

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2011

An audio recording of the meeting and materials submitted during public comment are available online at www.SLOCountyWater.org.

Approximately 9:00 a.m., Chairperson Winn called the workshop to order.

- 1) Determination of a Quorum and Introductions - Quorum Established (for workshop).
- 2) Integrated Regional Water Management Program Workshop – Courtney Howard, County Public Works, provides background information on the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program, including its legislative beginnings; past and current program management by the Department of Water Resources (DWR); the San Luis Obispo (SLO) County IRWM Region’s plan and participation; and planning guidelines and funding. The SLO Region’s IRWM Plan must be updated to meet the current guidelines under Proposition 84. Discussion ensues regarding implementation grant funding, past funding rounds, competitiveness, future funding rounds, coordination with other regions in the Central Coast Funding Area, appropriateness of SLO County as a funding region, and the governance structure and decision making process.

Ms. Howard speaks to the timing for the next implementation grant round and the need to demonstrate progress on updating the plan to meet current standards. Ms. Howard speaks to the upcoming Planning Grant opportunity due in February 2012, which provides an opportunity to update the IRWM Plan to meet current standards, as well as a chance to fund planning projects to fill in known data gaps and reminds interested parties to submit Planning Solicitation Forms to the Public Works Department by December 15, 2011. Agencies submitting planning projects/ planning efforts but not requesting grant funding can submit information after December 15, 2011. Discussion ensues regarding the process for evaluating the forms.

Member Brown moves to form an ad hoc subcommittee to review and prioritize Planning Solicitation Forms, which will include identifying what is competitive and understanding agencies’/proponents’ willingness to work together or combine into integrated projects, which is seconded by Member Hyman and unanimously approved. Subcommittee members include Linda Chipping, Ed Waage, Dan Gilmore, Phyllis Molnar, Lowell Zelinski, Sue Luft, Mike Broadhurst, Mike Winn –Chair. Recommendations will be presented at the January 4, 2011 WRAC IRWM Workshop.

Ms. Howard speaks to the Plan update process and timing, and describes the State’s standards for IRWM Plans. Four of these standards are recommended for the Region’s priority attention – Governance, Region Description/ Climate Change, Objectives, and Project Review Process – in order to demonstrate progress on the update to DWR for the second round of implementation grant funding. Discussion ensues about the various standards and how to develop information for the Plan update (i.e. regionally or sub-

regionally). Those interested in authoring IRWM Plan sections should contact Ms. Howard or Carolyn Berg, County Public Works. General consensus is reached that it is appropriate for County staff to develop the scope of work for the IRWM Plan update.

The January 4, 2012 WRAC meeting will commence at 9:00 AM with an IRWM workshop to provide an update on the Planning Proposal Subcommittee review process and have a focused Governance standard discussion.

WRAC Members should anticipate 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. IRWM workshops occurring on the same days as WRAC meetings for at least the next six months.

Meeting recessed at approximately 12:10 p.m.

Approximately 1:30 p.m., Chairperson Winn called the meeting to order.

- 3) Determination of a Quorum and Introductions - Quorum Established (for meeting).
- 4) Approval of November Meeting Minutes - The November 2, 2011 WRAC meeting minutes were approved upon a first by Member Garfinkel, second by Alternate Member Thompson, and a unanimous vote (two absentees abstaining).
- 5) Public Comment (15 Minutes) – John Snyder, resident of Nipomo, reported on a slide recently presented to the public about the groundwater supply under the Nipomo Mesa and explained his views. Member Hyman reported on several news pieces of possible interest. “Water More Valuable Than Oil?” (*Discover Magazine*, December 2011), which discussed global water issues, how climate change affects shortages, and possible strategies for the future. The other was a local story about raising the water rates and the relationship between conservation and revenue. Gwynn Taylor, resident of Los Osos, reported that during the December 2, 2011 Public Utilities Commission hearing in Los Osos, several attendees from Santa Maria expressed a concern with piping water from Santa Maria to Nipomo. Chairperson Winn reported that a letter of commendation was sent to long-time WRAC member Gary Henderson and thanked Member Ashbaugh for the initial draft letter. Chairperson Winn reports that he has not heard from the Board of Supervisors regarding a hearing or study session on hydraulic fracturing. He also noted that during the December 6, 2011 Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisors expressed their tremendous appreciation for the WRAC’s work and recommendations. Lastly, Chairperson Winn reported on a new website created by GardenSoft, which offers landscaping advice countywide via the internet. Alternate Member Larson added that the Partners in Water Conservation developed this tool with GardenSoft via cost-sharing (available at slowaterwiselandscaping.com).

Agenda Item #8 moved up per request

- 8) Allocation of San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Reserves – Public Works Director Paavo Ogren reports that on December 13, 2011, he will be presenting District budget information to the Board of Supervisors as a prelude to 2012 water resources discussions related to the Master Water Plan and Integrated Regional Water Management. Mr. Ogren speaks to the Nacimiento Water Project contracts and how the project is funded as it relates to a recent influx of revenue into the Flood Control District’s reserves; priorities from a District and County liability perspective (i.e. responsibilities

associated with the Los Osos Wastewater Project and the operation of the flood control channel in Flood Control Zone 1/1A); discretionary versus non-discretionary funds; why funds allocated to Flood Control Zone 9 are discretionary; and initial thoughts regarding countywide priorities associated with groundwater management and creek maintenance. Discussion ensues regarding the timing and process for developing funding recommendations and WRAC involvement.

- 7) Consideration of Forming a Subcommittee to Review Draft Ordinance Language for the Land Use Actions in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study - Chairperson Winn noted that while James Caruso could not be here today, he has asked the WRAC to form a subcommittee to review the draft ordinance language for the land use actions in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study (Paso Basin RCS). Discussion ensues regarding whether or not the ad hoc subcommittee formed in September 2011 could reconvene without WRAC action. Alternate Member Larson requested that the City of Paso Robles be included in this subcommittee. Courtney Howard noted that Mr. Caruso should be sending the draft ordinance language within the next week.

Member Fitzhugh moved that an ad hoc subcommittee be formed consisting of the people who formed the September 2011 ad hoc subcommittee (Lowell Zelinski, Steve Sinton, Jaime Hendrickson, Sue Luft, Ray Allen, Della Barrett, Mike Winn) with the addition of Alternate Member Larson and a change of Chair from Member Zelinski to Member Barrett. Member Garfinkel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (18-0-0).

- 9) Future Agenda Items – A brief discussion ensues regarding the timing for an update on the Recycled Water Basin Plan for the Los Osos Wastewater Project and the implementation of monitoring actions approved in the 2009 Resource Management System Annual Summary Report and 2011 Paso Basin RCS.

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:30 p.m.

I, Courtney Howard, Secretary to the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Water Resources Advisory Committee do hereby certify that the foregoing is a fair statement of the proceedings of the meeting held Wednesday, December 7, 2011, by the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

The Water Resources Advisory Committee approved these minutes on January 4, 2012.

/s/ Courtney Howard

COURTNEY HOWARD
Secretary
