

Minutes of Meeting

8:30 A.M., Thursday, January 29, 2015
David C. Joseph Meeting Room
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Audio recordings of Board meetings are available at: [North Coast Water Board](#); go to the Board Info tab and click on Meetings.

i. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Board Member Giusti led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ii. **Roll Call and Introductions**

Board Members present: John Corbett, David Noren, William Massey, Geoffrey Hales, Gregory Giusti and Valerie Minton

Regional Water Board staff present: Stephen Bargsten, Ryan Bey, Fred Blatt, James Burke, Patti Corsie, Clayton Creager, Mona Dougherty, Rebecca Fitzgerald, Michelle Fortner, Cathleen Goodwin, Kason Grady, Diana Henriouille, Craig Hunt, David Kuszmar, Shin-Roei Lee, David Leland, Carrieann Lopez, Alydda Mangelsdorf, Bryan McFadin, Conner McIntee, Donna Poe, Dean Prat, Jeremiah Puget, Bernadette Reed, Charles Reed, Justin Smith, Matt St. John, Jonathan Warmerdam, Adona White, Elyse Will, Ben Zabinsky and Adam Zwick

iii. **Election of Officers:**

Motion: David Noren moved to elect John Corbett as Board Chair, William Massey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: William Massey moved to elect Gregory Giusti as Vice Chair. Geoffrey Hales seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

iv. **Board Member Ex Parte Communication Disclosure**

- David Noren spoke with Water Board staff and discharge community regarding the Agriculture Permit and the Statewide Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP) and also the Sonoma County central landfill composting facility regarding the implementation of the Waste Discharge Requirements Order.
- Geoffrey Hales spoke with several stakeholders about the Trinity River 401 Certification.

- Gregory Giusti attended the GRAP meeting in Redding, CA and spoke with several stakeholders regarding that presentation and the program.
- William Massey talked with local and State officials regarding the Russian River and the pathogen TMDL.

iv. **State Board Liaison's, Board Chair's, Board Members', and Executive Officer's Reports:** These items are for Board discussion only. No public testimony will be allowed, and the Board will take no formal action.

The State Board Liaison, Steven Moore, was not in attendance.

Matt St. John, Executive Officer (EO) welcomed and introduced Ryan Bey, Environmental Scientist, Northern Nonpoint Source and Forestry Unit; Jake Shannon, Environmental Scientist, Nonpoint Source and 401 Certification Unit; Justin Smith, Water Resource Control Engineer, Compliance Assurance Unit; and Elizabeth Beryt, Attorney, State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel.

v. **Public Forum:**

Comments were taken from:

- Duane De Witt, Public
- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee
- Kristi Wrigley, Upper Elk River Resident

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** November 19 & 20, 2014

Motion: William Massey moved to adopt the November 19 & 20, 2014 Minutes, Gregory Giusti seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

2. **Resolution expressing appreciation to the Office of the Attorney General defending the State of California in the matter of Pacific Lumber Company and Scotia Pacific Company LLC damages lawsuit.** Samantha Olson, Staff Counsel, State Water Resource Control Board, gave the introduction and Chairman Corbett read the Resolution. Dan Harris, Deputy Attorney General, California Attorney General Office, accepted the resolution and read a statement from Jan Zabriski, Deputy Attorney General, litigation team leader, thanking the many participants that supported and assisted their team in obtaining the summary judgment in favor of the State of California.
3. **Presentation of Executive Officer's 2014 Water Quality Stewardship Award.** Matt St. John, EO, presented the 2014 Executive Officer's Water Quality Stewardship Award to the Sanctuary Forest for their pioneering achievements in improving stream flow conditions in the upper Mattole River to support beneficial

uses. Tasha McKee, Executive Director, Sanctuary Forest, accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

Information Items

4. **Update on Visioning Process and New Regional Water Board Organization Chart.** Matt St. John, EO, gave a presentation on the goals, vision statement, strategic directions, new organizational chart and the next steps for the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.
5. **Update on North Coast Region Enforcement Program.** Cris Carrigan, Director, State Water Board Office of Enforcement, gave an overview of the statewide Enforcement Program and the new priorities in 2015 with the Drinking Water Program, cannabis cultivation and drought issues, separation of functions, prioritizing enforcement, settlements, assessing Administrative Civil Liabilities, stipulated orders, alternatives to assessing monetary liabilities, and the methodology used for fairness, consistency and transparency. Diana Henriouille, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, Compliance Assurance Unit, gave an update and summary on the regional enforcement activities from 2012 to 2014 and the next steps for the Compliance Assurance Unit.
6. **Update on the Statewide Cannabis Cultivation Waste Discharge Pilot Regulatory and Enforcement Program.** Cris Carrigan, Director, Office of Enforcement, State Water Resources Control Board, introduced Lieutenant DeWayne Little, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Director Watershed Enforcement Unit, who oversees seven positions at CDFW for the one-year Water Boards & CDFW Cannabis Regulation Initiative Pilot Project, in addition to the eleven positions at the Water Boards. Cris Carrigan then gave an overview of the four major components of the pilot program: 1) to develop a Regulatory Program; 2) Education and Outreach; 3) Multi-Agency Coordination at the Local and State levels and; 4) Enforcement.

Uncontested Items

No Uncontested Items scheduled

Action Items

7. **Public Hearing to consider adoption of Resolution No. R1-2015-0001 Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region and Basin Plan Amendment.** Jonathan Warmerdam, Environmental Scientist, Adaptive Watershed Management Unit, gave a presentation on the Restoration Policy elements, Basin Plan Amendment narrative language, Basin Plan Amendment Adopting Resolution, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), public review with comments, proposed modifications, the next steps and recommendations.

Comments were taken from:

- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee

Motion: William Massey moved to adopt with change sheet, Geoffrey Hales seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Workshops

No workshops scheduled

Information Items

8. **Update on the development of the Agricultural Lands Discharge Program.** Ben Zabinsky, Water Resource Control Engineer, Adaptive Watershed Management Unit, gave a presentation on the Agricultural Program progress to date, overview of existing and developing permits and their common elements, update on agricultural lands in the Tule Lake basin, lily bulb cultivation, vineyards and orchards, and statewide grazing, and the next steps for the Agricultural Lands Discharge Program.
9. **Contaminants of Emerging Concern – Assessing Water Quality in the North Coast** Jeremiah Puget, Environmental Scientist, Planning Unit, gave a presentation on the background, compounds, and pathways to the environment, human health and environmental effects, challenges of monitoring, the various partnerships with other agencies, municipalities, advocates, academia, public, and what can be done in the future.

Comments were taken from:

- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee

10. **Executive Officer’s Report.** See item iv.
11. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items.**
 - Board member Giusti requested that Water Board staff work on designating the Smith River as an Outstanding National Resource Water.
12. **Other Items of Interest.** No items to discuss.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Chairperson_____

Date_____