



Matt Beard

Trinidad Bay Watershed Council

Meeting Notes

Monday, April 26, 2016, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Civic Club Room, Trinidad Town Hall

Present: Name & Affiliation

Trever Parker	Streamline Planning, City Planner
Roland Johnson	Westhaven Resident
Thomas Saunders	Trinidad Rancheria
Danny O'Shea	Westhaven Resident
Susannah Manning	CA State Parks & Big Lagoon Rancheria
Dagan Short	GHD
Brendan Byrd	GHD
Becky Price-Hall	Watershed Coordinator, City of Trinidad

Welcome and Introductions:

Draft Climate Change Vulnerability Report Presentation and Discussion:

Dagan Short and Brendan Byrd provided a [presentation about the draft Climate Change Vulnerability Report and Adaptation Response](#). The presentation, report and appendices are available on the TBWC website on the resources page at the following link: <http://www.trinidadwatersheds.org/resources/>. The report was based on existing information and methodologies, no new quantitative studies were used. The report presents the worst case ("A2") and best case scenarios ("B1") based on high and lower global carbon emissions. The sea-level rise predictions ranged from 11" to 50" above sea level in the year 2000. Precipitation (including fog) was predicted to decrease somewhat, with increased rain intensity (large storm events). The wildfire risk is increased significantly to 2.5 – 3 times the current risk by the year 2085. Identified vulnerabilities & impacts included: increased water demand due to increased temperatures; impacts to public beaches, coastal bluffs and the Trinidad harbor due to sea-level rise; impacts to water supply quality and quantity due to decreased overall precipitation and more intense rain events, and increased vulnerability to wildfires. Potential adaptation strategies include updating planning documents and plans, controlling stormwater runoff and pollution, foster better understanding of sea-level rise impacts, increasing water conservation and promoting fire-safe communities.

Discussion:

Feedback from meeting participants about the draft Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Responses presentation included: Sea-level Rise (SLR) estimates may be way too low and there should be a mention that the SLR could be well above the currently published predictions; bluff stability and erosion should be given more attention in this or a separate report.

Watershed & Partner Updates

City Planner Trever Parker reported that the Clean Beaches Initiative OWTS project monitoring plan was approved so the first round of monitoring was conducted along Parker, Luffenholtz and Joland Creeks on the beach and on Westhaven Drive. All six sites exceeded the water quality standards for indicator bacteria. What

other monitoring has been done? Trever explained that the City has done a lot of sampling over the years on the beach seeps and stormwater outfall; the county samples creek mouths monthly for bacteria and Baykeeper will be sampling Little River.

Becky reported that the City had completed the Ocean Protection Council Proposition 1 full application for the Citywide Low Impact Development Planning and Construction Project. A Prop 1 Storm Water Grant Program Pre-application was submitted by the City for the final phase of the Storm Water Management Improvement Project, with a full application due on July 8. GHD will present the draft Climate Change Planning and Vulnerability report to the TBWC at the April meeting.

Susannah Manning (State Parks) reported that she is seeking partners for a project to develop a sand budget at State Beach and to determine the elevation of the buried forest below the beach using the State Parks' RTK (GPS unit for accurately measuring elevation). The group is interested. GHD completed a geotechnical analysis in 2012 for the Stormwater Project which included some portions of the bluffs along State Beach.

Danny O'Shea reported that the ocean is in trouble: The rocks are coated with sea anemones. This follows on the decline of sea star populations due to wasting disease. It had been predicted that mussel populations would explode because of reduced predation by the sea stars, but instead the sea anemones are increasing and displacing young mussels. The bull kelp is being heavily grazed by the sea urchins. The increasing ocean acidification (lower pH) affects all these organisms, possibly including the increased harmful algal blooms (raising the levels of domoic acid) the sea stars, and the abalone, which have had a die-off.

Thomas Sanders reported that the Trinidad Rancheria is working on their Watershed Assessment, updated each 5 years. The Watershed Assessment sets the priorities for stormwater and LID projects in the coming years.

2016 Trinidad Bay Watershed Council Activities:

The Trinidad Fish Festival will be on Sunday June 19. Becky asked the meeting participants if there is interest in tabling at the Fish Festival. Several people signed up for a time slot. Becky will circulate the sign-up sheet to the active TBWC members to fill in the remaining slots, and she will sign up with the Greater Trinidad Chamber of Commerce for booth space, hopefully in front of the City Annex.

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

Future Agenda Items: 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