

Watershed Planning Guidance Group (WPGG) Minutes
April 28, 2005
Escondido City Hall

In attendance:

Craig Adams (San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy), Chuck Badger (San Diego County Farm Bureau), Kelly Barker (county of San Diego, MSCP Div.), Chris Basilevac (The Nature Conservancy), Cathy Cibit (City of San Diego), Bob Collins (City of San Diego), Melanie Craig (Weston Solutions), Paul Gebert (San Diego County Water Authority), Peggy Goldstein (County of San Diego), John Ingalls (Santa Fe Irrigation District), Lisa Kay (Weston Solutions), Rosanna Lacarra (City of Del Mar), Jim Lyon (City of Poway), Dave Meyer (Rancho Bernardo Planning Board), Chris Nyce (Cleveland National Forest), Jeff Pasek (City of San Diego), Bruce Posthumus (RWQCB), Freda Reid (San Dieguito Lagoon Committee), Bill Simmons (San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy/WPGG Vice Chairman), Matt Witman (San Pasqual Valley Planning)

Meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Vice Chairman Bill Simmons.

A) Introductions:

Everyone introduced themselves.

B) Announcements:

Bob Collins Earth Day is this Sunday, May 1st. There will be a celebration at Balboa Park from 10:00 to 5:00. Bob and Cathy Cibit will be there passing out watershed maps and literature. The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy will also be there.

The TAC Committee has been formed; Bob Collins will be the Chairman. A list of the TAC members and the agenda for the first meeting were distributed. We are pleased with the makeup of this group of very intelligent and motivated people. We would like to take the TAC on a couple of field trips to the upper and middle watershed and would like to request assistance from WPGG members if available.

On June 23 there will be a combined meeting of the WPGG and TAC. At that time we should have the Existing Conditions Report completed. TAC will provide recommendations; it is up to the WPGG to either accept or reject them.

Jeff Pasek presented stream gauge information which was requested at the last meeting. Above Hodges there is a good network, three gauges operated by USGS. They have a web site with real time information on flow and also archived information. There are no stream gauges below the Hodges Dam.

The Water Department has information on Sutherland from 1900 and Hodges from 1920 on flow going into the reservoirs and also overflow information.

C) Project Update/Overview:

Lisa Kay advised that they were making the final touches to the draft Existing Conditions Report which is the first section of the watershed plan. It should be completed by May 14, 2005. They used the Table of Contents to flush out the draft document. It follows the scope of work of the contract and it will be available for those who are interested on a CD in pdf format.

Craig Adams asked if the report would include other land acquisitions, how well the watershed is organized, committees, etc., what is out there? Lisa said that would not be included in the Existing Conditions Report, but would be in the next section, Action Items.

The Existing Conditions Report will be posted on the County's Clean Water web site so it is available for everyone to comment on. Lisa will summarize and report on the comments. Be sure to get your comments to her before June.

D) Discussion of Other Watershed Plans

The LA County Department of Public Works remains active and responsible for keeping actions going beyond their plan. They maintain a web site, send out information with electric bills, obtain funding for major projects; there is a lot of momentum and enthusiasm in that group to keep things going forward.

Some watershed groups are more active than others. Some things to include would be monitoring of the watershed, habitat and species task force, dam committee, etc.

Bruce Posthumus mentioned that there were two key items to keep the plan going—money and interest. If there is enough interest you find a way, but if there is no interest than money doesn't really matter.

Craig Adams asked about a good model/example that we could look at. The Bay Delta has a coordinator, but there are different kinds of structures possible. A bond act provided for the coordinator at Bay Delta.

Cathy said that Mansheim has a vision plan for the San Pasqual Valley, they are forming a couple of task forces. This weekend it will go to the Natural Resources Committee, then to Council. Land Development Code will be update to reflect the new changes.

E) Draft Matrix and Issues of Concern

Melanie Craig, Cathy Cibit, and Bruce Posthumus put together the matrix and key. There may be some overlapping issues. Used notes from all previous meetings and field trips to create the matrix. Tried to boil it down to the main issues.

Bruce said they tried to create the perfect watershed matrix, but failed. Together they came up with three basic categories or watershed uses: 1) water supply, 2) recreation (social resources), and 3) habitat.

On the left side of the matrix the stressors are listed. These are things that threaten or stress the uses listed at the top of the matrix, and might cause problems or degrade the watershed uses. There are a lot of empty boxes; these might be legitimate issues but just did not come up yet. The numbers on the matrix are explained in the key and do not correspond to any of the older lists.

Freda Reid mentioned that the matrix only lists negative things and wondered if we should consider the good things in the watershed, other influences, not just stressors. Lisa said that the good things were included in the Existing Conditions Report.

Bill thanked Melanie, Cathy, and Bruce for all the hard work they put into the matrix and said that we should continue to work on it, look at some of the stressors, block off some areas that don't apply.

Craig Adams thought it would be good to improve on it, but then what do we do with it. Also, we should look for opportunities to prevent problems from occurring or improve areas as well as looking at the negative factors. Also, suggested using the term "elements" rather than "uses."

Bob Collins advised that we have a limited amount of money for the issues of concern. We need to come to a consensus on the issues we want to use the money on and their priority. Lisa should be given directions on where we want to go by this summer so she can put together an action plan. Also, we need to decide how we want to deal with the issues. We also need to get people and organizations outside of this group interested.

Lisa said that they are preparing a Power Point presentation to roll out to potentially interested groups, asking them if they know of other issues that need to be addressed and any suggestions for solving problems, and what elements of the watershed are most important to them. There would also be public meetings where citizens can look at the plan and add information or disagree with the groups issues.

Bob Collins advised that the group needs to agree on what we want to spend our time and resources on in the next couple of months. The issues of concern document is due in July. It is possible to push dates out a bit if needed. Next meeting will be concentrating on the issues of concern document.

Craig Adams said that the group need not come to total agreement before going out to the public. We just need to have some idea of where we are going so the public can indicate if they think that is the right direction. Maybe the group agrees on some of the items, but not necessarily on everything.

Craig Adams moved that the group adopt the issues of concern matrix and key as a base/working tool to work with and identify the key issues. Paul Gebert seconded the motion. Motion was approved. Any input for the matrix is due to Cathy Cibit in two weeks, May 13th.

F) Vision

Lisa and Bob explained that the vision statement should capture what we want to accomplish. Why do we need a vision statement? Bob said that it gives us direction as a group, gives the public an idea of our goals, makes it easier to solicit comments if it is clear what we are trying to do, gives a sense of purpose, a compass to come back to.

Bob read his proposed vision statement as follows:

“Have a functioning and flourishing watershed with compatible land uses, sufficient water supply for beneficial uses, and where habitat and water quality are protected and enhanced.”

It was agreed that the group needs a vision statement. Each member should come up with a draft vision statement for the next meeting. Then we can see how alike or different they are. Keep it simple and short. Would like them to Cathy Cibit within two weeks, by May 13th. They will then be put together and sent out to everyone for comments.

H) Other

Bill Simmons asked if everyone had received the minutes of the February meeting and if there were any changes. Minutes were approved as written.

Bob Collins talked about the proposed brochure being used as an advertising tool. Lynn Baker has volunteered to check with the City of Poway about contributing, but since she is not here, we will hold over to the next meeting.

Cathy Cibit reminded the group that the Executive Committee would be having a phone conference next week to talk about calendar going through June 2006.

TAC will be meeting with this group on June 23rd. We will need a larger room for that meeting, maybe a conference room at Escondido City Hall. Someone suggested Kearny Mesa if Escondido had no large rooms available. TAC will have looked at the draft issues of concern document and give us technical advise.

Bob will check with the County about posting the existing conditions report on their Clean Water web site, and if it is possible, will email everyone and let them know it is there.

Craig Adams suggested that members get on the agenda soon for the groups they represent, to do a presentation that will fit into their group's schedule.

Reminder that vision statements and comments/additions to the matrix are due to Cathy by May 13th.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Next meeting will be June 23, 2005, at 1:30 – 4:00 PM in MOC II Auditorium, 9192 Topaz Way, San Diego, CA (Kearny Mesa area)