

Meeting Notes

Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force Technical Advisory Committee

November 18, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.
Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority
11615 Sterling Avenue
Riverside, CA 92503
Prepared by Rick Whetsel

Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Committee Members Present

Jason Uhley, RCFC&WCD
Pat Boldt, WRCAC
Mark Norton, SAWPA

Others Present

Elroy Kiepke, City of Beaumont; Keith Breskin, City of Canyon Lake; Linda Nixon, City of Hemet; Rita Thompson, City of Lake Elsinore; Danis Bechter, City of Menifee; Kent Wegelin, City of Moreno Valley; Cynthia Gabaldon, City of Perris; Michael Morales, City of Perris; Mike Roberts, City of Riverside; Kevin Street, City of Riverside; Lynn Merrill, City of San Jacinto; Bobby Gustafson, EVMWD; Sudhir Mohleji, EVMWD; Dan Fairbanks, March JPA; Steve Pastor, RCFB; Danielle Kerper, Haley & Aldrich; Nancy Gardiner, Haley & Aldrich; Mark Smythe, RWQCB; Ken Theisen, RWQCB; Chris Stransky, AMEC; Richard Meyerhoff, CDM Smith; Fiona Jin, PACE; Tim Moore, Risk Sciences; Garth Engelhorn, Weston Solutions; Rick Whetsel, SAWPA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jason Uhley called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. DISCUSSION: PHASE 2 TMDL COMPLIANCE MONITORING PLAN FRAMEWORK (NANCY GARDINER/HALEY & ALDRICH)

Ms. Nancy Gardiner provided a presentation to stakeholders to review various options and get direction on the Phase 2 TMDL Compliance Monitoring Program Plan.

This included:

a) Watershed-wide Monitoring

It was proposed that the watershed monitoring would consist of the three current locations (Mainstem San Jacinto above Canyon Lake, Salt Creek at Canyon Lake and Canyon lake outflow) with an option for a fourth site to address special studies/needs of the Task Force.

The Ortega Channel site, Hemet channel and the Cranston Guard Station included sites to be considered for this 4th optional monitoring location.

b) In Lake Monitoring

It was proposed that each lake would have two monitoring locations and the addition of sonde devices for continuous testing of basic lake condition (DO, Temp, pH, conductivity, etc...)

c) Special Studies

A number of special studies were proposed including:

- Extensive DO modeling of Lakes to evaluate refugia
- Use of Satellite Imagery for Phosphorous and Other Constituents

There was discussion regarding zooplankton and the impacts of salinity on lake water quality, and questions were raised if this was part of the work currently being conducted by Dr. Michael Anderson.

It was requested that the consultant develop cost information for each of the special study recommendations. Mr. Tim Moore noted that the Task Force should look at this monitoring plan as having a two year window, until the TMDLs have been revised.

Ms. Nancy Gardiner said that a draft Phase 2 Monitoring Report will be distributed to the TAC via email in mid December.

3. DISCUSSION: TASK SCHEDULE FOR 2015 & TMDL REVISION SCHEDULE FOR 2015-18 (TIM MOORE/RISK SCIENCES)

Mr. Tim Moore provided a hand out which included a draft schedule for revising the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDLs. First on the schedule was a list of TMDL related activities that will be completed in the next six months, and will provide the Task Force with the tools necessary to begin work to revise the TMDLs. Mr. Tim Moore went through and discussed step by step the schedule for the Task Force to revise the TMDL.

Following a brief discussion Mr. Tim Moore informed the TAC that he will convert this schedule into a list of specific tasks with cost estimates for our next meeting.

4. UPDATE: CANYON LAKE HYBRID TREATMENT PROJECT (RICK WHETSEL)

Mr. Rick Whetsel provided a brief update on the status of the Prop 84 grant, noting that the grant agreement has been fully authorized by DWR, SAWPA and LESJWA.

He then informed the TAC on the timing for matching funds and expenses eligible for grant reimbursement, noting that matching funds may be accrued back to October 2008, but only expenses incurred after February 4, 2014 are eligible for reimbursement from the grant. This puts the project in an awkward position in that a significant portion of the project expenses were incurred prior to February 4, 2014, and without a change in the scope LESJWA may not be capable of spending the full grant award. Mr. Rick Whetsel then noted a provision in the project Work Plan that stipulates the following; “based upon the results of the five applications, any remaining grant funds will be used to initiate design and/or supplemental implementation (e.g. hypolimnetic oxygenation, additional alum application, algal disruptors, or other relevant interventions) to address remaining impairments consistent with the hybrid project approach.

Following a brief discussion it was recommended that the TAC evaluate if increasing the alum application rate for either the February or September 2015 events would be an effective use of the funds. It was noted that increasing the dose may require an amendment to CEQA.

It was noted that Mr. Steven Wolosoff will have a recommendation on an updated alum dosing rate available for the Alum Application Coordination meeting to be scheduled for January 2015.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Jason Uhley informed the TAC that the County /MS4 group will be working with WRCAC to map urban areas in the San Jacinto Watershed.

Ms. Pat Boldt informed the TAC that an intern working for the Mystic Lake sub-committee identified during her research series of graphics showing the expansion of Mystic Lake over time, due to subsidence in the area. A graphic was distributed to the TAC showing Mystic Lake in the years 1938, 1967, 1993 and a projection out to 2023.

It was reported that to date there have not been any major fish kills in either Canyon Lake or Lake Elsinore.

Mr. Jason Uhley informed the TAC that the District is considering the development of a Regional Stormwater plan, which is required to be eligible for stormwater grant funding available from the State.

There was a brief discussion on Proposition 1 and the possibility of the availability of funding to support the TMDL and water quality projects.

6. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is a Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDL Task Force and it is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. at EVMWD.

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