
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 29, 2014 Draft Board Meeting Minutes

ADOPTED March 12, 2014

Roll Call and Introductions

Meeting called to order at approximately 10:00 am at 140 Anderson Road, Napa, Napa County

<u>Board Members Present</u>	<u>Board Members Absent</u>	<u>Status</u>
William Kissinger	Margaret Abe-Koga	QUORUM
Newsha Ajami		
John Muller		
Vice-Chair James McGrath		
Chair Terry Young		

Board Chair Young welcomed everyone to the vineyard educational tour. Yuri Won, Board legal counsel, noted for the record that the tour is a public meeting of the Board and Open Meeting Act rules apply. Ms. Won instructed attendees to avoid side conversations or any discussion regarding matters pending before the Board and noted that the tour would be documented by notes and photographs. Bruce Wolfe, Executive Officer, introduced Water Board staff and their respective roles and directed participants to work with staff if there were followup questions.

Vineyard Educational Tour

First Location: 140 Anderson Road, Napa

Dianne Dillon, Napa County Supervisor, thanked the Board members for coming.

Leigh Sharp, Executive Director for the Napa Resource Conservation District (Napa RCD), gave a presentation describing the watershed, the history of wine growing in Napa County, and the evolution of Napa's county ordinance/conservation regulations for vineyard development and replants.

Brian Bordona, Supervising Planner for the Napa County Department of Planning, Building, and Environmental Services, presented a map showing parcels in the watershed with erosion control plans and noted that, out of 16,715 acres, about 14,000 acres of hillside vineyards are covered by county-approved erosion control plans.

Ms. Sharp described volunteer efforts such as Napa Green and the support the Napa RCD provides to growers. She also discussed the various scales of restoration efforts in the valley and successful fish passage restoration projects.

Board members asked a number of questions regarding the fishery, stewardship efforts, and

the history of the area.

10:40 am – The group walked outside for the next part of the tour to look at Best Management Practices (BMPs). Sample Erosion Control Plan (ECP) documents related to the vineyard located at 140 Anderson Road were provided for reference.

Mike Cybulski, Atlas Vineyard Management Consultant, described the vineyard at 140 Anderson Road. He noted that it was formerly used for cattle ranching. He discussed groundwater usage at the facility and described cover crop, pruning, and tilling practices.

Dave Steiner, Napa RCD Soil Conservationist, discussed how the Napa County Planning Department participates in the technical review of erosion control plans. In response to questions from Board Member Kissinger, he described the reasons to till a cover crop once the vines are planted (to eliminate noxious weeds, for cover crop failure, and to address burrowing animals). He noted that if a cover crop needs to be replanted, it is done at a two-year frequency, and they employ adaptive management solutions to find the right kind of cover crop.

Vice Chair McGrath asked about surface water runoff and how it is managed. Mr. Bordona replied that in areas similar to this vineyard where there is mainly sheet flow and buffers, there is no need for engineered drainage.

Chair Young asked presenters to discuss vineyard roads and related practices. Mr. Bordona described the difference between permanent and seasonal roads and typical features in roads such as water bars that are to divert water off the road and reduce erosion. There was further discussion of cover crops, herbicide usage, and erosion control measures.

Mr. Bordona discussed winterization of vineyards as specified in erosion control plans. Board Member Muller asked what percentage of vineyards do not have plans and whether they see any problems with those sites. Mr. Bordona answered that 2-3,000 acres are not regulated because they predate the county's ordinance and have not been replanted since 1981. He did not think they were large contributors of sediment.

Second Location: 8300 St. Helena HWY, Rutherford

After a lunch break, the meeting reconvened at approximately 1:00 pm for the next part of the tour, which included the Rutherford Reach Restoration Project and more observation and discussion of vineyard BMPs. A packet summarizing BMPs for water quality protection was provided for reference.

Bruce Cakebread, of Cakebread Cellars, led a tour of his vineyard and discussed general features of the vineyard including rain capture methods, solar panels, permeable pavement, and water recycling. He also described the history of the Rutherford Reach Restoration Project. Mr. Cakebread described characteristics of flatland vineyards as compared to those on hillsides. There was discussion of the local stewardship process and how that contributed to the success of the restoration project and technical aspects of the project.

Third Location: 1761 Atlas Peak Road, Napa

The group arrived at 2:20 to begin this portion of the tour. John Nagle, Environmental Manager of E. & J. Gallo Winery, welcomed the group on its last stop and gave an overview of the William Hill vineyard property. He noted that the property was evaluated under the Code of Sustainable Winegrowers. Augustine Lammoglia, Gallo Ranch Manager, described the history of the William Hill winery and noted that full frost protection is provided by wind machines as opposed to sprinklers. The vineyard was first planted in 1978. Mr. Lammoglia described the vineyard's road management practices.

Board Member Muller asked about the history and uses of the reservoir on the property. Mr. Lammoglia described how the pond provides sediment retention and also is a source of irrigation water if the groundwater well is out of service. Mr. Nagle pointed out a turnaround avenue topped with a cover crop and described how the cover crop controls sediment runoff. Board Member Muller and Mr. Nagle discussed the effects of wild pigs and related sediment issues. Mr. Lammoglia noted the effect of gophers on erosion and described owl houses nearby.

Ms. Benvenuto, representing the Wine Growers of Napa County, gave a brief summary of the day's tour and the issues discussed.

Chair Young thanked all for organizing and attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm until the next Board Meeting – February 12, 2014