



Matt Beard

Trinidad Bay Watershed Council

Meeting Notes

Monday, January 25, 2016, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Civic Club Room, Trinidad Town Hall

Present: Name & Affiliation

Trever Parker	Streamline Planning, City Planner
Susan Rotwein	Trinidad Resident
Richard Swisher	Westhaven CSD
Dagan Short	GHD
Ravi Jawanda	State Water Boards
Roland Johnson	Westhaven Resident
Annie & Tom Lindquist	Westhaven Residents
Becky Price-Hall	Watershed Coordinator, City of Trinidad
Jonas Savage	Trinidad Rancheria
Maureen Harrington	Indian Health Service
Paula Mushrush	County of Humboldt
Zac Frater	USDA Rural Development

Welcome and Introductions

Septic System Upgrade Program – Clean Beaches Initiative Grant

City Planner Trever Parker is the Project Manager for the Clean Beaches Initiative Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Project. Trever explained that the City has been awarded another round of Clean Beaches Initiative funding, with the previous project taking place in 2008 – 10. The project was identified in the Trinidad Westhaven Integrated Coastal Management Plan. Bacteria was identified as a significant pollutant in the watersheds. To increase the likelihood of achieving detectable water quality improvements, the funder has limited the project area to Parker Creek and Joland /lower Luffenholtz Creek. Through analysis of the GIS using land use, water quality and parcel information, 75 – 100 priority parcels are currently being identified and will be invited to participate voluntarily in this program. Participating property owners will be offered reduced-cost septic system inspections. Based on the inspection results, approximately 25 systems will be prioritized for repair or replacement, with financial assistance being available on a sliding scale to income eligible homeowners.

The State has adopted new OWTS/Septic System requirements and the County is drafting new requirements to be put in place which will affect Westhaven Residents since the beaches between Little River and Trinidad State beach have been 303(d) listed for bacterial contamination. Trever handed out the flyers about the OWTS Grant Program that will be mailed to priority parcel owners.

Discussion: Meeting participants discussed the challenges of identifying and prioritizing parcels for this program without on the ground knowledge. Inspections of older systems often require additional expense related to locating the system components, so budget flexibility may be needed to pay for these expenses. Becky Price-Hall presented a handout of possible financing sources for OWTS repairs and replacement. Maureen Harrington with Indian Health Service described the Scattered Homes Program that can assist with improvements of Indian owned homes. Zac Frater with the USDA Rural Development described the Single Family Housing Repair program that assists low income homeowners with loans or grants. Paula Mushrush with the Humboldt County Planning Department described the Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program which assists low income homeowners with health and safety related repairs. For more information, please visit the OWTS Project description on the TBWC website at <http://www.trinidadwatersheds.org/programs-and-projects/> .

Trinidad General Plan and Local Coastal Program Updates and Climate Change Vulnerability Report:

The City of Trinidad received a grant from the Coastal Commission to complete the update of the City's General Plan and Local Coastal Program over the next two years. Trever Parker provided a flyer about the LCP update grant project. She reported that most of the Draft General Plan is on the City website at <http://trinidad.ca.gov/documents-library/category/21-general-plan-update.html> . Dagan Short reported that GHD has recently completed a draft Climate Change Vulnerability Report which identifies vulnerabilities in the City's Planning Area due to sea-level rise, precipitation and temperature. The report will be available for review in the next couple of months.

Watershed & Partner Updates

Richard Swisher reported that WCSD has three grant funded projects including water loss reduction, construction of a new water storage tank and reducing disinfection byproducts.

Jonas Savage reported that the Rancheria is working on a watershed based plan and updating the Nonpoint Source Pollution Assessment and Plan, and looking for opportunities for Low Impact Development to reduce pollutants in stormwater.

Susan Golledge-Rotwein reported that domoic acid testing is still under way to determine if it is safe for the Fish & Wildlife Department to open the Commercial Crab Fishery in California. Oregon has already opened. Crescent City domoic acid levels were still elevated at the time of the most recent testing.

Becky reported that the City of Trinidad has been invited to submit a full proposal to the Ocean Protection Council for a City-wide Low Impact Development (LID) Planning and Construction Project. Bioswales and infiltration systems will be constructed on View Street and West Street, and a rain garden with infiltration system will be constructed on Hector and West Street. These were designed and permitted during the recently completed Phase 1 Stormwater Management Improvement Project. The project also includes development of LID zoning and restoration policies to avoid infiltrating in areas that could exacerbate bluff instability; a series of workshops and a guidebook will be developed to promote LID and Ocean Friendly Gardening techniques; a residential LID package will be developed to make it

easier for residents to install LID on their property; and finally, there will be an incentive program to provide cost share funds for residential LID installation. Also coming up, the City will apply for Proposition 1 Funding for Phase2 of the Stormwater project.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2016

Future Agenda Items: 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 7:40.

Submitted by Becky Price-Hall