



Matt Beard

Trinidad Bay Watershed Council

Meeting Notes

Monday, July 18, 2016, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Civic Club Room, Trinidad Town Hall

Present: Name & Affiliation

Roland Johnson	Westhaven Resident
Steve Saunders	Trinidad Resident
Susan Rotwein	Trinidad Resident
Jonas Savage	Trinidad Rancheria
Sungnome Madrone	Trinhaven Resident
Doug Smith	Humboldt Watershed Council
Don Allan	Westhaven Resident
Becky Price-Hall	Watershed Coordinator, City of Trinidad

Welcome and Introductions: Edits to the meeting notes were noted and will be corrected.

Little River Trail Presentation: Don Allan, Redwood Community Action Agency

Don showed a slide presentation of project maps with trail alternatives and photos of various sections of the trail from Scenic Drive and the 101 south onramp, south to the 101 Crannell off ramp and overpass where the trail would intersect the Clam Beach Trail. The Little River trail has been a sleeper project. It will connect the Hammond and Clam Beach trails from the south to Scenic Drive to the north, across the Little River to the west of the 101 bridge. Currently, pedestrians and bicyclists are able to make it across the Little River on the Little River Highway 101 bridge, however it is not safe. Sadly, when the 101 bridge was retrofitted several years ago, a protected lane was not included in the project.

A feasibility study has been completed with identification of alternate trail corridors. During the study process, a parcel in private ownership between the 101 and the Little River to the south of the Moonstone beach and parking area was purchased by the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust (TCLT) from Green Diamond Resource Company with funding assistance from the Coastal Conservancy, US Fish & Wildlife Service and Green Diamond Resource Company. The Coastal Conservancy is interested in developing funding for the trail design, the next phase of the project. Don Allan approached the county about taking on the project and the County indicated they would need an entity to take on the maintenance of the Trail following completion. The County is maxed out on trail commitments. The TCLT agreed to take on maintenance. Marcella Clem of Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) requested submission of unmet transportation needs – Don suggested the Little River Trail. HCAOG set aside \$8000 to write and submit an Active Transportation Project (ATP) grant for environmental assessments and project engineering. The City of Trinidad agreed to be the Project Lead because this was not a priority project for the County but will clearly benefit the City. Don Allan was hired to work with City Engineer Josh Wolf (GHD) to develop and submit the ATP proposal.

There are three trail alternatives. One route almost follows the old highway 1. Highway 1 was abandoned following the 1965 flood, and a new highway 101 was constructed upslope. Bridge consultants thought it would

be easier to construct a new bridge, but they may not have taken into account the environmental permitting and wetland mitigation that would be needed.

Susan expressed concern about multi modal use and conflicts with pedestrians and bicycles, as is happening on the Hammond Trail. Don explained that eventually the plan is to construct separate bike and pedestrian trail alternatives but at this time the multi modal is being proposed because that is preferred by the funder (Caltrans). It will be easier to secure funding for the lower cost pedestrian routes, so that will follow. The trail will be partially ADA compliant, except in sections where it isn't technically feasible. There is good parking at each end of the trail. Becky asked how the TBWC could further support the project. Don thanked the TBWC for the letter of support and suggested writing a letter thanking Marcella Clem and HCAOG for generously funding some of the proposal development costs.

Watershed & Partner Updates

Jonas reported that Rancheria received the support letter he had requested from the TBWC for the Trinidad Harbor ASBS Storm Water Discharge Elimination and Management Project submitted by the Rancheria for Proposition 1 funding. The project proposes a series of LID, permeable paving, and bioswales to treat stormwater in the Harbor parking lot. This is similar to the proposal submitted to another Proposition 1 funder, but updated to address comments received. The Rancheria also finished updating the NPS watershed assessment which helps with securing funding for implementation of prioritized LID, raingardens, etc...over the next 5 years.

Susan reported that the Crab Season has closed. Some crab were landed but it was not a typical year due to the delay of the season opener due to the levels of domoic acid in the crab meat. Last year's strong El Niño created the warm ocean conditions that favor red tide/harmful algal blooms (HAB) and the high levels of domoic acid in fish, shellfish and other marine creatures. A red tide this serious has not occurred since the early 1980's. Susan said a side note to this is that Alfred Hitchcock's movie The Birds was inspired after birds apparently went crazy along the California Coast. This was actually caused by the birds eating sardines with high levels of domoic acid. We are now officially out of El Niño and there appears to be good upwelling. There is good recreational bite at Humboldt Bay of salmon going after anchovies there.

Becky provided an update of the City's Clean Beaches Initiative grant funded Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Upgrade Project. The City is still receiving homeowner surveys and inspections from OWTS owners contacted about participation in the Program. 33 systems have been inspected, with 5 systems repaired already, and another 5 needing more extensive repairs. Meeting participants asked if the project area could be expanded if not enough homeowners participate in the priority area? Becky said the City would propose this to the funder if needed. Becky reported that a Proposition 1 Storm Water Grant Program application had been submitted by the City for the Storm Water Management Improvement Project on July 8. She said this is the final phase of the overall Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) Storm Water Project and will include treatment and infiltration of the Marine Lab's Stormwater discharge, so will eliminate 2 discharges from the ASBS. The Trinidad Citywide Low Impact Development Planning and Construction Project was awarded Prop 1 funding by the Ocean Protection Council. All these projects include funding for Trinidad Bay Watershed Council support.

Don reported that the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust is working on the Strawberry Rock Trail easement with Green Diamond Resource Company. TCLT is taking the lead and the effort is slowly moving forward on the 29 acre easement. The Land Trust now has its first paid executive director, has an office behind the Library, open a fair

number of hours during the week and during Trinidad Arts Night. Plein Air artists painted a number of Land Trust holdings and these paintings will be auctioned off during Trinidad Arts Night. ED Ben Morehead is doing docent trainings for the California Coastal National Monument Trinidad Gateway volunteers.

Doug is interested in getting composting toilet systems permitted through the County. Apparently at this time, these systems are only approved if there is a permitted OWTS. He noted that invasive species are become much more prevalent.

Sungnome reported that the Wildlife Conservation Board has Prop 1 funds for streamflow enhancements. Luffenholtz is fully allocated, so a storage and forbearance program could make sense, but everything above the box culvert at Scenic Drive is above anadromy, meaning that ocean going fish cannot migrate beyond this culvert, closing it off to all anadromous fish. The Water Boards also has funding for project planning/engineering/permitting. He has met with the City and others to promote the idea of constructing runoff catchments along the Luffenholtz Creek to store water then release when needed to supplement low stream flows. This would be similar to the storage and forbearance program in the Mattole where water is collected and stored in catchments or water tanks for use in the summer under an agreement to forbear from withdrawing water from creeks in low flow conditions. The water rights are maintained but the timing of the water withdrawals is modified. 50 systems could make a significant difference, and Sungnome believes there are up to 15 or more willing landowners and this would provide environmental benefits as well as benefitting downstream water users such as the City of Trinidad Water System. Another project to keep pushing is removing the fish barriers at Scenic Drive and then Highway 101. He also pitched the alternative water supply concept where a Water System intake would be installed in the Luffenholtz headwaters where the water is less turbid during the winter and would require less treatment. In addition, a small hydro power generator could be installed to offset energy use at the Water Plant.

Trinidad Bay Watershed Council Next Steps: Susan suggested that TBWC business be put first on the agenda with presentations later on at a time certain. Becky reported that the TBWC guidelines state there will be 9-11 voting members with a quorum being one more than half the total. Currently, there are 4 voting members. Everyone agreed that it would be good to create a more viable voting membership. Following discussion, it was agreed that at the October meeting, the TBWC framework, structure and procedures would be reviewed and revised. At that time it would be determined how many new voting members would be needed and for which stakeholder categories. Then Becky and other TBWC members would solicit new members. The group also agreed on a new process for approving letters of support: If a letter is needed between the regular quarterly meetings, the person requesting a letter would call a short meeting to present the project, member discussion and vote on providing a support letter. Becky will circulate the TBWC Framework prior to the October meeting.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2016

Future meeting topics: Review and discuss: TBWC Mission Statement, Goals and Principles; TBWC Structure & Procedures; member application process Status of watershed partner project proposals; Onsite Wastewater Treatment System project; water conservation; and using LID to address drought and stormwater issues, incorporating Climate Change and Sea Level Rise in the General Plan update.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

Submitted by Becky Price-Hall