



Matt Beard

Trinidad Bay Watershed Council

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Monday, April 20, 2015, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Civic Club Room, Trinidad Town Hall

Present: Name & Affiliation

Jonas Savage	Trinidad Rancheria
Richard Swisher	Westhaven CSD
Sungnome Madrone	Trin Haven Neighborhood
Sarah Sanders	Trinidad Resident
Marie Kelleher-Roy	Westhaven Resident
Julie Fulkerson	Trinidad
Tyler Duncan	GHD
Dwight Miller	Trinidad
Leisyka Parrott	BLM
Mike Black	ADH
Roland Johnson	Westhaven Resident
Becky Price-Hall	Watershed Coordinator, City of Trinidad

ASBS Water Quality Monitoring Results: Mike Black presented data and graphs showing a comparison of the quantity of City stormwater discharged into Trinidad Bay's Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) before and after Stormwater Project construction (Summer 2014), which showed a 50% reduction in stormwater volume. The volume was measured by a special automatic sampling device (auto-sampler) at Gallindo and Van Wycke Streets. The auto-sampler measures the stormwater flows continuously during precipitation events. Mike then presented Stormwater Project post project water quality monitoring results for October 2014 and February 2015. Samples were collected of the City's stormwater by the auto-sampler, and grab samples were collected at Launcher Beach. Total suspended solids (TSS) were elevated, as usual. Discussion: The currents swirl around in the bay kicking up sediment. The bay has a south exposure to storms and turbidity from other creeks can move up into the bay. Several other creeks were sampled for TSS and some of those were much higher than the Launcher beach levels. Sungnome suggested the TBWC work with Green Diamond to reduce discharges of sediment from the quarry into Parker Creek. Monitoring for bacteria wasn't a focus of the ASBS monitoring and the group agrees there is a need to monitor bacteria in the watersheds and beaches and to reduce pollution from failing OWTS (septic systems). The City is beginning a new grant project to repair or replace failing systems in Parker Creek and Luffenholtz Creek watersheds. Trever Parker will give a presentation about the Clean Beaches Initiative OWTS project at the July meeting.

A mussel die-off has been observed on local beaches, but no one is aware of information about this. The sea star die-off is well known and studied and they appear to be recovering at this point. Mussel populations had been increasing because of reduced predation by sea stars. The group would be interested in finding out more about the mussel issue.

Becky reported the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project released three reports presenting results of the 2011-14 ASBS water quality studies by the North Coast Regional ASBS monitoring group. The reports presented results for all the ASBS on the North Coast, including the Trinidad ASBS, ocean receiving water monitoring for a variety of constituents, toxicity testing, mussel tissue bioaccumulation analyses, and

rocky intertidal surveys. The City of Trinidad, Trinidad Rancheria and HSU Marine Lab are all members of the North Coast Regional ASBS monitoring group. The reports are available at the TBWC website:

<http://www.trinidadwatersheds.org/norcal-asbs-monitoring-reports-released/>.

Water Shortage Discussion: The State is requiring small water utilities (less than 3000 connections) to reduce water use by 25% or limit outdoor watering to 2 days a week. The Luffenholtz water supply is currently ok, and the City is installing a device to measure the flow downstream of the plant so water pumping can be adjusted to allow the minimum required flow. What if there is a mega drought? There was a water crisis during the drought in the 1970s, and there likely would have been one in the last couple of years if there hadn't been early fall rains. The current drought is an opportunity to plan for mega-droughts.

Ideas: Find additional water sources and develop groundwater recharge projects in the Luffenholtz watershed. There should be a leak detection project. City should look at distribution pipe replacement in known critical areas. When houses are unoccupied owners should turn off the water so leaks won't go unnoticed. Some cities have big fines for leaks that haven't been attended to. There should be a stormwater storage project for residents to collect water. Chi Wei Lin has installed a 5000 gallon tank. These types of storage projects are being done in Southern Humboldt to reduce impacts to creeks during the dry season. There are many funding opportunities for water conservation and drought related projects such as groundwater recharge, replacement of leaking pipes, etc...

Watershed & Partner Updates

City of Trinidad: The Phase I Stormwater Project construction is completed. The City will be looking for funding for watershed and drought related projects.

Trinidad Rancheria: Jonas reported that the drought is also an issue for the Rancheria. They have handed out water conservation kits to members, and passed on the extra ones to the City. The Casino has a wastewater treatment plant that treats and recycles water for toilet flushing, which saves many gallons of potable water. The Rancheria tries to recycle as much as possible. They are looking at additional measures to conserve water. Many tribes in Northern California have much more severe water shortages. The Rancheria is working on energy assessments and a feasibility study to install auto charging stations at the Rancheria and at the Harbor area. They have a grant to update the non-point source management plan and will seek public input. The Harbor Parking lot is the Rancheria's single remaining ASBS discharge. They have developed 70% plans for a project to eliminate the parking lot discharge using Low Impact Development (LID) techniques to treat and infiltrate the runoff. The Casino parking lot is being worked on bit by bit to reduce runoff.

Westhaven CSD: Richard reported that they have a couple of Prop 84 drought grants. The CSD loses 30-35% of water in the distribution lines – they'll be replacing about half the distribution pipes. WCSD has seven miles of distribution lines. Two of the seven miles are 2" polyethylene pipe and are responsible for 95 % of the leaks. The project will replace one mile of the 2" PEP, hoping to get rid of the worst of it. There is also a project to build a new storage tank, however the bids came in way over the engineer's estimate so the project is on hold until additional funding can be secured. Westhaven customers use around 45 gallons per person per day, so there is not a lot of opportunity for additional conservation.

County: Sarah reported that the county started beach sampling for bacteria this month at Strawberry Creek, Little River, Luffenholtz, Old Home Beach, and State Beach. Becky will put the link to those County reports on the TBWC website.

Residents: There have been many local efforts to remove ivy and pampas grass and promote native plants in the landscapes. There is concern about dog poop contributing to bacterial pollution in creeks and at the beach. Plants can be watered using water rain barrels and from sinks collected in a bucket while waiting for the water to heat up.

California Coastal National Monument: Leisyka reported that the BLM is in a public scoping process for the Lighthouse Management Plan. Comments need to be submitted in writing. There is a pair of public meetings on Wednesday April 22 at the Lighthouse (in the afternoon) and at City Hall (in the evening). There is a California Coastal National Monument Trinidad Gateway meeting on Friday morning. Leisyka is helping out with the Trinidad School's MARE (Marine Activities, Resources and Education) Program. She will be working with the 6th grade class.

Trinidad Bay Watershed Council projects & activities:

Fish Festival June 21: The Fish Festival chair proposed that TBWC take on the role of having volunteers distribute water in re-usable containers to festival-goers. "I have water dispensers and New World Water will bring their water purifier to fill peoples' containers. I also have 60 small mason jars that can be run through the sanitizer at the school." The group didn't like the idea of the glass jars and was concerned that there would be a lot of work involved with the water distribution that would detract from our education and outreach. It was proposed that the group mull over the idea a little bit and figure out what would be feasible and fit our mission. Becky will circulate a Fish Festival volunteer sign-up sheet.

Newsletter: Ideas for the next newsletter - include information from the April meeting notes, articles about water conservation and the drought, water quality monitoring results (if available) and the OWTS project.

Trinidad Bay Report: Becky handed out copies of the draft Trinidad Bay Report for review and discussion. Becky thanked Sarah for editing assistance. The group was generally pleased with the report, and the balance between length and depth. The group would like to accept GHD's offer to do professional layout and develop a few graphics. A short reference section will be added directing readers to the TBWC website for additional information and resources. It was suggested that enough copies be printed to disseminate at the vacation rentals. There was discussion but no decision about whether to develop a tri-fold brochure that summarized the report, or promoting the TBWC, or with watershed protection information.

Next Meeting Date: Monday July 20, 2015

Future Agenda Items: ASBS Stormwater Project post-project water quality monitoring results; Onsite Wastewater Treatment System project; Climate change issues including coastal erosion, floods & drought impacts; drought and el Nino predictions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30. Submitted by Becky Price-Hall