

Watershed Planning Guidance Group (WPGG) Minutes
April 22, 2004
Escondido City Hall

In attendance:

Bill Simmons (WPGG Vice Chairman), Bob Collins (City of San Diego), Arlene Dea Deeley (City of San Diego), Cheryl Filar (City of Escondido), Linda Niles (City of Del Mar), Chris Nyce (Cleveland National Forest), Gregg Sallee (Julian Planning), Jacqueline Winterer (Friends of San Dieguito River Park), Matt Witman (San Pasqual Valley Planning), Danny King (City of Solana Beach), John Ryan (R.E. Badger Filtration Plant SFID/SDWD), Craig Adams (San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy), Paul Gebert (SDCWA), Liz Giffen (County of San Diego), Lloyd Holt (Santa Fe Irrigation District), Bruce Posthumus (RWQB), Freda Reid (San Dieguito Lagoon Committee), Jeff Pasek (City of San Diego), Tedi Jackson (City of San Diego), Jason Jackson (Natural Resources Conservation Services), Chuck Badger (Farm Bureau), Chuck DeMund (Ramona Chamber of Commerce), Lynne Baker (Endangered Habitats League)

Meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Vice Chairman Bill Simmons.

1) **Introductions:** For those who might be new, everyone introduced themselves.

2) **Approval of Minutes:** Bill Simmons asked for approval of the minutes.

Motion to approve: Jacqueline Winterer

Second: Matt Witman

Minutes approved.

3) **Announcements:**

Chris Nyce advised that the Cleveland National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan is in the process of being revised. The draft plan will hit the streets the beginning of May for a 90-day public comment period. This plan will guide the Cleveland National Forest for 10-15 years. You can visit their web site for information and to make comments at www.fs.fed.us/r5/scfpr. There will be two open house meetings coming up in the communities within the watershed:

Ramona – May 12 at the Ramona Community Center (434 Aqua Lane) from 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Escondido – May 14 at the East Valley Community Center (2245 East Valley Parkway) from 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Bill Simmons asked if Chris or someone would be willing to do a presentation to the WPGG. Chris said he would check with his supervisor to see if it would make sense and then get back to Bob Collins or Mark Whitehead.

Paul Gebert mentioned that the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission had a grant for \$25,000 available for habitat restoration, but applications had to be submitted by May 1st. He will send the information to anyone who is interested.

Jason Jackson let the group know that NRCS also had money available for habitat restoration which is only open for another month or two. Also, Congress has generously given them \$3,000,000 for the removal of dead and/or dying trees (either from disease or fire) in the Julian, Cuyamaca, and Palomar Mountain areas.

Bob Collins invited the group to participate in the Project Clean Water Watershed Protection TAC kickoff meeting on April 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the City's Biosolids Center at the Miramar Landfill. Liz Giffen advised that this TAC will provide a new forum for watershed planning and management issues in the San Diego region. The TAC will also be participating in the July 15th Clean Water Summit at the University of San Diego.

4) **Issues of Concern:** Bob Collins distributed a revised version of the Issues of Concern memo from the March meeting. He added specific examples of the areas for the group to focus in on. A lot of it came from the application for the project grant.

Action Item: Bob asked everyone to look at the memo and be ready to discuss at the May meeting. If anyone wants to send him comments before then, that is also fine.

Action Item: Bill Simmons also requested that during the presentations, everyone should look for areas that the group might want to focus on as part of the watershed plan. Maybe the presenters could also point out areas they feel are important to include.

5) **Governance:** Bob Collins distributed a document on possibly forming an executive committee to handle some of the administrative work, maybe to interact with the consultant and staff. However, policy making power would still remain with the group as a whole. Bill opened this up for discussion, and advised that we could have a formal proposal by the next meeting.

If it is decided to form an executive committee, how would the members be chosen? We would like to see 5-7 people who would need to be diverse in interest and geographically at the same time. They need to be people who have the extra time to devote to the committee. If anyone is interested, please let Bob know. If we do not get enough volunteers we may call upon members.

It was asked how much time would be involved and what tasks would the committee handle. Bill mentioned possibly work on the scope of services by the consultant, work products, reports from TAC, etc., as the types of things the executive committee might work on. The committee would probably not need to meet every month, but would need to be on call. A lot of the things could be handled by email, so time involved could be as little as a few minutes per week. Another plus might be that if we have an effective executive committee, then the group as a whole might not have to meet as often.

The results of the discussion were that there is interest in forming an executive committee, and that interested parties will let Bob or Bill know. There was no formal motion, but group consensus that an executive committee be formed. Mark, Bob, Bill, and maybe Craig will try to work together during the next month and put together a proposal with the number of people and structure of how the committee will function.

Jacqueline Winterer brought up the subject of the five different hydrological basins within the watershed and her previous suggestion that subsets be created for each basin, which was shut down before. Bill said he did not think it had been shut down; it just never got beyond some discussion. We will discuss this option with the consultant and see if that is the way to go.

6) Presentation on Farming in the San Dieguito River Watershed: *Matt Witman, Chuck Badger*
Matt's family has been farming about 800 acres in San Pasqual since the mid-60's. The San Pasqual Valley Plan, adopted in 1995, would be a valuable resource for this group as conditions have not changed since then.

When asked to identify the three main issues pertaining to agriculture in the watershed, Matt listed:

- 1) Water quality / water quantity
- 2) Urbanization
- 3) Rededication to preserve the land for agricultural purposes and to minimize urban effects (street runoff, etc.) on future land use; not to cut up the land

7) Presentation on San Dieguito River Park – San Dieguito Lagoon Wetlands Restoration

Project: *Dick Bobertz, San Dieguito River Park JPA*

Dick's presentation on the San Dieguito River Park provided background information on the river park origin and discussed some activities occurring in the river park. Dick spoke about the status of the trail system through the river park, San Dieguito Lagoon, and restoration works underway in the Lagoon, property acquisitions which are underway in the central and eastern parts of the river park.

Dick identified the following issues pertaining to the park in the watershed:

- 1) Preservation of habitat and agriculture
- 2) Impact of upstream flows on the water quality in the San Dieguito Lagoon
- 3) Need for an interconnection of habitat lands
- 4) Need for management of preserved lands
- 5) Restoration of habitat and riparian lands

8) Presentation on the Water System in the San Dieguito River Watershed: Postponed to the May meeting due to lack of time.

9) Update on the Request for Qualifications: Bill Simmons advised that four prospective consultants were interviewed; each had 50 minutes to present their qualifications. There was a tremendous amount of information on watershed that these consultants had. The review panel consisted of Matt Witman, Paul Gebert, Mark Whitehead, and Bill Simmons, and a City representative from EOP, Margarita Borja. A consultant has been picked, but we still need to negotiate the contract with the preferred consultant, and if we run into problems we'll go on to the second. We will announce the selection at the May meeting and the consultant may attend.

10) Other Business: Bob announced that there were two new presentations scheduled for next month, David Gibson on Water Quality in the San Dieguito River watershed, and Jason Jackson on his organization (NRCS) and how they work with farmers and watersheds.

Bob said it would be helpful if members would be willing to host field trips to various parts of the watershed and talk about issues. This would also help members to get to know each other.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Next meeting will be Thursday, May 27, at the Escondido City Hall, Training Room No. 1, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.