

Water Resources Association of Yolo County
Technical Committee (TC) –June 19, 2008, 8:30 – 10:30 am
Woodland Community & Senior Center, 2001 East St., Room 1

MINUTES

Committee Members:

Jacques DeBra, City of Davis	Doug Baxter, City of Woodland
Mark Cocke, City of Woodland	Max Stevenson, YCFC&WCD
Stefan Lorenzato, YCFCWCD	Regina Cherovsky, RD 2035
Tim O'Halloran, YCFCWCD	Dave Shpak, City of West Sacramento
Bill Brewster, DWR	Donita Hendrix, Dunnigan Water District
Donna Gentile, WRA	Robin Kulakow, Yolo Basin Foundation

Other Attendees:

Rick Landon, Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner
Warren Westrup, Yolo County Parks & Resources Director
Monique deBarruel, West Yost Associates
Bill Marble, WRA Chair, City of Woodland
Yvonne LeMaitre, Wild Oak Farms
Twyla Thompson, Woodland Chamber of Commerce, Yolo-Zamora Water District
Dave Pratt

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** by Jacques DeBra, Technical Committee Chair.
- 2. APPROVAL AGENDA & Adding Items to Posted Agenda** – Agenda was approved.
- 3. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES** – Comments on the 5/1/08 draft minutes, due by 6/23/08.
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT** – No comments from the public.
- 5. DWR UPDATE** – Bill Brewster provided a variety of updates. AB 303 grant awards will be officially released by Friday. Scores of 89 and above will be funded. The applications of Dunnigan Water District and YCFCWCD's are anticipated to be funded. In light of the Governor's drought proclamation, the State is expediting funding already awarded in hopes that conservation efforts will assist agencies during the drought. No additional news regarding Prop 84 funding. John Woodling is leaving his DWR position as of 7/1 and will become Executive Director for both the Sacramento Groundwater Authority and the Regional Water Authority.
- 6. UPDATE on FY 2007-08 PROJECTS (WRA Project Funds Budget):**
 - a) Yolo County Groundwater Monitoring Program – Phase II* – The funding allocated toward this project has been utilized, invoiced and paid to the YCFCWCD.
 - b) Habitat/Recreation Levee Survey Scope (City of West Sacramento)* – Dave Shpak attended in Dan Mount's absence and gave an update on the status of this project. Progress has been delayed due to the City's focus on the levee and flood protection programs. Execution of contracts are still pending and therefore work has not yet begun on this survey. West Sacramento requested this funding be rolled over into the 08-09 fiscal year. Jacques DeBra requested that West Sacramento return to the TC in the fall (Sept. 2008) with an update of the status on this project's readiness. If the project is not ready to move forward, then the funds will be allocated to other local efforts that are ready-to-go. WRA project funds are not meant to be carried forward indefinitely.

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c) *Yolo Bypass – IRWMP Implementation Efforts (Yolo Basin Foundation)* – The Yolo Bypass effort has invoiced \$2,700 of the \$15,000 allocated in 2007-08. They will not be utilizing the remainder.

7. UPDATE on FY 2008-09 PROJECTS (WRA Project Funds Budget):

Projects that were allocated funding for 2008-09 are requested to submit a scope, budget, and schedule to the WRA by July 15, 2008. Max Stevenson gave an update on the Yolo County Water Resources Information Database (WRID) project. A Web based interface is under development for the WRID. This will enable cooperating agencies or entities to view, import and export WRID data over the Web. There will be a July meeting to see the features available and to provide input on import/export formats and procedures so that this new interface can be easy and convenient to use. Donna will forward meeting information to the TC. The YCFCWCD has been the lead agency for this project, originally funded by an AB303 grant. Max and the consultants will be developing options for a long-term funding source. An update on funding will be scheduled for the September TC meeting. A final report will be available in the spring.

Stefan Lorenzato suggested that the WRA should develop a “project atlas” with ongoing local project information, updated annually. The atlas would identify funded and non-funded projects including funding sources. Maintaining a project list of this nature would resolve the ability to quickly respond to funding opportunities and inquiries regarding regional priorities (e.g. as requested by Assemblywoman Wolk). Jacques thought this could be handled within the IRWMP update project scope, since the IRWMP project list is already three years old. This suggestion could also be addressed separately.

8. UPDATE ON YOLO COUNTY WATER-RELATED POLICIES

Rick Landon, Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner, provided an update on the development of the draft water ordinances presented by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors on April 22. The ordinances will be re-drafted from scratch after a public process is completed. The time frame for this process originally presented has been extended without a specific deadline. The next step is to hire a neutral, water-knowledgeable facilitator and receive input from all interested parties: the public, local agencies and stakeholders. The process and dates for outreach meetings will be publicly posted. The facilitator will summarize the input received and provide recommendations to the Board. Rick listened to comments from the TC and the public and answered questions. Following is a summary of some of the questions/comments presented.

- What problem is Yolo County trying to solve with these water ordinances and fees?
- What jurisdiction would the groundwater ordinances have over the cities and other local agencies? Concerns were expressed regarding how fees will be assessed, impacts on water rights and established conjunctive use projects.
- If Yolo County had been forthcoming with this information, conflicts could have been avoided.
- What is the relationship between the new ordinances and existing programs and efforts?
- Is Yolo County partnering with local agencies or wanting to maintain independent oversight?
- Can Yolo County articulate what their needs are and how their needs differ from regional efforts? Currently this is not known or understood.
- The WRA membership decided collaboratively and cooperatively that the IRWMP process was the best way to approach regional water management. So far the IRWMP process and the WRA have been bypassed in the County’s initial efforts at drafting the ordinances. Will the WRA TC be allowed a comment period on the next drafts? In a community-based approach, the facilitator should present recommendations to the WRA Board, as well as, the Board of Supervisors. At the WRA April Board meeting, Supervisor McGowan indicated that the WRA would be involved in this process, but to-date there has been no communication with the WRA from the Board of Supervisors.

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- Assemblywoman Wolk had requested a list of regional priorities from Yolo County. County staff was unclear on Supervisor McGowan’s request to develop this list and the WRA TC was not engaged in this request. It is important that requests of this nature be coordinated within the existing framework to maintain the collaborative approach. Otherwise, Yolo County efforts will be presented as “fractured” to the State and local politicians. This topic was discussed at a recent floodSAFE Yolo Program Advisory Committee meeting attended by Warren Westrup. Warren was given a copy of the WRA’s Proposition 50 Round 2 application as a starting point for a list of “ready-to-go” projects from the IRWMP. County staff will be meeting with Supervisor McGowan and Deputy County Administrator, Dirk Brazil next week to discuss this further. The need to build on existing efforts was emphasized. If Yolo County presents this information in a vacuum, it undermines the WRA’s efforts.
- A request was made that Yolo County representatives attend the upcoming WRA Board meeting on July 1st and relay the County’s position on this process to the entire membership.
- Members of the public commented strongly on the agricultural community’s distrust of Yolo County on how this process was initiated, while voicing their trust of the WRA and the YCFCWCD.
- The County needs to rebuild credibility and trust with the WRA member agencies, as well as the public.
- Before any “new” water agency is created, suggest considering what agencies already exist.
- The County should remember that others need to be involved in this process beyond the WRA and that requires direct communication from the County (e.g. Yolo County Farm Bureau).
- Remember that the IRWMP is a sophisticated document that needs to be read to be understood. The three year process to develop the IRWMP was very collaborative. There is prioritization in the IRWMP contrary to what has been implied. The IRWMP should be viewed as a “guiding” document for the entire county.

Rick made numerous notes from today’s discussion and will report back to the Board of Supervisors.

9. MEMBER INFORMATION & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Suggested agenda items for next TC meeting:

1. All 2008-09 WRA funded projects need to submit a detailed scope, budget and schedule by July 15th. The TC will review this information at the next meeting.
2. Proposition 84 funding update

10. NEXT MEETING DATE: The Technical Committee will not meet in July. The next meeting will be held in early August (1st Thursday of the month). A meeting notification reminder will be sent via email. The meeting will be held at the Woodland Community & Senior Center on 2001 East Street.

11. ADJOURN at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Gentile

Donna L. Gentile, WRA Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator