

Minutes of Meeting

8:30 A.M., Thursday, August 14, 2014
David C. Joseph Meeting Room
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Audio recordings of Board meetings are available at: www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast; go to the Board Info tab and click on Meetings.

i. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Board Member Minton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ii. **Roll Call and Introductions**

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

Board Members absent: Geoffrey Hales

Regional Water Board staff present: Matt St. John, David Leland, Samantha Olson, Patti Corsie, Elena Franceschi, Fred Blatt, Rebecca Fitzgerald, Mona Dougherty, Alydda Mangelsdorf, Bryan McFadin, David Kuszmar, Tom Williams, Forest Fortescue, Michele Fortner, Brendan Thompson, Jim Burke, Colleen Hunt

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

- William Massey met with Federal and State officials regarding West County sewer issues.
- David Noren met with Federal and State officials regarding West County sewer issues. He also spoke with local officials regarding Sonoma County Central Landfill composting facility and he attended the Sonoma County Farm Bureau's regular meeting and spoke to them about ongoing programs.

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, introduced and welcomed Janice Thomas, Supervising Engineer with the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water, Sonoma County District. He then gave an update on the current drought conditions on the Klamath River and the issues affecting water quality due to low flows, high water and air temperatures and toxic blue-green algae blooms. The Regional Board has issued press releases and public notices, warning against human and animal contact with the

water in the Klamath River mainstem to downstream of Iron Gate, as well as the reservoirs, due to the toxic blue-green algae blooms. The Regional Board staff is coordinating with PacifiCorp, County governments, the Forest Service and the Karuk and Yurok tribes, to monitor the conditions of the Klamath River. The fisheries agencies are reporting fish disease and scattered Salmonid mortalities in the Salmon and Trinity Rivers. Some reports indicate that the conditions now are worse than those in July 2002 devastating fish kill in the Lower Klamath River. Katharine Carter, Environmental Scientist, TMDL Unit provides a lead role as the coordinator of the Klamath Fish Health Assessment Team (KFHAT) and she receives daily email correspondence and weekly phone calls to share information about water quality and fisheries conditions in the Klamath River. KFHAT issued a press release on August 13, 2014, notifying the public of the heightened risk of a fish kill in the Klamath River and they now have procedures in place to respond in case of a pending fish kill. KFHAT will continue to monitor and assess conditions in the Klamath River. With support from Board members, Mr. St. John, sent a letter on August 13, 2014 to the Bureau of Reclamation urging them to release flows from Lewiston Reservoir in the Trinity River as a preventative measure to improve water quality conditions by creating a pulse flow to help flush out some of the disease spores in the Klamath River. Water Board staff will continue to work with other partners, including the Bureau of Reclamation, to try to implement preventative measures like the pulse flow to try to improve conditions in the Klamath River.

v. **Public Forum:**

Comments were taken from:

- Ann Maurice, Ad Hoc Committee for Clean Water
- Duane De Witt, Public
- Felice Pace, Project to Reform Public Land Grazing in Northern California
- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee

iii. **Board Member Ex Parte Communication Disclosure (continued)**

- Valerie Minton spoke regarding item 3. She disclosed that she works for Sonoma Resource Conservation District and a small portion of their funding comes from Sonoma County Water Agency but after consulting with State Board legal counsel, she does not need to recuse herself from hearing and voting on item 3.
- John Corbett received an email from a private citizen regarding item 5 but he did not respond back to the email.

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes: June 19, 2014**

Motion: William Massey moved to adopt the June 19, 2014 Minutes, David Noren seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Information Item

2. **Update on water resource related funding and projects by North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP).** Jake Mackenzie, Chair of the NCRP Policy Review Panel, and Jennifer Jenkins-Kuszmar, NCRP staff, gave a presentation on the history of NCRP, Policy Review Panel, Technical Peer Review Committee, stakeholder involvement, NCRP goals and objectives, fund administered project types, geographic locations of the projects, project sponsors, water supply and water quality benefits, direct economic benefits, habitat improvement benefits, socioeconomic benefits, ecosystem benefits, and the opportunities available from NCRP.

Uncontested Items

No uncontested items are scheduled at this time.

Action Items

3. **Public Hearing to consider adoption of Order No. R1-2014-0034, requiring the Russian River County Sanitation District and Sonoma County Water Agency to cease and desist from discharging or threatening to discharge effluent in violation of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2014-0002 for the Russian River Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B820450SON, NPDES No. CA0024058, Sonoma County.** Mona Dougherty, Supervisor Water Resources Control Engineer, Core Regulatory Unit gave an overview of the location and description of the facility, the proposed Cease and Desist Order (CDO), the significant comments received and the Staff response to comments.

Comments were taken from:

- George Lincoln, Russian River CSD
- Ann Maurice, Ad Hoc Committee for Clean Water

Vice-Chairman Noren requested periodic updates to the Board on this item.

Motion: William Massey moved to adopt,
David Noren seconded the motion.
Matt St. John initiated a roll-call
vote:
Corbett aye
Noren aye
Massey aye
Giusti aye
Minton aye
Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Public Hearing to consider adoption of Order No. R1-2014-0036, Waste Discharge Requirements and Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No. 2014052073) for Discharges Related to Timber Harvesting and Associated Land Management Activities Conducted by Humboldt Redwood Company, LLC, In Jordan Creek Watershed, a Tributary to the Lower Eel River, Humboldt County** Maggie Robinson, Engineering Geologist, Southern Timber Unit gave an overview of the Waste Discharge Program (WDR) key elements, the history of timber harvesting in Jordan Creek, the regulatory history in the development of the WDR, review of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Public Notice of the Jordan Creek Watershed WDR. Mike Jani, President and Chief Forester of Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC) spoke to the Board about their landslide remediation plan in development.

Motion: William Massey moved to adopt with errata sheet, Gregory Giusti seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **Public Hearing to consider adoption of Resolution No. R1-2014-0043 for Approval of the 303(d) List Portion of the North Coast Region's 2012 Integrated Report for the Clean Water Act Section 305(b) Assessment of Surface Water Quality and Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments.** Katharine Carter, Environmental Scientist, TMDL Unit gave an overview of the Integrated Report and 2012 303(d) list, changes made since the public review draft, comments received not resulting in changes, Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy update, and final recommendations. Rebecca Fitzgerald, Senior Environmental Scientist, TMDL Unit assisted Katharine Carter in answering the Board members' questions. Chairman Corbett requested Samantha Olson, Staff Counsel briefly go over the Regional Board's authority to regulate flow and water quality relationships and then requested that a Board workshop/study session related to flow be held in the future.

Comments were taken from:

- Linda Sheehan, Earth Law Center
- Don McEnhill, Russian Riverkeeper and California Coastkeeper Alliance
- Felice Pace, North Coast Stream Flow Coalition
- Felice Pace, Klamath Forest Alliance
- Kimberly Burr, Public
- Larry Hanson, California River Watch
- Alan Levine, Coast Action Group
- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee
- Jim Doerksen, Public

Motion: William Massey moved to adopt the Resolution with written directives to host a Regional Board workshop/study session on the

various authorities of the Regional Board on water quality/quantity, to include the staff from both Regional Board and State Water Board's Division of Water Rights, and interested parties, along with the option to make changes to the 303(d) listings in compliance with all noticing requirements and to delete the first sentence of number 13 on page 6 of the Resolution. John Corbett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Matt St. John, Executive Officer presented Katharine Carter with the Superior Accomplishment Award for her many years of hard work and dedication given to the 2012 Integrated Report.

Workshops

No workshops are scheduled at this time.

Information Items

7. **Update on the Elk River Recovery Assessment.** Alydda Mangelsdorf, Senior Environmental Scientist, Planning Unit gave an overview and history of the Elk River Recovery Assessment, with CalTrout and subcontractors as the viable lead entity for executing the contract and introduced Darren Mierau, North Coast manager of CalTrout, who gave a brief history of the Elk River Recovery assessment, the program goals and approach, the Assessment team and key partners, the project tasks and key deliverables, the Pilot Project Implementation Program, and landowner outreach and stewardship framework.

Comments were taken from:

- Felice Pace, North Group Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club
- Kristi Wrigley, Elk River Resident

8. **Update on Draft Order No. R1-2014-0046 General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and Draft Order No. R1-2014-0041 Conditional Waiver of WDRs for Wine, Beverage and Food Processor Waste to Land.** Mona Dougherty, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, Core Regulatory Unit gave an overview of the history and the rationale for the permit update. Rhonda Raymond, Sanitary Engineering Associate, Non-Point Source Unit, presented the major components of the draft Waiver. Rachel Prat, Environmental Scientist, Core Regulatory Unit, presented

the new effluent limits of the draft WDR, the requirements of Facility Salt and Nutrient Management Plans (FSNMP), the proposed groundwater monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and the overview of comments received to date. This was scheduled to be heard at the November 20, 2014 Board meeting (since moved to January 2015).

9. **Executive Officer's Report.** See item iv.
10. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items.** See items 3 and 5. a
11. **Other Items of Interest.** No items to discuss.
12. **Closed Session.** There were no reports from closed session.
13. **Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment**
1:00 P.M., September 23, 2014, Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA.
8:30 A.M., September 24, 2014, Jackson Demonstration State Forest, Fort Bragg, CA

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Chairperson_____

Date_____