



Matt Beard

Trinidad Bay Watershed Council

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, April 25, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Civic Club Room, Trinidad Town Hall

Present: Name & Affiliation

Roland Johnson	Westhaven Resident
Jonas Savage	Trinidad Rancheria
Erin Quinlan	Westhaven Resident
Richard Swisher	Westhaven Community Services District
Danny O'Shea	Trinidad Resident
Sungnome Madrone	Trinhaven Resident
Jeremy Wright	Green Diamond Resource Company
Carol Moné	CNPS
Jill Mefford	Outside Trinidad
Virginia Waters	Trinidad Museum Society
Ingrid Bailey	Trinidad Museum Society
Becky Price-Hall	Watershed Coordinator, City of Trinidad

Welcome and Introductions: The group welcomed all guests and the returning old members Jeremy Wright, Erin Quinlan and Danny O'Shea. There was confusion about the meeting location because there was a planning commission meeting in the Town Hall.

Review January 17, 2017 meeting notes and set agenda: No changes to the meeting notes or agenda were suggested.

Ocean Friendly Gardening: Becky gave a short summary of the Ocean Friendly Gardens assistance program funded by a grant from the Ocean Protection Council. Ocean Friendly Garden (OFG) techniques include directing rainwater appropriately, soil improvement, and selection of native plants that reduce the need to use garden chemicals and irrigation. OFG helps protect Trinidad Bay water quality, reduces water used for irrigation and enhances wildlife habitat. Rain Gardens, rain barrels and cisterns, and permeable paving are examples of OFG features, also known as Low Impact Development or LID. The City is partnering with Humboldt Surfrider and GHD to create an incentive program to rebate the cost of materials for property owners to install Ocean Friendly Gardens. Becky led a discussion of how to make this a successful program:

OFG Workshop format: There is funding for two workshops that could cover site assessment, planning & layout, and actual work digging, soil prep, downspout disconnection, planting, etc. Would a classroom style workshop be helpful or hands on work party with participants learning about and creating a garden? The group was more interested in a hands-on workshop and liked the idea of the work party model with participants taking turns installing gardens at each other's' homes. Starting at the City Manager's office with the OFG Demonstration project or at Trinidad School makes sense because it would help market the program. The Surfrider OFG volunteers have agreed to help with 2 workshops.

Ocean Friendly Garden Fair: It was agreed that this could be a lot of work, so we should look for opportunities to have this in conjunction with another event such as the Fish Festival or Trinidad Arts Night. A guided or self-

guided OFG tour would be helpful and could include the native plant garden at the Trinidad Museum, which is a beautiful example of ocean friendly gardening.

Incentive Program: After hearing how the program might work, there were questions about how the benefits of each garden installed would be determined. Becky explained that it would be an estimate based on the size, the type of feature installed and how much runoff could be treated. The group discussed places in town that would benefit from OFG such as the gas station, Market parking lot, Salty's on the corner. Surfrider volunteers would like to recruit two property owners for the incentive program and assist with installation of their OFG. Paul Hertzog would be a good contact for how to roll out an OFG program. California Native Plant Society (CNPS) provides a free consultation to CNPS members wishing to use native plants in their yards.

Experience with and lessons learned about Low impact development:

- Use mushroom culture (mycoremediation) to reduce pollutants in soil such as heavy metals. Many of the pollutants are broken down by the mushrooms, but what happens with heavy metals? When the mushroom decays are they released back into the soil?
- Fall is the best time to plant native plants because they don't need watering to get established, though sometimes they need watering the first couple of summers.
- Installing dog waste digesters could reduce some of the water pollution from dog poop. There was a question about how to do this without contributing additional bacteria to areas with high groundwater.
- Attention should be paid to designing low impact development features that can be easily maintained. The HSU LID has a design flaw because stormwater flows in and deposits silt and pollutants in the rocks and plantings that can reduce the effectiveness. There should be a stormwater entry zone with a maintenance apron or settling basin that can be easily cleaned out.
- Jonas said the Rancheria installed a rain garden at the entrance to the Tribal Headquarters that is doing well. One issue has been that during the drought it had to be watered since the soil was so well draining. There is a balance between moisture retention and drainage so the plants can survive, but the garden doesn't overflow during storms. They have updated their non-point source assessments and are planning installation of several Low Impact Development features to handle runoff from the Casino parking lot and a few other areas.
- Provide financial incentives for rainwater catchment such as reduced permitting fees. Becky explained that was possible. Cross connection control (with backflow prevention device) may be required for water customers when a water tank is installed.
- Humboldt Surfrider is starting a local Ocean Friendly Gardening Program with support from the state organization which has successful programs in other areas. Trinidad's program could be the initial focus for the group in getting the program going.
- Becky requested suggestions on a draft OFG brochure describing the incentive program.

Brief Trinidad Bay Watershed & Partner Updates

North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is having their Spring Wildflower Show and plant sale the first weekend in May at the Jefferson Center in Eureka. They also have a fall sale.

Westhaven Community Services District: Richard included an invitation to become a TBWC member in the WCSD newsletter.

McConnahas Creek: Danny reported that the profile of the McConnahas Mill Creek has changed a lot over the last couple of years. Lots of sediment has eroded out of the creek bed, which has dropped down significantly.

In the steam donkey days, logs were hauled down creeks which filled them in with soil. With the huge rainfall this year, the material is washing out of the creeks at a very fast rate.

Private Road Repairs: Sungnome reported that he and Don Allan are looking for funding to repair private roads in the watersheds. Erin reported that undersized culverts have been blowing out and moving a lot of materials down the creeks.

OWTS Repairs: The City is continuing outreach to homeowners to assist with grant funds to repair failing septic systems in the Parker, Luffenholtz and Joland Creek areas. Becky mentioned that there is still funding available to assist homeowners with OWTS repair costs, but it continues to be a challenge to get homeowners interested in the program. Several meeting participants said that it was likely that many people don't want to have government officials visit their property. There was the suggestion that the program write a letter assuring homeowners that officials working with this program would not be looking at anything other than the septic system.

Trinidad Rancheria: There will be a Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA) e-waste collection at the Rancheria on June 24. Call Carlos at HWMA for more information. Work is being done on invasive species removal and integrated pest management.

Green Diamond: Jeremy reported that they are working with the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust on the Strawberry Rock Trail. More harvest units are scheduled this year than for many years. They have fielded phone calls about this. For more information, call the Company or speak with Jeremy directly. At Jeremy's invitation, Sungnome explained that he walked with the staff forester and a neighbor to change some flagging in order to protect unstable slopes. On some units, work will be done with the feller-buncher to remove smaller trees and leave larger trees.

TBWC Business

- **Trinidad Fish Festival Sunday June 18:** Becky sent around a volunteer sign-up sheet for the Trinidad Bay Watershed Council table. We will try to get the booth right in front of the City Manager's office, which is the site of the OFG Demonstration project.
- **July Meeting Topic:** Sungnome offered to put together a presentation on effectiveness of the Luffenholtz Creek Project completed in 2015. Marine Lab Director Brian Tissot is available to present on Sea Star Wasting Disease. Becky will coordinate with Brian and Sungnome to schedule these presentations at future meetings.

Next Meeting Date: The next regular meeting will be Tuesday July 11, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p. m. Notes prepared and submitted by Becky Price-Hall

Future meeting topics: Presentation about effectiveness of Luffenholtz watershed project; Home Beach erosion & Lighthouse; County leachfield setbacks; CBI Onsite Wastewater Treatment System project; Residential LID and rainwater collection; Sea Star Wasting (HSU & Trinidad School project); Ocean Acidification; CCNM expansion; Climate Change and Sea Level Rise; Trinidad Trail projects.