

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Minutes of Meeting

9:00 A.M., Thursday, April 19, 2018
Weed City Council Chambers
City Hall
550 Main Street
Weed, CA 96094

Audio recordings of Board meetings are available at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/

i. Roll Call and Introductions

Board Members present: Hector Bedolla, John Corbett, Kelli Gant, Gregory Giusti, David Noren, and Valerie Minton Quinto.

Regional Water Board staff present: Fred Blatt, Katharyn Carter, Patti Corsie, Clayton Creager, Josh Curtis, Rich Fadness, Brian Fuller, Nathan Jacobsen, Bryan McFadin, Justin McSmith, Charles Reed, Eli Scott, Matt St. John, Claudia Villacorta, and Ben Zabinsky.

ii. Pledge of Allegiance

Board Member Giusti led the Pledge of Allegiance.

iii. Board Member Reports and Ex Parte Communication Disclosure:

- Board member Minton Quinto had conversations with County agencies, stakeholders, and Water Board staff regarding Russian River pathogen issues.
- Board Chairman Noren attended a meeting at the Regional Water Board last week for a Government to Government Meeting with the Karuk Tribe on various issues. Chairman Noren also has had ongoing work throughout Sonoma County related to the wildfires of October 2017.

iv. Executive Officer's Report: See written Executive Officer's Report.

State Board Liaison, Steven Moore updated the Board:

- Budget issues
- Recent and upcoming activities at the State Water Board
- Drought issues
- Legislation passed or pending.

v. **Public Forum:**

Comments were taken from:

- James P. Cubetta, Public
- Jeannett Hook, City of Yreka, CA
- Jim Taylor, Water for Citizens of Weed, CA
- Geneva Omann, Public
- Victoria Gold, Water Flows Free, Mt. Shasta Area Group
- Betsy Stapleton, Friends of French Creek
- Michael Stapleton, Friends of French Creek
- Bill Marx, Friends of French Creek
- Susan Fricke, Karuk Tribe
- Ken Palfini, Mayor of City of Weed
- Bob Hall, Community of Weed
- Betsy Phair, Public
- Dave Casebeer, Public

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** February 8, 2018

Motion: Board member Corbett moved to adopt, Board member Minton Quinto seconded the motion; Chairman Noren initiated a roll-call vote:

Quinto aye
Bedolla aye
Corbett aye
Noren aye
Giusti aye
Gant aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Information Items

2. **Presentation on the Tulelake Wastewater Treatment Facilities upgrade and disposal modification.** Justin McSmith, Water Resource Control Engineer, Regional Water Board, gave a brief overview and history of the City of Tulelake Waste Water Treatment Facilities (WWTF) and its long history of non-compliance with its NPDES Permit. The WWTF was issued a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) and two Administrative Civil Liability Orders (ACLOs) that required the WWTF to implement a long-term solution to achieve compliance. Tulelake was granted \$6,000,000 from the State Water Board's State Revolving Fund to finish the compliance project that has allowed the City of Tulelake to eliminate all discharges to surface waters, and to treat, store, and reuse the wastewater via crop irrigation, thus benefiting both the neighboring agricultural community and the City of Tulelake. Mr. McSmith introduced Brett Nystrom, City of Tulelake Director of Public Works, who was key in the permit completion and bringing the City of Tulelake into

compliance. Mr. Nystrom spoke about the work completed and gave thanks to the State and Regional Water Boards for all their assistance in getting this compliance project completed.

3. **Klamath River Updates: 1) Klamath Basin TMDL Implementation; 2) Klamath Basin Integrated Fish Restoration and Monitoring Plan; 3) Klamath River Renewal Corporation Dam Removal and Restoration Activities; and 4) Lower Klamath Project Water Quality Certification.** Clayton Creager, Watershed Stewardship Coordinator, Regional Water Board, gave an update on Klamath Basin TMDL implementation: 1) Klamath Basin Monitoring Program; 2) Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement: Interim Measure 11 Water Quality Projects; 3) Diffuse Source Treatment Wetlands; and 4) Watershed Stewardship Teams. Mr. Creager then gave an update on the Integrated Fisheries Restoration and Monitoring Plan (IFRMP) and the Klamath River Renewal Corporations (KRRC) activities associated with dam removal and restoration. Erin Ragazzi, Environmental Program Manager 1, Division of Water Rights (DWR), State Water Board, introduced herself, Parker Thaler, Environmental Scientist, DWR, State Water Board, and Marianna Aue, Staff Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel, State Water Board. Mr. Thaler gave an overview of: the State Board and Regional Board's responsibilities; the Lower Klamath Project (LKP); the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); the status and next steps for the Water Quality Certification and CEQA process; the ongoing coordination with California and Oregon State & Federal agencies, Tribal consultations, and the KRRC. Marianna Aue, Staff Counsel answered the Board's legal questions regarding coordination between the States of Oregon and California environment laws and regulations.

Comments were taken from:

- Don Meamber, Public
- Susan Fricke, Karuk Tribe
- Felice Pace, Public
- Regina Chichizola, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association (PCFFA)
- Angelina Cook, Mt. Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center
- Sammy Gensaw III, Yurok Tribe
- Thomas Joseph, Yurok Tribe

Uncontested Items

4. **Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2018-0004 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for Weaverville Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1A84072OTRI.**

Motion: Board member Corbett moved to adopt the Order, Board member Bedolla seconded the motion; Chairman Noren initiated a roll-call vote:

Minton Quinto aye
Bedolla aye
Corbett aye

Noren aye
Giusti aye
Gant aye

Motion passed unanimously

Action Items

5. **Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2018-0018 to consider adoption of proposed Scott River TMDL Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements &**
6. **Public Hearing on Shasta River Order No. R1-2018-0019 to consider adoption of proposed Shasta River TMDL Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements.** Eli Scott, Environmental Scientist, Planning Unit, gave a presentation on the Scott and Shasta Waivers implementation approaches, the changes made from the 2012 Scott and Shasta Waivers, the public comments and Staff responses, along with the changes made to the 2017 public review draft Scott and Shasta Waivers.

Comments were taken from:

- Susan Fricke, Karuk Tribe
- Felice Pace, Public
- Regina Chichizola, PCFFA
- Matt Parker, Siskiyou County employee and Landowner

Motion: Board member Corbett moved to adopt both Scott and Shasta Orders as discussed with follow-up status reports regarding monitoring and enforcement efforts, Board member Minton Quinto seconded the motion; Chairman Noren initiated a roll-call vote:

Minton Quinto aye
Bedolla aye
Corbett aye
Noren aye
Giusti aye
Gant aye

Motion passed unanimously

Information Items

7. **Update on *Smith River Monitoring Studies and Consideration of Next Steps*; historical context, assessment summary, ongoing studies, follow up actions, and consideration of next steps.** Clayton Creager, Watershed Stewardship Coordinator, Regional Water Board, gave an update and overview of the Agricultural Lands Program and permit development and priority status. Ben Zabinsky, Water Resource Control Engineer,

Adaptive Management Unit, Regional Water Board, gave an overview of the historical and current results of groundwater and surface water quality monitoring studies. Justin Ly, NOAA Fisheries, Arcata Office, gave a presentation on the Smith River's various fish populations, emphasizing that it is an essential habitat for Pacific salmon along with being a critical habitat for coho salmon, and the toxic effects of copper on salmonids. Dan Free, NOAA Fisheries, Arcata Office, finished the presentation with a discussion on the various sampling results conducted by NOAA Fisheries for dissolved copper, and discussed the next steps for the Regional Water Board. Megan Van Pelt, Natural Resources Director, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, gave a brief presentation of the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation's interest in the health of the Smith River Estuary by obtaining two years of funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs conduct an initial baseline study by conducting wet/dry season sampling events from 5 separate study areas in the Smith River Watershed starting this year.

Comments were taken from:

- Chris Howard, Del Norte County Supervisor
- Felice Pace, Sierra Club, North Group, Redwood Chapter
- Regina Chichizola, PCFFA
- Gerry Hemmingsen, Supervisor, District 4, Del Norte County
- Harry Harms, Smith River Easter Lily grower
- Rob Miller, Easter Lily grower
- Sammy Gensaw III, Yurok Tribe
- Sii~Xnutesna Jones, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
- Thomas Joseph, Yurok Tribe

The Board discussed potential follow up actions and provided general direction to staff.

8. **Executive Officer's Report.** See Item iv. Written EO's Report.
9. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items.** Chairman Noren requested an update related to agenda item 7.
10. **Other Items of Interest.** No items to discuss.
11. **Closed session:** The Board did not meet in closed session.
12. **Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment**
8:30 a.m., Thursday, May 17, 2018
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Chairperson_____

Date_____