

Watershed Planning Guidance Group (WPGG) Minutes
March 25, 2004
Escondido City Hall

In attendance:

Bob Collins (City of San Diego), Arlene Dea Deeley (City of San Diego), Mark Whitehead (WPGG Chairman), Liz Christensen (Rancho Santa Fe Association), Steve Dime (San Dieguito Lagoon Committee), Cheryl Filar (City of Escondido), Danny King (City of Solana Beach), Jim Lyon (City of Poway), Linda Niles (City of Del Mar), Chris Nyce (Cleveland National Forest), Greg Sallee (Julian Planning), Jacqueline Winterer (Friends of San Dieguito River Park), Matt Witman (San Pasqual Valley Planning), John Ryan (R.E. Badger Filtration Plant SFID/SDWD), Craig Adams and Bill Simmons (San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy), Paul Gebert (SDCWA), Liz Giffen (County of San Diego), Lloyd Holt and John Ingalls (Santa Fe Irrigation District), Bruce Posthumus (RWQB), Freda Reid (San Dieguito Lagoon Committee)

Meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m. by Chairman Mark Whitehead.

1) **Introductions:** New members and guests were introduced.

Some people mentioned that they had trouble getting the attachments. It was suggested that documents be saved in an earlier version of Word or Excel so those who don't have the latest version can open them easier.

If anyone does not have email, or would just prefer to get things by regular mail, please let Bob or Sharon know. We will continue to bring approximately five or six sets of everything to the meetings.

2) **Approval of Minutes:** Mark Whitehead asked for approval of the minutes.

Motion to approve: Matt Witman

Second: Jacqueline Winterer

Minutes approved.

3) **Issues of Concern:** Bob elaborated on the issues of concern identified at the first two meetings in a memo which was sent out as an attachment to the agenda. There were four main categories, broken down into sub-categories.

If the group agrees that these are the issues we want to address, then we need to find out what documents are out there, educate ourselves, ask for presentations, etc. Then decide what actions we need to take.

Bill Simmons suggested adopting the issues as written on an interim basis, while we gather information, listen to presentations, then modify if needed.

4) **Scope of Services:** At the last meeting everyone received a copy of the State contract and was asked to review and come prepared to discuss the scope at this meeting. Before we negotiate a contract with the consultant we need to determine which approach we want to take, broad and shallow or narrow and deep.

Bob explained the table that was sent out as Attachment 2 to the agenda. Tasks 1 and 2 were not listed on the table as the City of San Diego has taken over those.

Jacqueline Winterer said she was in favor of the narrow and deep approach as broad and shallow has already been done, documents are out there. But, she felt that we did not need to go deep in all areas. Also, different areas of the watershed will have different issues.

Bruce Posthumus agreed that narrow and deep would be the best approach, then later do more studies if able. With our limited funds, maybe go ahead and hire the consultant and get his recommendations.

Bill Simmons said that certain tasks have to be done to meet State requirements, do a broad approach to begin with, then decide what issues to do deeper. Maybe we should delay getting the consultant on board until we see more presentations, gather more information, and then decide what we want to put into the consultant's contract.

Bob asked how much time everyone wants to commit to the project. If you go longer than two years, you're going to lose people and interest. Maybe we need a facilitator to help us out. Some of the consultant firms include a facilitator.

Gregg Sallee said that we need to look at the entire area with a broad brush, then maybe break into sub-groups and have each look at one or two particular concerns and later present their findings to the whole group.

Paul Gebert asked how long after the consultant selection would the consultant be able to come on board. Bob advised that the consultant could be on board as early as one to two months, others might not be able until August. We can put the consultant on hiatus if the group wants more time to work out issues and approach to take to the Scope of Services, but eventually we need to agree on a framework so the consultant knows what direction we want them to take.

One thing to consider, if we put the consultant on hiatus while we gather information, is who is going to digest all the information coming in. We might want to have the consultant on board to go through the information and give us recommendations.

Bob suggested breaking up into three groups, maybe have each group take one area of the watershed and come up with issues they recommend going narrow and deep on. Take a broad approach to State requirements.

Craig Adams commented that it has to be broad and shallow or we won't pass muster, at least on the State requirements. We only have so much money to spend. He also cautioned against dividing the area geographically. Also, he was concerned about three groups telling consultant what to do. Bob explained that the groups would bring their information back to group, and the group as a whole would issue directions to the consultant.

Since everyone agreed that we needed more information, presentations, etc., Bob asked members to let him know if they are aware of any professionals with expertise in the areas described in the WSIG issues of Concern Memo that might be willing to come and do a presentation.

Mark Whitehead suggested that we table this discussion for a while and go ahead with this month's presentations.

5) **Presentation on MSCP in the San Dieguito River Watershed:** Trish Boaz & Randy Rodriguez

Trish and Keith both gave impressive presentations on MSCP. Trish also offered to give a tour of Volcan Mountain to the group if they were interested. A copy of the Power Point presentation will be provided to the group later.

6) **Presentation on Farming in the San Dieguito River Watershed:** Matt Witman

This presentation was postponed until the April meeting.

7) **Request for Qualifications:** On March 30th, the City will be interviewing five (5) consultant firms, of the firms that responded to the City's RFQ on the San Dieguito River WSI Plan. A consultant review committee made up of four (4) members of the WSI Group and one representative from the City will evaluate the firms and recommend a firm to prepare the watershed plan for the San Dieguito River watershed.

8) **Information Gathering:** This item was skipped.

9) **Election of Vice Chair:** Mark Whitehead advised that he would not be able to attend the April meeting and would like to have a Vice Chair elected to fill in for him on such occasions. Bill Simmons volunteered to be the Vice Chair. Thank you Bill.

10) **Other Business:** There was some discussion of skipping the April meeting, as we still seem uncertain as to the direction we want to go. Then maybe have the consultant attend in May.

It was decided to go ahead with the April meeting and have two presentations, one on farming (postponed from March), and one from the Regional Water Quality Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Next meeting will be Thursday, April 22, at the Escondido City Hall, Training Room No. 1, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.