celebration and River/Community Clean-up** – Downtown Napa, April 19, 2014
Leigh Sharp announced the upcoming river cleanup on Sat April 19th funded by the Napa Countywide Stormwater Program. WICC Staff will be working a booth at the Napa Earth Day event to promote the WICC and other programs and projects administered by the Water Resources Division of Napa County Public Works. The Bay Friendly Garden Tour will take place Sunday, April 27th; sites are located throughout the Napa Valley. A Watershed Open House Tour is being planned for May to promote May 2014 Watershed Awareness Month.

- c) **May 2014 Watershed Awareness Month** – focused promotion of watershed events and outings
A proclamation will be provided by the Napa County Board of Supervisors on May 6th. Outreach will be conducted throughout the month of May using various means to promote water and watershed related activities and events. Outreach messages will point people to the WICC website as a central clearing-house for all things watershed.
- d) Other announcements and events
*Napa River Dry Bypass Ground Breaking Ceremony is April 5th.
Marc Mondavi’s The Divining Rod website was announced as well as a recent interview by The Weather Channel of Mr. Mondavi and David Graves on local groundwater topics.*

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion of possible **items for future agendas** (Board; WICC Staff) (5 min)
None presented.

9. NEXT MEETING (Chair)

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting: **May 22, 2014 – 4:00 p.m.**

10. ADJOURNMENT (Chair)

Motion and approval to adjourn

SB	DD	MD	WF	MH	GK	JL	KL	ML	GMcC	MP1	MP2	JR	SS	PS	RS	PW	KC
A		X						A			A						

Note: If requested, the agenda and documents in the agenda packet shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. Please contact Jeff Sharp at 707-259-5936, 804 First St., Napa CA 94559-2623.



Voting Key

If not unanimous, votes will be tallied (N = No; A = Abstained, X = Excused) using the following Board Member abbreviations: SB = Susan Boswell; DD = Diane Dillon; MD = Marita Dorenbecher, WF = Warren Flint; MH = Michael Haley; GK = Gary Kraus; JL = Jason Lauritsen; KL = Kenneth Leary; ML = Mark Luce; GMcC = Gretchen Stranzl McCann; MP1 = Marc Pandone; MP2 = Matt Pope; JR = Jeff Reichel; SS = Scott Sedgley; PS = Pamela Smithers; RS = Rita Steiner; PW = Peter White; KC = Keith Caldwell (alternate)

Example Key:

SB	DD	MD	WF	MH	GK	JL	KL	ML	GMcC	MP1	MP2	JR	SS	PS	RS	PW	KC
X			A				N				A						