

Minutes of Meeting

9:00 A.M., Thursday, February 4, 2021
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Video Conference

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Video recordings of Board meetings (since 2/2019) are available at:

[Prior Board Meeting Video recordings.](#)

Audio recordings of Board meetings (11/2018 and before) are available at:

[Prior Board Meeting Audio recordings](#)

i. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Board member Gant led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present:

Hector Bedolla, Kelli Gant, Gregory Giusti,
Shaunna McCovey, and Valerie Quinto.

Regional Water Board staff present:

Terri Cia, Kelsey Cody, Patti Corsie, Julie
Duong, Nathan Jacobsen, Doreen Kiruja,
Justin McSmith, Rachel Prat, Charles Reed,
Maggie Robinson, Justin McSmith, Matt St.
John, and Claudia Villacorta.

iii. **Election of Board Officers**

Motion: Board member Gant nominated
Vice-Chair Gregory Giusti as the
Board Chair and Hector Bedolla as
the Vice-Chair; Board member
McCovey seconded. Chair Quinto
initiated a roll-call vote:

Giusti aye

Gant aye

Quinto aye

McCovey aye

Bedolla aye

Motion passed unanimously

- iv. **Board Member Reports and Ex Parte Communication Disclosure:** Board member Quinto participated in a meeting with Sonoma County Farm Bureau, North Bay Association of Realtors, and a representative of the lower Russian River community to discuss their concerns about the Sonoma County's Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) Policy manual being developed by the County as a part of the Local Agency Management Program (LAMP).
- v. **State Board Liaison's, and Executive Officer's Reports:** State Board Liaison Dorene D'Adamo was not in attendance. See Item 7 for Executive Officer's Report.
- vi. **Public Forum:**

Comments were taken from:

- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Association.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: December 10 & 11, 2020

Motion: Board member Quinto moved to adopt December 10 & 11, 2021 Meeting minutes, Board member Gant seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Gant aye
Quinto aye
McCovey aye
Bedolla aye
Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

2. Presentation of Executive Officer's 2020 Water Quality Stewardship Award.

Matt St. John presented the 2020 Water Quality Stewardship Awards to the following organizations:

- **The Western Klamath Restoration Partnership** was awarded the 2020 Water Quality Stewardship Award for their proactive and collaborative approach to addressing threats to people, property, cultural and natural resources at risk of high-intensity wildfire.
- **The Pepperwood Foundation** was awarded the 2020 Water Quality Stewardship Award for their leadership in developing 'nature-based' solutions for climate and fire resilience and providing a model for 'Mediterranean-type' ecosystems world-wide.

Action Item

3. **Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2021-0001, Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Wine, Beverage and Food Processor Waste to Land in the North Coast Region and Order No. R1-2021-0001 that will renew and replace Order No. R1-2016-0003, Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharge of Wine, Beverage and Food Processor Waste to Land in th North Coast Region.** Jeremiah Puget, Senior Environmental Scientist, Groundwater Permitting Unit, gave an overview of Region 1's Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) Program, its Winery Program, the recently adopted general statewide Waste Discharge Requirements Order (Order No. WQ 2021-000X-DWQ) for winery process water (Statewide General Winery Order), and the transition plan for those wineries enrolled in Order No. R1-2021-0001 to the Statewide General Winery Order. Rachel Prat, Environmental Scientist, Groundwater Permitting Unit, gave the background and purpose of the previous Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Wine, Beverage and Food Processor Waste to Land in the North Coast Region Order R1-2016-0003 and reviewed the changes to the proposed Order No. R1-2021-0001. The Order applies to small wineries, breweries, cider houses, non-alcoholic beverage producers, distilleries, post-slaughter cut and wrap meat processing facilities, fruit and vegetable processors, and dairy product manufacturers in the North Coast Region. Ms. Pratt also explained how the Order differs from the Statewide General Winery Order that was adopted on January 20, 2021.

Motion: Board member Bedolla moved to adopt Order R1-2021-0001, Board member Quinto seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Gant aye
Quinto aye
McCovey aye
Bedolla aye
Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

Information Items

4. **The duties and experiences of Covid-19 contact tracers.** Matt St. John, Executive Officer gave the background on Governor Newsom's [California Connected](#) mandate that each state department redirect 5 percent of their employees to contact tracing assignments for at least a year starting June 2020. Our Region has supplied 3 full-time volunteer staff: 1) Rhonda Raymond, Sanitary Engineering Associate, NPDES Unit, started working for Contra Costa County on August 3, 2020 as a Contact Tracer; 2) Maggie Robinson, Engineering Geologist, Southern Forestry Unit, started July 1, 2020 for Los Angeles County as a Case Investigator & Contact Tracer; and 3) Doreen

Kiruja, Environmental Scientist, Enforcement Unit, started August 12, 2020 for Los Angeles County as a Case Investigator & Contact Tracer. Ms. Robinson and Ms. Kiruja both detailed their initial and ongoing training, their daily duties and responsibilities, and their personal history of being a Case Investigator & Contact Tracer for the Los Angeles Department of Public Health.

Following the staff presentation and compliments from Board members, Mr. St. John presented Ms. Robinson, Ms. Kiruja, and Ms. Raymond with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Board for their important work serving as contact tracers.

6. California Water Board's Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Investigation. Charles Reed, Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer, Point Source & Groundwater Protection Division, gave a brief introduction on what is PFAS; what produces PFAS; where it is found in the environment; and why it is becoming an increasing public concern. Mr. Reed introduced Wendy Linck, Senior Engineering Geologist, Division of Water Quality, State Water Control Board; who gave an overview on the State Boards PFAS State-wide Investigation Orders on 1) Airports, 2) Municipal Solid Waste Landfills, 3) Chrome Plating Facilities, 4) Bulk Fuel Terminals/Refineries, 5) Publicly Owned Treatment Works, 6) Public Water Systems (EPA and State Water Board), data summaries, investigative actions, and the next steps.

5. Updates on the Technical Development of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Total Maximum Daily Loads and the Restoration Vision for the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Dr. Kelsey Cody, Environmental Scientist, Planning Unit; gave introductions and reviewed the history of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) project, restoration planning, and the next steps. Dr. Jon Butcher, Registered Professional Hydrologist & Environmental Engineer, Tetra Tech, Inc., gave a presentation on the Nutrient Budget and Linkage Analysis, Nutrient Loading Capacity, Sediment Budget and Linkage Analysis, Sediment Loading Capacity, and the proposed Surrogate Measure used to plan implementation, track progress, and promote trading for managing both nutrients and sediment.

Dr. Neil Lassetre, Principal Environmental Scientist, Sonoma County Water Agency, gave an update and the background of the Laguna-Mark West Master Restoration Plan with review of the overall goal of the project, funders, partners, project focus area and the timeline of 12/2017 to 12/2021, and the next steps.

Comments were taken from:

- Anne Morkill, Executive Director, Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation.

Several Board members asked clarifying questions about the scope of the technical analysis and the projected timeframe for achieving water quality standards within the watershed; these questions were addressed by staff and the invited speakers.

6. Executive Officer's Report. Matt St. John, EO highlighted the December's EO's report regarding upcoming interviews with each Board member and staff regarding

the development of a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Strategy. Mr. St. John informed the Board that the interviews have been scheduled, and after the Board interviews are completed and reviewed, Water Board staff plan to convene issue-specific meetings with stakeholders and interested parties to receive additional input on the development of the Strategy. Mr. St. John also noted a few changes that were made to the list of projected Board meeting items for the April, June, and August Board meetings.

7. Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Other Items of Interest

Board member Quinto suggested an Informational item or an EO Report article on a chemical called 6PPD, a preservative to keep car tires from breaking down too quickly, that has been linked to Coho mortality, and the implications of these findings for North Coast streams. Chair Giusti requested that the Board of Forestry (BOF) and/or CalFire be invited to make a presentation to the Regional Water Board later this year on the regulation of fire salvage operations in California.

8. Closed Session: The Board did not meet in Closed Session.

Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment

9:00 a.m., Thursday April 15, 2021
Santa Rosa, CA
Zoom Online Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Chairperson _____

Date _____