



Matt Beard

Trinidad Bay Watershed Council

Draft Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, January 25, 2023 from 4:30 – 6:30 pm
Via Zoom

The Trinidad Bay Watershed Council works collaboratively to improve and maintain the watersheds, coastal waters and communities in the Trinidad and Westhaven area for the benefit of all community members.

Meeting Purpose: Discuss issues and activities in the Trinidad-Westhaven watersheds

Present:

Brita Goldstein, Green Diamond Resource Company
Paul Rosenblatt, Westhaven Community Services District (WCSD)
Danny O'Shea, McConnahas Creek
Thomas Saunders, Trinidad Rancheria
Roland Johnson, South Fork Two Creeks
Steve Ladwig, City Council, City of Trinidad
Steve Madrone, 5th District Supervisor
Trevor Parker, SHN, Trinidad City Planner
Don Allan, Two Creeks
Becky Price-Hall, City of Trinidad

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome and Introductions:
 - a) Brief Introductions
 - b) Becky restated that this a community group. Voting Members and Business include Green Diamond, Trinidad Rancheria, Yurok Tribe, Ancestral Society, etc.
 - c) Non-Voting Members (advisory roles) include staff from city of Trinidad, Westhaven Community Services District, etc.
2. Finalize Agenda (all) – No additions.
3. Discussion
 - a) *Tectonics and Sea Level Rise in the Trinidad Bay, CA Region* – Danny O'Shea, Oceanography Lecturer, Cal Poly Humboldt
 - i. In light of the recent earthquakes, D. O'Shea provided an overview of local plate tectonics on the North Coast. He summarized plate tectonic basic physics and activity along the Juan de Fuca plate. Humboldt is located at the southern end of the Cascadia Margin. There is far more seismic activity in our area than along the coast of Oregon (which is accumulating more strain, thereby increasing the risk of a larger event).
 - ii. Along the Cascadia Margin, geologic record shows a history of megathrust events (M8-9) every 300-500 years. It's important to consider tectonics locally and implications of sea level rise.

- iii. D. O'Shea provided a comparison of local tectonic activities to other locations in California. For example, there is a much higher rate of movement along the North Coast, than in the Sierras.
 - iv. Sea level change will occur across the world, but effects will look very different depending on location. Most states in North America will experience some degree of sea level rise. Though most will experience sea level rise, Alaska and Canada are experiencing sea level drop.
 - v. D. O'Shea presented a few photos of the post-bomb cyclone conditions on Trinidad beaches. The photos showed how these weather events exposed larger rocks, which act to armor the shore. Additionally, they showed how increased runoff from rain also exacerbated erosion and sliding.
- b) Open discussion
- a. Several questions about predicting sea level rise. D. O'Shea and others confirmed that projections are not set in stone. Models can give us a best guess.
 - b. Discussion about how this council might address sea level rise on the North Coast. Ideas included increased community education about the issue and how we can prepare for future changes; discussing water issues and fire services and insurance; host community work days to restack rocks and restore habitat, etc.
 - c. Post-storm conditions. Slow recovery. Supervisor Madrone commended community members for opening up town hall and helping neighbors who were without power.
4. Partner and Watershed Updates (all)
- a) Becky Price-Hall reported on City of Trinidad activities
 - a. Storm Water Project – The improvements to the Storm Water System have been completed and the City no longer discharges stormwater into the bay. Water quality results will be shared when made available; results will include 2006 to present. There is more time left on the grant, so it is also paying for demonstration of a rainwater catchment storage and reuse project at Trinidad School. The collected rainwater water will water their garden. 2013 grant project started, third cycle.
 - b. R. Price-Hall also discussed the MS4 agreement – the Water Board does not want to let the City out of the agreement. This is especially disappointing because there may be a need for a groundwater discharge permit, as well (resulting in the City having two permits instead of zero).
 - c. City is working on a coastal resilience grant funded by the Ocean Protection Council. Input is welcome.

- d. CEQA public comment period is open for the Water Storage Tank and Pipeline Replacement Project. Construction is tentatively scheduled for this summer.
- b) Roland Johnson – Complimented D. O’Shea on presentation. Suggested [efforts] focus on riparian corridors along streams and water availability.
- c) Brita Goldstein –GDRC Advocates communication on issues that play into SLR, other entities, and cities. Prepare for changes with appropriate timelines. A lot of people are interested in these issues and readiness.
- d) Danny O’Shea – Curious to see Raven Ridge THP and baseline sediment load pre and post receiving basin end of things. Kelp beds have been decimated by the heat wave, but the kelp forest is still there. Ocean pH is the biggest impact.
- e) Don Allan – Trinidad Coastal Land Trust Update: Improvements needed at Houda Point and Tepona Point. TCLT is asking for volunteers and donations.
- f) Thomas Saunders – Trinidad Rancheria; Involved with Cal Poly Humboldt SLR Institute. Went out for the King Tides and took photos (shared on screen). Offered to share his many photos. TR is partnering with BLM to remove invasive species at lighthouse area (on Trinidad Head) and remove pampas grass. Wants to remove ice plant on leach field and at guest house. Working with Zoe (TCLT) on invasive species. TR is working on project to treat runoff in Harbor parking lot with permeable pavers, bioswales and breaks. Timeline is being pushed back due to permitting. Costs are rising for grants, and Coastal Commission process is tedious.
- g) Steve Ladwig – Thanked D. O’Shea for presentation. Reported that in the years 2021 and 2022, the Trinidad Water System had the lowest water usage in years. Water loss has gone from 40% to 10% recently. There is concern about septic systems and said it would be good to look at the statistics about this issue.
- h) Trever Parker wants to get the word out that the City is working on the General Plan Update Safety Element.
- i) Steve Madrone – The County is hammered after the storms and are working to clear slides when they can. County has 10 million in deferred maintenance but is trying to raise money to fund work on Scenic Drive.

5. TBWC Business

- a) Next meeting date proposed: Thursday, April 20, 2023
- b) Continue with Zoom or begin in person meetings? No decision was made.
- c) Next meeting topic or focus
 - a. Brita Goldstein agreed to coordinate a presentation about Green Diamond’s timber harvest plans in the Trinidad area.