

MINUTES (Approved)

Chairperson: Andy Pease
Vice Chairperson: Ray Dienzo
Secretary: Brendan Clark

The following action minutes are listed as they were acted upon by the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) and as listed on the Regular Meeting agenda for **February 3rd, 2021** together with staff reports and related documents attached thereto and incorporated therein by reference.

The audio recording of the meeting and materials submitted to the WRAC are available online: [https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/Water-Resources-Advisory-Committee-\(WRAC\).aspx](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/Water-Resources-Advisory-Committee-(WRAC).aspx)

Call to order at 1:30 PM

1) Determination of a Quorum and Introductions

A quorum of 18 is established.

2) Approval of December 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes

H. Graves moves for the approval of the previous meeting minutes which is seconded by C. Mulholland (17-0-1). Motion carries.

3) Membership Updates

B. Clark comments that there are many new members that have been appointed by their respective agencies, but these appointments need to be approved by the BOS. The BOS will review the new member appointments on March 2nd. New members' votes cannot be counted during this meeting (February 3rd, 2021), but they will be counted during the next meeting (March 3rd, 2021).

4) Ongoing Updates:

a) Rain & Reservoir Report

No comment

b) California Drought Monitor Summary

No comment

c) Groundwater Basin Management Efforts

A. Pease comments about recent Public Policy Institute of California Article regarding partnerships between cities and farms. D. Chipping comments on the Los Osos Basin and chloride levels. He also mentions water offsets that are not in the impact area. K. Hensley states that water offsets can come from the sewer service area and outside the sewer surface area, but all come from within the groundwater basin.

G. Grewal comments about fresh water released via delta to ocean and lack of statewide storage.

d) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

E. Eby asks a question about the finances which is answered by B. Clark who states they are working on an agreement with DWR which will be followed by an agreement with the district and finally an invoice can be submitted. He states that it will probably be completed by Fall 2021.

e) Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP)

B. Clark comments that if an agency or group is looking for state funding on a stormwater project it must be on a SWRP. If projects need to be added B. Clark directs agencies to contact Sarah Crable to add them to the SWRP so they can receive funding.

f) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

K. Hensley provides an update for the Paso Robles Ground Basin and states that the BOS provided direction to staff to develop land use ordinance to require permitting for new and expanded irrigated crop planting through year 2045 with a 3-tiered approach.

g) Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information

No comment

5) Receive Update from Stormwater Capture Sub-Committee

R. Munds provides an update from the subcommittee's meeting. They first discussed objectives for SWC. Then they received a presentation by George Kendall on his Santa Rosa Creek groundwater recharge project leading to more discussion of opportunity of small-scale projects and overcoming barriers of those projects. The next meeting will be February 25th, 2021.

6) Consider recommendation approval of the Water Management Tools contract amendment to the State Water Project Contract.

H. Graves introduces the main discussion points from the subcommittee and comments on the value of water management towards not only recharge and stabilization but also greater flexibility and tools for future water shortage. It ensures more stable and reliable water supply to support all the county, not just state water contractors, and has potential to reduce cost and generate revenue from transfers.

C. Howard gives a presentation on Water Management Tools development. The main points of the presentation are as follows:

- An overview of Draft WM Tools study including the overall goal to develop WM strategies to optimize State Water use and a Draft Needs Assessment.
- Introduction of a potential pilot program.

- Recommendations by the ad-hoc subcommittee for the board to approve the Water Management Tools contract amendment to the State Water Project Contract.

C. Mulholland asks what the issues in each lawsuit are. C. Howard responds they are CEQA issues and referral to the Delta Stewardship Council.

D. Chipping asks where storage is expected to be located. C. Howard responds that the consultant is going to include reviews of local water storage.

E. Greening asks if the assumption is that those receiving water will be purveyors and distribution systems instead of groundwater basins. Also, what are advantages and disadvantages if WRAC members joined the CCWA. C. Howard responds that Water Management strategies will include direct delivery to water purveyors or groundwater storage programs that exists, and the consultant will review terms of water storage program partnerships. Appropriate governance options will be explored as Water Management strategies are narrowed.

G. Grewal comments on lack of delivery and wet-year storage by State, county tax-payer contributions and lack of benefit, and unused water from Nacimiento project. C. Mulholland responds.

C. Bourbeau asks about levels of interest in this project. C. Howard states that recovery of cost through selling unused water poses an interest for County wide taxpayers.

E. Greening makes a motion for WRAC to recommend the Board approve the Water Management Amendment on February 9th which is seconded by T. Walters. Verbal vote. Motion carries.

E. Greening asks about details of what the pilot study would include. C. Howards responds that staff would be directed to come back with details of what the pilot program entails.

H. Graves makes a motion to recommend getting additional information on a potential water transfer pilot program for 2021 which is seconded by S. Gibson. Verbal vote. Motion carries.

7) Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

G. Grewal comments regarding waters of north County watersheds being utilized in south County.

8) Future Agenda Items

No comment

Meeting Adjourned at 2:30.