



Matt Beard

Trinidad Bay Watershed Council

Meeting Notes

Monday, November 7, 2016, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Civic Club Room, Trinidad Town Hall – room was double booked so
Meeting moved to City Annex, 463 Trinity Street at 6:45 pm

Present: Name & Affiliation

Roland Johnson	Westhaven Resident
Jonas Savage	Trinidad Rancheria
Sungnome Madrone	Trinhaven Resident
Don Allan	Westhaven Resident
Becky Price-Hall	Watershed Coordinator, City of Trinidad

Welcome Before the meeting convened, it was discovered that the meeting room had been double booked. The meeting participants agreed to move the TBWC meeting to Becky's office in the City Annex at 463 Trinity Street where the meeting was convened at 6:50.

Review and discuss TBWC Framework, Structure & Procedures, membership, voting, and next steps

Three voting members were present out of a total of 5 voting members. There was a brief discussion about making decisions at this meeting without the required quorum or minimum of yea votes. The attendees agreed to develop recommendations that will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting, with email voting if necessary. Roland, Jonas, Don, Susan and Jeremy are the voting members. Votes from all 5 voting members should be required to act on the recommendations.

Discussion: It was agreed that some of the rules need revisiting in response to the small number of voting members remaining and difficulty in getting a quorum. Getting more members and better participation is important. The following ideas were discussed, with changes to any Framework & Structure rule identified as "**Recommendation**":

- Becky and the TBWC members will begin actively recruiting new general and voting members.
 - Marine Laboratory/HSU – It would be beneficial to get someone to participate because the University is a major Trinidad Bay/ASBS watershed partner. Becky will discuss with Lab Director Brian Tissot, Sungnome will discuss with regular TBWC participant Danny O'Shea (HSU Oceanography lecturer)
 - Outdoor recreation – Center Activities, Pacific Outfitters, Kayak Zak
 - Green Diamond is an important watershed partner because it's the largest landowner in the watersheds, however Jeremy has not participated since 2013. Becky will contact Jeremy Wright to request a GDRC representative attend TBWC meetings.
- Voting member representation categories: It is beneficial to have diverse perspectives, but this must be balanced with the need for additional voting members. No changes are needed.
- Non-landowner residents should be eligible to be voting members. Voting member eligibility: 2009 approved framework required voting members to be property owners residing in the watershed or business owners doing business in the watershed.

- **Recommendation:** Change this to “voting member must be engaged in the watershed as a homeowner, resident, business owner or representative of an organization”.
- It is challenging to maintain 9 – 11 voting members with quorum of over half of voting members.
 - **Recommendation:** Drop number of voting members to 5 – 7; with 4 being a quorum. Allow email voting if necessary, provided discussion is not needed.
 - **Recommendation:** Replace a voting member if 3 of 4 meetings are missed. Becky would send an email to anyone that has missed 2 meetings in a row to inquire if the person is still interested in being a voting member and letting them know if a third meeting is missed, a replacement voting member will be recruited.
- Change meeting agenda – Schedule presentations on relevant, interesting topics (such as the beach sampling bacteria DNA results, Crab season outlook, Oceanography topics, etc...); then discuss TBWC business; then partner & watershed updates. The updates tend to be too long, so to shorten the updates during the meeting, Becky should once again request written updates from partners and members to circulate with the agenda and be included in the meeting notes.
 - **Recommendation:** Change agenda format as follows: 1. Welcome and introductions, 2. Review meeting notes and set agenda, 3. Presentation, 4. TBWC Business, 5. Brief partner & watershed updates.
- Consider new meeting days and changing the meeting time to late afternoon. It was noted that the Meeting procedures specify meetings start promptly at 7:00 and adjourn at 9:00. The meeting time changed to 6:30 in 2011. **Recommendation:** Delete the time from the meeting procedures.
- Improve the meeting publicity and visibility to attract more participants. Becky will circulate the media release template for input.
- Publish a newsletter. Until 2015, Becky had funding through the Watershed Coordinator Grant for newsletters. Jonas said the Rancheria may be able to help with some aspects of the newsletter. Roland said that the newsletters could be simplified so it is less time consuming. TBWC members could submit articles. Becky suggested that since she already types up quarterly meeting notes, it would be easy to convert them into a “newsletter” for publishing and posting on the website.
- Having the voting member structure is important because this gives consistency to the TBWC decisions rather than decisions being made by whoever happens to attend a particular meeting.
- Monday is not the best day for at least 4 long term participants. Next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday January 17 at 6:30. Changing the meeting time will be discussed at a future meeting.

Improve participation in Clean Beaches OWTS Repair Assistance Program:

Becky explained that 20% -30% of homeowners contacted responded by having their system inspected and sent in the homeowner survey. Of those, 5 systems were approved by the Technical Advisory Committee for repairs. There is funding for repair/replacement of up to 24 systems. Becky asked for suggestions to improve participation for round 2 repairs in 2017.

- Include all of Luffenholtz Creek, Two Creeks and Old Wagon Road tributary. This would increase the number of residences without changing the Luffenholtz focus area.
- Side issue – Sungnome explained that the County should change the leach field setback distance from wells and watercourses for certain soil and groundwater conditions. When soils are saturated, bacteria can impact water quality over a longer distance. Relevant to the current discussion because if this is the case, some systems that are considered functioning properly could be a source of bacterial water pollution. This will be included as an agenda item at a future meeting.

- Send post card to draw interest in the program that does not overwhelm homeowner with too much information.
- Send out LAMP article or find a way to inform residents that the County will have more strict regulations of OWTS near watercourses in Westhaven, and invite them to improve their system before the new permitting and reporting goes into effect.

Watershed & Partner Updates

Trinidad Rancheria: Jonas reported that the Rancheria is waiting to hear if their Prop 1 Storm Water Grant Program application was successful (as is the City of Trinidad).

City of Trinidad: Becky reported that the Citywide Low Impact Development Planning and Construction Project grant agreement is close to being executed and will be getting started soon. The project will construct several LID facilities that were designed during the previous storm water project but not constructed due to lack of funding. Sungnome observed that a problem with many LID designs being constructed recently is lack of an component where the stormwater enters and the sediment can settle out before flowing into the vegetated infiltration area. The settling area should be designed to be easily cleaned out with a shovel. The City's Prop 1 SWGP application (pending) includes elimination the Marine Lab storm water outfall into the ASBS. The Van Wycke Trail project received funding and will kick off with a public meeting to discuss trail options. Becky will send the meeting notice to the Watershed Council email list.

The Little River Active Transportation proposal submitted by the City was not successful this round. The funder was focused on urban areas for this round. Don suggested asking Suzanne Theiss (Caltrans) for her feedback about the proposal and how to improve it for submitting it again in the future. Suzanne was very helpful during development of the proposal.

Trinidad Coastal Land Trust: Don reported that Charlie Netzow is the new treasurer for TCLT. Having the gallery open for Trinidad Arts Night has been very successful. ED Ben Morehead received funding from the Conservation Lands Fund to promote the CCNM additions in Humboldt County, and especially the BLM Trinidad Head Lighthouse property. The No Ivy Leaguers is lobbying for Caltrans to deal with the ivy between Scenic and the Freeway where it's really rampant.

Sungnome reported that he and Don have been looking at potential funding for the Watershed Plan priority action to reduce sediment the Luffenholtz Creek and receiving water. The Sediment Reduction Source Water Protection project on the upper Luffenholtz was completed in 2014. The private roads assessed in 2006-2008 in the lower watershed are still a problem and it's worthwhile to continue looking for funding, and possibly to re-assess some of the areas.

Sungnome has been working to convince the City to apply to the State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (\$35,000 available as a grant) for a feasibility study of tapping springs in the Luffenholtz headwaters, piping it down to the water plant and generating power. This could provide raw water with less sediment during the storm season. During low flow periods, the water intake could be switched back to the infiltration gallery at the water plant to maintain higher dry season instream flows above the water plant.

Sungnome would also like to see a pilot project proposal (SDWSRF, \$35,000) developed for feasibility and design for developing a groundwater recharge and forbearance program where impoundments would be created in third order tributaries that store flows from the storm season which is then gradually releases into the creeks. This concept has been discussed in previous meetings. Some of the water (10% for example) is available to

participating landowners for irrigation. The City could do a lot to promote and incentivize water storage projects including general plan updates, and ordinance revisions to reduce fees and streamline permitting for this type of project with public benefits.

The County has Luffenholtz streamflow telemetry – the City should ask to receive this streamflow data. The County has also proposed abandoning its water rights on the Lower Luffenholtz. The group was in favor of having Becky draft a letter asking the County about the status of the water right and why it would like to abandon the rights. The meeting participants will finalize and sign the letter. This won't need a vote because it is soliciting information only and not an action. Meeting participants felt that it would be beneficial if the County maintained those rights for streamflow as that stream segment has one of the best populations of resident trout.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 17, 2017 at 6:30.

Future meeting topics: County leachfield setbacks; CBI Onsite Wastewater Treatment System project; water conservation; using LID to address drought and stormwater issues, incorporating Climate Change and Sea Level Rise in the General Plan update; Trinidad Trail projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Submitted by Becky Price-Hall