

**Watershed Planning Guidance Group (WPGG) Minutes**  
**June 24, 2004**  
**Escondido City Hall**

**In attendance:**

Craig Adams (San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy), Lynne Baker (Endangered Habitats League), Bob Collins (City of San Diego), Steve Dime (San Dieguito Lagoon Committee), Chuck DeMund (Ramona Chamber of Commerce), Paul Gebert (CWA), Liz Giffen (County of San Diego), Lloyd Holt (Santa Fe Irrigation District), John Ingalls (Santa Fe Irrigation District), Tedi Jackson (City of San Diego), Lisa Kay (MEC), Bob McCullough (City of San Diego Water Policy Group), Jesus Meda (City of San Diego Water/Engineering), Suzanne Michel (So. California Wetlands Recovery Project), Jeff Pasek (City of San Diego), Bruce Posthumus (RWQB), Phil Pryde (River Park JPA), Freda Reid (San Dieguito Lagoon Committee), Bill Simmons (WPGG Vice Chairman), Mark Whitehead (WPGG Chairman), Jacqueline Winterer, Matt Witman (San Pasqual Valley Planning)

Meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Chairman Mark Whitehead

1) **Introductions:** Introduction of Jesus Meda from the City of San Diego Water Department, Engineering who will be doing a presentation later.

2) **Approval of Minutes:** Under Item 3 (Announcements) of the May minutes, it was Lynn Baker, not Liz Giffen, who announced that the County was beginning the EIR process for their new general plan. Minutes approved with one correction.

3) **Announcements:**

It was announced that Gregg Sallee, one of the WSIG members, had had a stroke and was in the hospital. He would like to have the group keep his seat open.

Bob asked what issues or subjects would the group like to see presentations on. We have speakers lined up through August. Bruce Posthumus suggested plans for development in the watershed, what is being planned, where, how. Craig Adams said there were two plans that might cover this, the County's General 2020 Plan and the SANDAG Regional Plan. Liz Giffen will try to identify someone from the County to speak on the 2020 Plan.

Jacqueline Winterer asked about two points; there are several water districts within the watershed (which ones are they and what are their boundaries), and plans to transfer recycled water in the water tables. This may be covered in today's presentation.

Phil Pryde said he would like to see a presentation on the future operation of Lake Hodges in conjunction with Olivenhain. This may be covered today as well.

Bob Collins said he had discussions with Council 5 District of San Diego (Brian Maienshein) and briefly talked with Pam Slater-Price about the two addressing the WSIG about their visions. It was also suggested that Bob contact Diane Jacobs of District 2.

Bob introduced Bob McCullough with the City of San Diego's Water Policy and Planning Division.

#### 4) **Consultant Scope of Services:**

Bob Collins mentioned that at our last meeting there was some discussion about the scope of services, but that we deferred talking about it until the Planning Facilities Team (PFT) got together. Craig Adams and Bill Simmons came up with an outline to which a few minor changes were made. We tried to pull the State contract requirements into the outline. Then the outline was passed over to Lisa Kay who further refined it. We would like to get the group's reaction to the scope, then the next step would be to talk to the State, and if they approve it, then negotiate the contract with MEC. Hopefully we could have the contract back in about a month.

Lisa Kay discussed the outline which is broken down into three phases. Phase I is existing conditions and should form the basis for the other phases and actions the group decides to take. The Planning Facilities Team proposed that Phase I be done first and reviewed and then a detailed work program and budget be developed for Phase II and III.

On page two of the scope Lisa had highlighted a-h under Watershed Plan Framework which should be moved to page 1. She anticipates the items under a-h will be fleshed out during Phase I and set the stage for Phase II.

Bill Simmons felt that we could spend a lot of money trying to get the public to come to meetings to discuss existing conditions. He asked if we really needed public meetings at that point and how much money would it cost. Bob Collins commented that there were 25-30 members of the WSIG and that they were all involved with other groups. He is willing to accompany members and talk about the watershed plan to their groups to generate interest, not just send out notices. He will also talk to the State and find out when and how many public meetings might be required. Bruce Posthumus said that he thought the public meetings would be more meaningful after Phase II and during Phase III.

Jacqueline Winterer commented on Item m at the bottom of page 2, monitoring the watershed. What physical, biological, quality data needs to be collected. A volunteer group could be organized to collect data and also to raise funds to have data analyzed.

Craig Adams felt that Phase I was sort of locked in, and Phase II and III would be further developed based on Phase I results. Rather than going out to the general public at first, he suggested meetings with existing specialty groups (agriculture, recreation, etc.) and getting their ideas on issues. Lisa said that this has been done in the past and has worked well.

Bruce Posthumus questioned Phase I – Information Gathering – why Item E was not included with Items A-D with a suggestion of no more than one-third of the consultant-support resources. How much money will be left for Phase II and III? He suggested that the group spend no more than 25% for Phase I, including E. Bob said that whatever was decided on, he would take it to the State for approval before MEC spends any time or money on it.

Mark Whitehead felt that “issues of focus” as in the outline is a better term than “issues of concern.” He saw determining the issues of focus as the group's biggest contribution, but asked how these issues related to the Watershed Plan Framework on page two of outline. Lisa explained that as the issues are identified and categorized, and as goals are determined, that the issues would be linked to a specific goal such as water quality, etc.

Paul Gebert asked why on page 1, Item D, referred to SWRCB requirements rather than drinking water requirements. Bob explained that they probably meant drinking water there.

Bob said that he and Lisa would summarize the outline. It was agreed to drop public meetings from Phase I, include Item E in Phase I work and cost, and move Watershed Plan Framework (Items a-h) on page 2 to Phase I. Bill Simmons moved that the group approve the Scope of Work with these modifications. Steve Dime seconded the motion. Scope was approved.

#### **5) Issues of Concern:**

Lisa Kay created a table showing all the issues received from group members put into the five main categories. This format will allow the group to see the history as issues evolve. As they are discussed, issues of high priority will be identified.

Since some items seemed to fit under more than one category, it was felt that rather than list them more than once, that it would be better to add a column to the table for category, then list all items once and put in one or more categories in that column. It was also suggested that some of the main categories are too big, should be divided into sub-categories.

Matt Witman suggested that when members send in their issues that they also include suggestions for solutions if possible.

Bruce Posthumus suggested that Lisa maintain a table of raw comments so they are not lost, but also start a new consolidated table per suggestions, eliminating duplications. He asked what were the last two columns on the table to be used for and how will the entire process work. Lisa's vision is that she will reorganize the table, send it out again, and it will become an ongoing dialogue. Liz Giffen commented that the Project Clean Water has a web site where this information could be posted for access by everyone. It might even be possible that members could post their comments on the site. We will update everyone at the next meeting.

#### **6) Presentation by the City of San Diego and County Water Authority on Water Supply:**

Bob introduced the four speakers for today: Bob McCullough will speak on groundwater, Jeff Pasek who is a biologist with the City of San Diego Water Department, Jesus Meda with the City of San Diego Water Department/Engineering, and Paul Gebert with CWA will talk about surface water and drinking water quality.

Bob McCullough said that we are just beginning to look at groundwater as a serious source of water. There is a 2002 plan to improve local groundwater supplies. Anyone interested in obtaining copy of this plan should let Bob know.

Bob advised that 90% of our water is imported. New supply sources include conservation, recycled water, groundwater, water transfers. Groundwater needs the most attention and has the greatest potential.

Lynn Baker asked who owns the groundwater. The landowner owns the opportunity to develop the water source.

Mark Whitman asked how water is replenished when it is taken out. Bob advised that the primary source is precipitation and runoff. You don't have the evaporation problems with groundwater that you do with surface water, but there may be some spill out at certain levels.

Craig Adams asked about storage of recycled water. Bob said they would love to look at that, and there has been some minor success in this area. There has been approval for use of recycled water for non-potable use, but most groundwater basins are for potable uses.

Jeff Pasek introduced his team; Paul Gebert will speak about the water system; Jesus Meda will speak about reservoirs, and Jeff will talk about water quality.

Paul said that the City purchased the water rights to the watershed in 1925. Sutherland Dam was started in 1927 but not completed until 1953 due to financial problems.

CWA is involved with the Emergency Storage Project. As a part of that project, Olivenhain Reservoir was completed in 2003, but it does not have much watershed area. One important thing about it though is that it will be linked to Lake Hodges so that water can be added to Hodges when needed or taken out if necessary to avoid spills. This link is scheduled for 2008.

Jesus spoke about the local and imported water system and how it operates. Local water is used to save money. During wet years, reservoir levels are lowered to make room for rain and runoff.

As emergency storage we must hold at least six-tenths of normal demand in the reservoirs, Murray, Miramar, Lower Otay, El Capitan, San Vicente, and Sutherland. The average kept is between 115,000 and 165,000 acre-feet.

Mark Whitehead asked if there were plans to improve Hodges Dam, does it leak, and does it provide some flood control. Jesus advised that the reservoir capacity is not large enough to provide flood control protection. He also said that all dams leak, but not significantly. All cracks and leaks are monitored and tracked. Dams are inspected twice a year by SDOD, and quarterly by the City.

Jeff's presentation was postponed until the next meeting due to lack of time.

7) **Other Business:** None

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

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