

Minutes of Meeting

8:30 A.M., Wednesday, February 20, 2019

8:30 A.M., Thursday, February 21, 2019

David C. Joseph Meeting Room

5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A

Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Video recordings of Board meetings (since 2/2019) are available at:

[Video Archive of Board Meetings.](#)

Audio recordings of Board meetings (11/2018 and before) are available at:

[Audio of Board Meetings November 2018 and before](#)

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

i. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Board member Quinto led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ii. **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: Katherine Carter, Patti Corsie, Clayton Creager, Josh Curtis, Donna Poe, Lynette Shipsey, Matt St. John, Claudia Villacorta, and Ben Zabinsky

iii. **Board Member Reports and Ex Parte Communication Disclosure:** No Board member reports or Ex Parte Communication reported.

iv. **Executive Officer's Reports:** Matt St. John, Executive Officer announced that Charles Reed, Water Resource Control Engineer, has been promoted to Supervisor of the Point Source Control & Groundwater Protection Division.

State Board Liaison's Report: The State Board Liaison, Dorene D'Adamo updated the Board on:

- New State Water Board Chair, Joaquin Esquivel, and new Board member, Laurel Firestone.
- Recent and upcoming activities at the State Water Board

iv. **Public Forum:** No comments received by the public.

1. **Election of Board Officers:**

Motion: Board member Corbett nominated Board member Valerie Quinto as the Board Chair and Gregory Giusti as the Vice-Chair; Board member Gant seconded. Chairman Noren initiated a roll-call vote:

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

Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Presentation of Executive Officer's 2018 Water Quality Stewardship Awards:**

Matt St. John, Executive Officer presented the 2018 Water Quality Stewardship Awards to: 1) the Salmonid Restoration Federation for their exemplary work in advancing the science and practiced of stream restoration and salmonid protections in the North Coast, and 2) Ms. Brenda Adelman, Chair of the Russian River Watershed Protection Committee for her tireless efforts in advocating for the health of the Russian River Watershed.

2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 14, 2018**

Motion: Board member Corbett moved to adopt, Board member Bedolla seconded the motion, Chairwoman Quinto initiated a roll-call vote:

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

Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Update on East San Joaquin Agricultural Order and Ag-Related Litigation.**

Emel Wadhvani, Assistant Chief Counsel, State Water Board, updated the Board on the precedential components of the East San Joaquin Agricultural Order, State Water Board No. WQ 2018-0002 and ag-related litigation.

Comments were taken from:

- Nathaniel Kane, Environmental Law Foundation
- Felice Pace, North Group Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club
- Bob Legge, Russian Riverkeeper

- Regina Chichizola, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association
- Daniel Cooper, Karuk Tribe

5. **Update on the status of addressing lily bulb operations in the Smith River Plain:** Ben Zabinsky, Water Resource Control Engineer, Adaptive Management Unit, and Clayton Creager, Environmental Program Manager, Watershed Stewardship Coordinator, gave a presentation on the ongoing activities to address lily bulb operations in the Smith River Plain, including planning for additional water quality monitoring, development of the Smith River Plain Water Quality Management Plan, and coordination with lily bulb growers, agency partners, and interested stakeholders.

Comments were taken from:

- Nathaniel Kane, Environmental Law Foundation
- Felice Pace, North Group Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club
- Regina Chichizola, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association
- Larry Hanson,
- Rob Miller, Lily Bulb Grower

6. **Update on the status of the Vineyard and Orchard Permit Development:** Katharine Carter, Senior Environmental Scientist, Adaptive Management Unit, and Lynette Shipsey, Water Resource Control Engineer, Adaptive Management Unit gave a presentation on the components of the North Coast Regional Water Board's Agricultural Lands Program, an assessment of vineyards and orchards in the region, and staff's recommendation to focus on developing a regionwide permit for vineyards.

Comments were taken from:

- Felice Pace, North Group Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club
- Kimberly Burr, Public
- Larry Hanson, California River Watch
- Bob Legge, Russian Riverkeeper
- Devon Jones, Mendocino County Farm Bureau

7. **Tour of vineyard (s):** The Board and members of the public attended a field tour of Rodney Strong Rockaway Vineyard and the Vineyard of Kendall Jackson Wine Estates & Gardens.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m. to attend the Vineyards tour.

Thursday, February 21, 2019

- vi. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Board member Noren led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- vii. **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: Patti Corsie, Josh Curtis, Chris Dillis, Gil Falcone, Kason Grady, Bryan McFadin, Donna Poe, Matt St. John, Chuck Striplen, Claudia Villacorta, and Jonathan Warmerdam

viii. **Board Member Reports and Ex Parte Communication Disclosure** - No Board member reports or Ex Parte Communications.

ix. **State Board Liaison's, Board Chair's, Board Members', and Executive Officer's Reports:** None reported.

x. **Public Forum:**

Comments were taken from:

- Cedric Twight, Sierra Pacific Industries
- Felice Pace, North Group Redwood Chapter Sierra Club
- Gary Rynearson, Green Diamond Resource Company

Uncontested

8. **Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2019-0003 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for the Weott Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B87042NHUM** (*Rachel Prat*)

Motion: Board member Corbett moved to adopt, Board member Giusti seconded the motion, Chairwoman Quinto initiated a roll-call vote:

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

9. **Renewal of Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements, General Water Quality Certification, and Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program Order No. R1-2019-0004.** Jonathan Warmerdam, Environmental Program Manager, Nonpoint Source & Surface Water Protection Division, and Gil Falcone, Restoration Specialist, Senior Environmental

Scientist, Nonpoint Source & Surface Water Protection Division, gave a presentation on the background and history of the Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program (MCPCP) that seeks to improve permitting efficiencies, while providing technical guidance and financial assistance to landowners seeking to restore natural resources on their land. Patty Madigan, Mendocino County Resource Conservation District Program Manager and Joe Scriven, Fisheries Biologist/Project Manager to the Mendocino County RCD provided highlights of current and upcoming MCPCP projects.

Motion: Board member Noren moved to adopt, Board member Giusti seconded the motion, Chairwoman Quinto initiated a roll-call vote:

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Information Items

10. **Update on Cannabis Regulatory and Enforcement Program.** Kason Grady, Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer, Cannabis & Enforcement Division, introduced Dan Shultz, Division of Water Rights and Kevin Porzio, Division of Water Quality, State Water Board. Mr. Grady gave a presentation and update on the background, organizational changes, enrollment updates, current priorities, and other projects of the North Coast Water Board's Cannabis Regulatory and Enforcement Program. Mr. Shultz gave a presentation on the State Water Board's Cannabis Policy and Cannabis Cultivation General Order and Policy updates that was adopted by the State Water Board on February 5, 2019.

Comments were taken from:

- Felice Pace, Public

11. **Insight into Cannabis-Related Water Use and Associated Impacts on Instream Flow.** Bryan McFadin, Flow & Riparian Protection Specialist, Planning & Stewardship Division, introduced Chris Dillis, Environmental Scientist, Southern Cannabis Regulatory Unit. Mr. Dillis gave a presentation on water extraction, storage and use on cannabis farms and the potential impacts to instream flows. Mr. McFadin gave a presentation on an Instream Flows Study of select Trinity River tributaries and comparison to water use estimates.

Comments were taken from:

- Felice Pace, Public
- Vivian Helliwell, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association

12. **Update on the finding of the Elk River Recovery Assessment.** Chuck Striplen, Environmental Scientist, Adaptive Management Unit, introduced Darren Mierau, California Trout and Bonnie Pryor, Northern Hydrology & Engineering and reviewed the actions leading to the Elk River Recovery Assessment (ERRA) since year 2000 to present. Mr. Mierau gave an overview of the program partners, objectives, and scope. Ms. Pryor gave an overview of the primary approach and focus of the remediation of sediment impairment and abatement of nuisance flooding and summarized the key findings. Mr. Mierau gave a brief review of the ERRA analyses the direct and cumulative effects of sediment, habitat, and water quality impairment affecting all life stages of salmonids. Ms. Pryor gave a brief review of the ERRA analyses and results of the geomorphic and Watershed settings, sediment and hydrodynamics, and modeling scenarios. Mr. Striplen finished the presentation with the recommended next steps of the ERRA.

Comments were taken from:

- Vivian Helliwell, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association
- Gary Rynearson, Green Diamond Resource Company
- Felice Pace, North Group Redwood Chapter Sierra Club

13. **Discussion of FY 2019-2020 Priorities.** Matt St. John, Executive Officer updated the Board on the development of Fiscal Year 2019-20 Work Plans and the associated priorities for each Division.
14. **Executive Officer's Report.** See Wednesday's item iv above.
15. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items.** Board member Corbett requested discussion within the next 12 months of the State Water Board's Cannabis General Order and Policy and the implications on the North Coast Region. Board member Noren requested an update on the Laguna de Santa Rosa TMDL and Vision Project.
16. **Other Items of Interest.** None.
17. **Closed session:** The Board met regarding 17.b. There were no reports from closed session.
18. **Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment**
8:30 a.m., Thursday, April 18, 2019
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Chairperson _____

Date _____