



Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting, January 18, 2018

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS WAC:

1. Discussion of project priorities, how projects align, and which objectives lack sufficient projects, to include storm water projects
2. Provide a presentation/discussion on stormwater issues within the region
3. Develop additional press releases as project implementation progresses
4. Complete tasks in Section 6 of the Storm Water Chapter

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS JPA:

1. Task the WAC with developing storm water project concepts that include beneficial use of captured water.

HOMEWORK:

1. Review materials sent in advance of the meeting and bring copies with you to the meeting.

MEETING GOALS:

1. Develop recommendations for consideration by the JPA board

****FINALIZED MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE****

<http://tstan-irwma.org/>

SUMMARY

1. Opening Remarks, Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items, and Standing Items:

Ms. Carolyn Lott opened the meeting and introductions were made.

Agreement: There was agreement to accept the February 14, 2018 WAC meeting summary.

2. Standing Items:

Grant Update – Ms. Lindsay Mattos distributed an update on projects. She noted invoices 3, 4, and 5 are at the State Controller’s office.

Prop One Solicitation – Ms. Lott reminded the group of the SNC Funding Opportunities Newsletter posted on the IRWMA website. She also shared the most recent schedule for the Prop One IRWM Implementation Grants. The final PSP should be out this summer with applications due to DWR in December 2018.

Members in Good Standing – Ms. Lott provided an update.

YSS — Mr. John Buckley said the county and YSS are cooperating through an MSA with the FS for projects. Responsibility for volunteer tree planting has been taken on by TRT and they are asking for volunteers to assist with AmeriCorps tree planting efforts.

IRWMMP Update Submittal Status – M. Mattos informed the group the T-Stan IRWMP Update was accepted by DWR and is currently posted on the DWR website for public comment.

3. Public Comment:

None was offered.

4. Updated Data Management Presentation:

Mr. Seth Connolly demonstrated the new addition to the Data Management System – project pop-ups. When a project is selected on the map, a short description is visible along with a link to the project worksheet. He said he is collecting sewer line data and that information will be on file at the RCD.

Mr. Joe Bors said he cannot give the exact addresses of DAC households, but he can give provide street names for 850 homes where ATCAA has done or could do projects and provide a link to projects.

It was suggested something be done to differentiate between ongoing and completed projects.

Mr. Joel Metzger raised the issue of relatively new Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for websites. He said he will send some information to Ms. Lott.

5. TRT New Projects Presentation:

Mr. Patrick Koepele presented new projects. He said YSS is focused on the Stanislaus National Forest and the forests are in rough shape and impact watershed health. YSS is focused on restoring health from the ACCG boundary to southern boundary of SNF. There needs to be an improvement in pace and scale of treatment. The MSA is a vehicle for the FS to partner with outside entities to implement projects. YSS is now in the phase of developing projects and looking for funding. There are two concept proposals that TRT would like to see as part of the IRWMP – a planning proposal and an implementation proposal.

Mr. Koepele said it is a little tricky to define specifics as grant focuses change. The forest is different than water infrastructure as there are a million acres. He would like to bring forward a suite of implementation projects and a planning grant to purchase LIDAR to acquire data for Tuolumne County, except for wilderness areas. This would facilitate assessment and planning on the landscape to more quickly hone in on high priority areas.

The planning process would use the LIDAR data. LIDAR is kind of a laser technique utilized through aerial shots. One can detect the tree canopy and how dense vegetation is without having to walk thousands of acres. This would help define projects, understanding some projects are already proposed such as Cold Springs, Complex Thinning, Granite Thinning, 2 Mile Fuel Reduction, and Looney Thinning. These were selected for the initial round as they are mostly NEPA complete. If receipts come from timber sales, they stay local and can be used locally. These projects help the watershed, forest, and local industries.

When asked why the IRWMA should look at forest projects, Mr. Koepele said because watershed health is essential for water supply. Since the storms last winter there are areas that have experienced horrific erosion. By utilizing LIDAR, it is possible to detect areas of erosion and expedite planning for projects that can be done to help prevent sedimentation in the water supply. The dollar amount is dependent on the scope of the activity. LIDAR costs about a dollar an acre so 1M dollars would support enough data collection to enable development of more detailed plans. Treatments range from \$1,000-\$1500 per acre depending on the type of treatment. Except for some of the Rim Fire area, there has been no LIDAR data collected. The main area of focus is the conifer belt from 3,000-7,000 feet.

6. TUD New Project Presentation:

Mr. Erik Johnson presented the Sonora Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements. He said the current facilities were built in 1974 and serve Columbia, Sonora, and Twain Harte. It is the only septage receiving facility in the Tuolumne/Calaveras area. Secondary treated water goes out to the Quartz Reservoir in Jamestown.

Mr. Johnson said what is coming out of the secondary clarifiers is not at the level desired and they must wait until going through polishers to obtain the desired result. It is an old design with old equipment. The clarifiers are not deep enough, and they have tricky filters that have issues with ventilation. The digesters need upgrading. There is also a lot of increase in septage volume. Septage is very concentrated.

TUD has a small community wastewater planning grant for \$450K and they will apply for construction funding, but the project is much bigger than what is available through the Small Community Wastewater Program.

TUD has a preferred alternative that uses primary clarifiers and includes demolishing the secondary clarifiers. They would install new secondary clarifiers and a new solids contact basin which will make the secondary clarifiers much more effective. They need to upgrade the chlorine contact basin as it is undersized. Currently part of the contact with chlorine is in the pipeline on the way to Jamestown.

The third component is updated drying basins as currently they are operationally intense and TUD needs a covered facility for biosolids to optimize pickups.

\$15.5M is the cost estimate for the project and they will likely get \$5M from the state and can phase some of improvements. They currently ship 250 metric tons per year. 50% of septage comes from out of county. The consultant does not see including tertiary treatment currently, but TUD has the land for it.

7. Tuolumne County Environmental Health Presentation:

Mr. Rob Kostlivi said the Tuolumne County Environmental Health rules to implement AB885 go into effect 5/13 of this year. There is a four-tiered standard which has been accepted by the state.

Woods Creek is an impaired water body. Therefore, septic systems in that area that need to be repaired or replaced require an engineered system. Current systems must be monitored with monitoring wells. The county offers septic system training called Residential On-site Septic System Training - ROSS(T). If it is an engineered system, there must be an agreement that there will be a 3rd party monitoring system for the life of the system.

When building a new house that will utilize a septic system, there needs to be a site and soils application which is routed to all county departments. This is the same process as for new wells. Departments will set forth any conditions that need to be fulfilled. A soil profile includes digging to determine how much water the soil can contain. The processes used today are much more stringent than in the past. The county encourages hooking to public sewer when feasible. When a septic system needs repairs, the standards are much stricter for improvements. Part of the study from the EPA says septic helps replenish the water locally.

Mr. Buckley said old systems have a life capacity that may have been met, but there is no mandate for maintenance unless selling the property. Mr. Kostlivi said, at this point, the county

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relies on physical observation. He said the county is not going to walk property to determine if a septic system is operating correctly. They work on a complaint basis and if effluent is surfacing, the owner will have to bring the system up to 2018 standards.

In response to a question, Mr. Kostlivy said Sullivan Creek was taken off the impairment list as data was not indicative of human contamination.

The county does regulate wells. They require logs from the driller to be sure processes have been followed. If contaminants are found, new buyers are notified.

The drought program with tank delivery ends the end of this month. The county had 155 properties receiving delivered water and there are 15 remaining. Recharge in fractured rock usually takes 3-5 years, but they saw recharge in 1 year. This means somewhere there is a surface water connection. It seems there was a connection between this quick recharge and the location of old mines. Old mines are acting as reservoirs and give a false read on wells nearby as the wells are pulling from old mines and not from underground.

Mr. Buckley asked if the county saw concentrated failures or were wells just randomly failing during drought periods. Mr. Kostlivy said using information from the TC Historical Society one can see where the mines and the Mother Lode vein were located. Everywhere where there were mines was where the higher concentrations of well failures occurred.

Mr. Bors asked about gathering water quality data in TC. Mr. Kostlivy said the USGS was going to do this but did not do it.

Regarding funding testing for wells located within DACs, it was offered the WAC might brainstorm how to get a grant to pay the \$50 per lab testing for certain contaminants. So, for about \$60,000, the first 1000 property owners could have their well tested for things like e-coli. However, it is unclear how to address the issue if contaminants were found.

8. Sierra Institute Mapping Exercise:

Ms. Lauren Burton presented via GoToMeeting. She shared information about the IRWM DAC and Tribal Involvement Program. They are beginning the identification and outreach efforts and are categorizing DACs beyond income to include low capacity, underserved, and economically disadvantaged based on feedback that rural counties are not well represented within typical DAC definitions. The next phase will be to conduct a community capacity and needs assessment. The third phase includes technical support workshops and tools. The DACI grant is a 3-year grant and half of the grant is set aside for the third component.

They are using the block group approach. They have sent the community list out to county planners to ask for combining communities, when it makes sense. Ms. Lott will send out the new list and ask for contacts to represent the various communities to participate in the morning part of the workshop. In the afternoon, they will assess water/wastewater needs. There will also be a regional tribal assessment. The workshop should be held in May.

For the assessment piece, they will be assessing for community capacity such as is there grant writing capacity? Is there leadership? They will be utilizing multiple economic indicators and include social, human, cultural, and physical assessments.

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9. 18-19 WAC Workplan Final Draft:

Agreement: There was agreement to accept and recommend to the board the workplan with the land use integration speaker moved up to October.

10. Overview of Draft Budget:

The proposed 18-19 Draft Budget was shared with the WAC for their information.

11. Discussion – Increase of WAC Dues to \$200 per year:

Agreement: Members agreed to an increase of dues for WAC membership to \$200 per fiscal year with the caveat that in case of a hardship, a member could ask staff for an exception.

9. Other Water News:

None offered.

10. Wrap-Up and Adjournment:

Ms. Cindy Secada volunteered to bring refreshments in April.

Next WAC and JPA Meetings:

The next WAC meeting will be held on April 18, 2018. The next JPA meeting will be May 16, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 pm.

Submitted by:

Ms. Carolyn Lott

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Watershed Advisory Committee Members

Joe Bors	Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency	Present
Shelly Hance	ATCAA/Alternate	
Peter Martin	Calaveras County Water District	
Dave Eggerton	CCWD/Alternate	
Joel Metzger	CCWD/Alternate	Present
Tom Parrington	Central Sierra Audubon	Present
Tom Harrington	CSA/Alternate	Present
John Buckley	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center	Present
Meg Layhee	CSERC/Alternate	Present
David Meyers	City of Angels Camp	Present
Aaron Randi	CAC/Alternate	
Connie Williams	City of Sonora	
George Segarini	CS/Alternate	
Jon Sterling	Groveland Community Services District	
Jennifer Flores	GCSD/Alternate	

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Cindy Secada	Murphys Sanitary District	Present
Joseph Fontana	MSD/Alternate	Present
Brian Langley	MSD/Alternate	
Adam Coyan	Pinecrest Permittees Assoc.	Present
Tim Fisher	PPA/Alternate	
Bailey Hunter	TB of Me-Wuk Indians	Present
Willie Dutra	TBMWI/Alternate	
Daniel Richardson	Tuolumne County	
Liz Peterson	TC/Alternate	Present
Dick Pland	Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources & Environment	Present
Melinda Fleming	TuCARE/Alternate	
Kirk Ford	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	Present
Kevin Rice	Tuolumne Group Sierra Club	Present
Jon M. Sturtevant	TGSC/Alternate	
Patrick Koepele	Tuolumne River Trust	present
Seth Connolly	TRT/Alternate	Present
Lisa Westbrook	Tuolumne Utilities District	
Erik Johnson	TUD/Alternate	Present
Tom Haglund	TUD/Alternate	
Tom Trott	Twain Harte Community Services District	Present
Robb Perry	THCSD/Alternate	
	U.S. Forest Service – Stanislaus National Forest	
Lucas Wilkinson	USFS/Alternate	Present
Ann Denton	USFS/Alternate	
Michael Minkler	Utica Water & Power Authority	
Karen Rojas	UWPA/Alternate	
Lori Karnes	UWPA/Alternate	Present

IRWMA Staff

Name	Organization	Attendance
Carolyn Lott	Carlton Consulting	Present
Lindsay Mattos	TCRCD	Present

Other Interested Parties Present

Name	Organization
Makayla Dillon	TUD
Ron Ringen	TUD Ratepayer

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Jim Grinnell	TUD
Ariel Bohr	TRt
Ellyse Varone	TRT Wildfire Restoration
Rob Kostlivi	TC Environmental Health Director
Don Perkins	TUD