



# Trinidad Bay Watershed Council

## Draft Meeting Notes

Wednesday, July 26, 2023, from 4:00 – 6:00 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

### Agenda

#### 1) Welcome and Introductions

- Becky Price-Hall – City of Trinidad
- Ron Sundberg – Trinidad Rancheria, Environmental Director
- Roland Johnson – Westhaven Resident, CEG
- Trever Parker – SHN, Contract City Planner for City of Trinidad
- Brita Goldstein – Green Diamond
- Angela Cather – City of Trinidad
- Daniel O’Shea – Westhaven resident
- Paula Levine – Westhaven resident
- Sherri Provolt – Yurok Tribe

#### 2) Finalize Agenda (all)

- a) B. Price-Hall - Discussed TBWC’s background, structure, the foundation – voluntary association, membership (voting and general members), responsibilities, etc.
  - i) P. Levine: Discussed her interest in learning more about the local water issues, specifically the water supply for Luffenholtz Creek and a potential tie-in with Humboldt Bay Water District. She noted that she is a Trinidad Water District customer. She questioned whether there been a conversation about long-term water resiliency for both options. She sought an answer on whether there is a way to act for determining how to obtain this information, and if there would be a way to get volunteers to gather it. She questioned if she was in the right group to discuss these issues of interest.
    - 1) B. Price-Hall – explained that the TBWC wants to hear everyone’s perspectives, advising that the group is not focused on solely one topic like water supply but instead sometimes chooses to have a meeting and/or presentation that is focused on a particular topic. It remains to be seen if the group would be interested in pursuing her interest.
    - 2) R. Johnson – Stated that his interest is the water quality in the bay, which was brought to light when Trinidad received a grant to address stormwater. He explained that the group’s main focus is to act as a public information system for folks that aren’t directly tied to the project. He noted that the concern over bay’s water quality is what got

the group going. Additionally, he stated that it was mandated that the watershed council be a part of this grant.

- (a) T. Parker – Stated that she doesn't believe it was a requirement of the grant, but instead the grant task funds paid for the time that B. Price-Hall took to set the TBWC up and continue to maintain it.
  - (b) R. Johnson – Added that a resiliency group should be on water issues, thus a watershed council may have some influence on that. Noting that for example, TBWC was a sponsor to the grant project.
- 3) D. O'Shea – Spoke on how water security is a big deal, adding that from his perspective, regional sea-level rise and bluff retreat is inevitable, so the larger question at hand is how do we plan for it, for example what's the plan when Edwards become inaccessible. He added that we need a plan on how we are going to adapt.
  - 4) S. Provolt – Requested a meeting with the Yurok Tribe as a whole, in terms of giving updates about the project planning.
  - 5) B. Price-Hall – Responded to P. Levine stating that we would need to determine whether the water supply issue fits in the TBWC's purview. Further explaining that the TBWC is volunteer base, thus they are incapable of staffing individuals for the collection of data. She noted that the group could decide to agendize the topic and discuss if there are next steps the group would like to pursue.
    - (a) R. Johnson – Suggested that if P. Levine does meaningful research, she could potentially present at an upcoming meeting. Clarifying that she does not have to reach out to an organization for a speaker.
      - (i) Paula Levine is going to reach out to Humboldt Bay.
        1. D. O'Shea – Stated that the TBWC should hear from the Trinidad and Westhaven water districts.
        2. P. Levine – Stated that the information that seems to be of interest is available via the City's website, and that it seems reasonable to get an update from Westhaven. She noted that it has been made clear through past actions that water issues have become politicized. She added that all she wants is accurate data, and that she wasn't suggesting that she search for someone to give a presentation. She stated that she wants to depoliticize the issue and focus on addressing the public fears that have caused polarization and hostility for the fear of development.
        3. B. Price-Hall – Stated that Levine, with TBWC's approval, could propose an agenda item - noting that she is willing to assist Levine in formulating an agenda/discussion item for TBWC.

## 3. Partner and Watershed Updates (all)

- a) D. O'Shea – Requested an updated from B. Goldstein on the clearcut being done by Green Diamond. (*Goldstein will provide one*)
- b) B. Price-Hall – Provided a brief update on a City grant - replacement of pipes on Westhaven Drive, Edwards Street (*being increased in size*), along with the replacement of one of the existing water tanks.
- c) T. Parker – Provided an update on zonal and individual water usage in Trinidad over a ten-year span. Stating that the City has noticed that there are individuals in town that have a much higher water usage, but even with the high usage of individual customers, the overall per capita use is down. She noted that the City is now sending out an annual individualized report to all water users - building into the resiliency topic discussed earlier in the meeting.
- d) R. Johnson – Provided a brief update on his overview of the meeting and his personal view on the resiliency project.
- e) R. Sundberg – Stated that the Trinidad Rancheria has launched a marine fisheries program and will be hiring an individual to work on climate resiliency for the tribe. Noting that they have a long way to go to catch up to the City's climate resiliency project. He also provided an update on the large water main breakage on Scenic Drive, stating a project to fix it permanently will start at the beginning of September so they can isolate that area if a future issue arises. While also adding that it will provide the Rancheria with drinking water. He also advised that the County has put in for emergency funding for Scenic Drive. Furthermore, he updated the group on the recent restoration work done on Rancheria property, and how they are also working with Indian Health Services to build new leach fields for Westhaven. Lastly, he stated that the Rancheria was performing outreach for their stormwater project (parking lot), noting that the project will be underway soon - bids have been received.
  - i) B. Price-Hall – Stated that the TBWC would like to get a presentation on what has been done. (*Sundberg will give updates, along with forwarding a job posting regarding the climate resiliency project*).

## 4. Discussion: Watershed Council next steps and priorities going forward

- a) Discussed in Agenda item #3

## 5. TBWC Business

- a) TBWC website update
  - i) B. Price-Hall – Presented the development site and discussed the potential updates, stating that this could include information regarding drought. She requested individual interest, so the website can be updated appropriately. Further noting that there will be a coastal resiliency page.
    - 1) R. Sundberg – Asked if Green Diamond does water quality studies above the Trinidad watersheds. (*Goldstein will provide a file or link with the information*)
    - 2) B. Price-Hall – Asked how people want to access water quality information.
      - (a) R. Sundberg – Stated that a portal would be great to develop.

- (b) R. Johnson – Stated that he would like to publish water sampling reports (City/Rancheria/Green Diamond/County). (*B. Price-Hall – links that will be available*)
  - (c) R. Sundberg – Stated he would like to see a link/page for future projects.
- b) October Meeting topic or focus
  - i) All topics/focus were discussion in c).
- c) Future meeting topics & presentations
  - i) Consensus – P. Levine’s ideas and interest could be a potential discussion item.
  - ii) R. Johnson – Questioned if it would be of interest for the TBWC to be involved in the policies that are going to be put in place moving forward with. He noted that the TBWC is an organization that is supposed to be focused on the same area as the resiliency group. He advised that if the TBWC has a collective interest, they should then represent themselves as a group to fit the TBWC’s mission. He suggested the council formulate ideas and positions to present to the project team - maybe come up with a list of priorities.
  - iii) S. Provolt – State she is interested in the stormwater project and getting updates on that.
    - 1) B. Price-Hall – Advised that the City has completed the stormwater sampling and confirmed that there is no longer discharge into the bay. She noted that the City will be presenting all findings - a robust list of findings, however she was unsure of the timeline. Noting that the completed deliverable is due in December.
    - 2) B. Price-Hall – Questioned if TBWC wants to begin putting together a list of recommendations for the project team.
      - (a) R. Johnson – Stated not yet. He recommended giving feedback as a group post public meetings – what the TBWC believes is best for the watershed area.
      - (b) B. Price-Hall – Advised that the TBWC will discuss the Coastal Resilience project and that there will be an agenda item about the stormwater quality results when available.
- d) October or January meeting: ASBS Stormwater Project 2011-2024 – outcomes and lessons learned
  - i) Date of discussion – TBD via poll
- e) April meeting? Green Diamond Aquatics – Matt Nannizzi – AHCP and Little River Watershed, possible field tour (spring 2024), CR 1000, CR 1400