

**ZONE 1A ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 12, 2013**

Attendees:

Damien Obid (DO) – City of Cotati
Pat Barnes (PB) – City of Rohnert Park
Rita Miller (RM) – City of Santa Rosa
Toni Bertolero (TB) – Town of Windsor
Sue Kelly (SK)- City of Sebastopol
Ted Crump (TC)- Fifth District member
Hally Swan (HS)- Sonoma RCD

Kent Gylfe (KG) - SCWA
Jon Niehaus (JN) - SCWA
Mike Thompson (MT) - SCWA
Philip Wadsworth (PW) - SCWA
David Royall (DR) – SCWA
Greg Guensch (GG)- SCWA
Susan Haydon (SH)- SCWA

1. **Opening/Introductions:** KG facilitated meeting and introduced new advisory committee member, Ted Crump. All participants were self introduced.
2. **Public Comment:** None.
3. **Current Projects:** KG gave overview of current funded Flood Control Zone 1A projects including:
 - Cotati By-Pass project – stalled due to insufficient funds,
 - Hewett Street project- Located on Santa Rosa Creek. Remaining budget appropriation enables SCWA to address hazardous material related issues on the property pending any NCRWQCB action.
 - Santa Rosa Creek Restoration project- \$442,000 budget is from previously appropriated US Army Corps Laguna project. Now earmarked for Santa Rosa Creek modeling efforts via consultant contract. Seeking FEMA partnership.
 - Laguna de Santa Rosa Enhancement project- JN reported that SCWA has completed 3 years of sediment removal and large-scale restoration in partnership with the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, with additional state grant funding. Riparian restoration activities also conducted in the Laguna in Cotati with the Center for Social and Environmental Stewardship.
 - Copeland Creek detention/recharge project- Prop 84 grant funding, contract pending with DWR. SCWA working with GHD on determining basis of design for stormwater and detention elements of project. Other elements include sediment and vegetation management for steelhead refugia, public trail and connection from town to upper watershed, Crane Creek Regional Park. PB offered to make available the hydrology analysis results prepared and reviewed by consultant engineering firms working on the nearby development projects along Rohnert Park expressway.
 - Brush Creek project- Budget appropriation will carry over to next year and will likely be expanded once management strategy is developed. KG reported that Brush Creek 42A project will be transitioning away from a capital project in favor of a maintenance solution to flooding in the area upstream of Middle Rincon Road.
 - Santa Rosa Creek, “E” Street Fish Ladder project- GG presented progress update on project highlighting the rehabilitation and enhancement elements of Water Agency & NRCS facility. Design options being considered.

4. **Stream Maintenance Program:** DR presented report on stream maintenance work conducted during the 2013 season, June 15 through October 31st and maintenance activities proposed for 2014. Spraying practices to deter blackberry re-growth and to combat growth of invasive species-ludwigia was discussed. SCWA is applying for aquatic spray permit from Sonoma County Ag Commissioner. Discussion was held on sediment and vegetative materials disposal. DR noted that Water Agency complies with permit requirements and reports that sediment goes to half a dozen sites in upper watershed, quarry, and Wheeler Zamaroni (landscape supplier). Chipped vegetation goes to nurseries to make compost. JN reported that modeling is needed to be able to see how creeks perform and that the regulatory agencies want justification and verification on the amount of vegetation and debris that is removed. One of the questions is how much “n” value (roughness) can we accept and provide adequate conveyance and flood protection? TB suggested coordination with SCWA regarding modeling on creeks in Town of Windsor to assist in determining priorities. DO reports that the Subregional Treatment Plan Technical Advisory Committee is overseeing the modeling for the impacts of the treatment plant on the Laguna. DO requested a kick-off meeting to discuss modeling efforts with SCWA and all cities. RM notes that City of Santa Rosa has insufficient funds to address stormwater management, fixing roads and improve storm drain system. Road conditions continue to decline. JN reported that Water Agency has completed 3 years of sediment removal and large-scale restoration in partnership with the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation. In addition, invasive species removal, native plant installation and sediment management has occurred for reaches on Copeland and Hinebaugh Creeks in Rohnert Park. Additional removal of invasive species on Hinebaugh Creek is planned for next year.
5. **FY 2014/15 Budget:** KG distributed copies of the proposed fiscal year 2014/15 Zone 1A budget for discussion and presented preliminary budget with explanations of revenues and expenditures including operational services and project budgets. The Zone 1A, Laguna- Mark West Watershed fund has been managed to try to balance expenditures with revenues. There has been an emphasis on deferred stream maintenance duties to provide flood protection. Water Agency has focused on top priority projects, having to reduce efforts to balance with income. The expenditure category of District Operations also includes labor allocated for modeling on creeks. Committee recommended approval of budget as presented with no issues. MT offered to give a presentation to any city upon request. Recommendation in favor of fiscal year 14-15 budget as presented: 6/0
6. **Reports/Comments:** PW gave report on status of FCDC update. Currently working on draft of hydraulic chapters and expecting a full draft of FCDC spring 2014. Cities will have first opportunity to review and comment, followed by engineering community, with document review protocols not yet set. Two significant changes include: a) recommendations on detention of stormwater and b) rainfall information is based on NOAA (Atlas 14) rather than SCWA or county data. Preliminary discussions have been held with cities to coordinate on future modeling. KG noted that the Water Smart Development Guidebook, which features low impact development techniques, is also being developed, with efforts underway to finish by end of month.
7. **Public Comment:** None.
8. **Next meeting:** To be announced.