



Project Clean Water

Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary/Minutes

April 29, 2004 Kick-off Meeting
City of San Diego Metro BioSolids Center
5240 Convoy Street, San Diego, CA 92111
10:00 – 12:30 AM

Ms. Sheri McPherson (County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program), Past Chair of the Science and Technology Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

1. Introductions/Background

Ms. McPherson provided a brief background on Project Clean Water and provided an explanation of the evolution of this new TAC:

- a. Began in 2000 as a stakeholder process
- b. PCW originally consisted of 4 TACs: Science and Technology; Comprehensive Planning; Legislation and Regulation; and Education
- c. September 2003 decision to merge the Science and Technology TAC and Planning TAC into a single TAC focused on broad issues relating to Watershed Protection as part of the County decision to revamp Project Clean Water

Ms. McPherson indicated the County's decision to step back, alleviating the County focus of Project Clean Water, and turn over the reins of the TAC to other entities involved in the effort. Ms. McPherson then introduced the TAC Co-chairs: Mr. Robert Collins, with the City of San Diego Water Department and Mr. Rob Hutsel with the San Diego River Park Foundation. Ms. McPherson also indicated that the County would continue to take a supportive/administrative role in the TAC, and indicated that she and Mr. Joe DeStefano, with the County's Watershed Planning Program would continue as Staff Points of Contact. She then turned the meeting over to the new Co-Chairs.

2. Set out general directions for Watershed Protection TAC

Mr. Collins then spoke to the reasons for his involvement in the process, and the Co-Chair's vision of the Watershed Protection TAC. Mr. Collins indicated that the primary focus of the TAC was to provide a forum by which those involved with the development of Watershed Management Plans and Assessments could work together to ensure that living plans are adopted, and that there could be an

interchange of ideas. Mr. Collins acknowledged the need to integrate the watershed planning principals into general planning process.

Mr. Collins then turned the microphone over to Rob Hutsel, TAC Co-Chair. After introducing himself, Mr. Hutsel expressed his desire that the TAC allow for an exchange of ideas with a measurable outcome. He then posed the question as to what the group “wanted to see from the meetings, to make them more meaningful” as a thinking point for the group. He then asked that everyone present introduce himself or herself.

Once introductions were complete, Mr. Hutsel returned to his discussion point of “how to make these meetings more meaningful” – by asking for the group to voice what issues that wanted to see addressed in these meetings. The following is a list of the main issues/topics that the group voiced:

- Representation from/of all Watersheds in the County;
- Focus on all issues related to Watersheds, not just clean water;
- Involvement with regulatory process;
- Standardization of approach to watershed plans;
- A Focus on using standardized GIS data as a tool in watershed planning;
- Look at other regions approaches to watershed management, and
- Joint Public Relations effort to get the information on watershed planning out to the public.

3. Presentation: Bob Collins, City of San Diego - San Dieguito Watershed Stewardship Initiative

Mr. Collins then provided an overview of the City of San Diego’s San Dieguito Watershed Stewardship Initiative. Some of the points made in the presentation:

- Executive Management Team (EMT) for Plan created to focus on understanding the needs and wants of stakeholders and other involved parties;
- Involvement of stakeholders at early stages, including the development of scope of work and selection of consultant to ensure that key stakeholders “can’t complain” since they’d already given buy-in;

The group raised questions regarding how Tribal Nations have been involved in the process. Mr. Collins indicated that outreach had begun, but no response had been received yet. It was suggested that the EMT contact the Bureau of Indian Affairs for assistance. Suggestion was made that involvement of the Tribal Nations be a topic for future meetings.

A copy of Mr. Collins’ presentation is attached.

4. Presentation: Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation - Opportunities for Science-based Decision making in the San Diego River Watershed

Mr. Hutsel provided an overview of the development of the San Diego River Park Foundation as an example of stakeholder/community based planning and involvement. Beginning with an overview of the San Diego River Watershed, Mr. Hutsel provided a look at the evolution of the River Park Foundation, from its beginnings as an informal group of concerned citizens to a recognized Non-Profit Organization. Some of the key points presented were:

- Use of Community Capacity Strategy to bring group together;
- Formation of Non-Profit to support efforts;
- Keep effort tangible to the general public;
- Create a sense of community ownership;
- Create change through creation of a community of concern; and
- Expand community involvement beyond traditional boundaries.

Mr. Hutsel went on to discuss the process of integrating science into the traditional planning process with the goal of science-based master plans. He identified the needs for several items to support the goal. These included:

- Creation of infrastructure for data exchange;
- Need for electronic storage at data collection point;
- Create the opportunity for new research; and
- Evaluation of the need for new data and data methods.

The outcomes supported by this effort includes:

- Raising awareness of decision makers and public;
- Use of data to enhance policy decisions; and
- A holistic approach to planning, which provides better information to planners and designers as well as decision makers.

A copy of his presentation is attached.

5. Discuss content for Watershed Issues Track 3rd Annual Clean Water Summit

[Sheri/Rob/Bob Any additional thoughts on what was discussed here?]

Sheri McPherson provided an overview of the revamped Project Clean Water, with an emphasis on its "new" focus. Discussion included the structure of the Summit, and opened up to the group's ideas for topics of discussion/presentations for the Watershed Protection Tract. Some of the topics discussed included:

- Inter-jurisdictional and cross-disciplinary data exchange;
- How to add teeth to Watershed Management Plans;

- Funding Strategies for Implementation Phase;
- Relationship Building in Watersheds; and
- Development of a matrix of the process and drawing a nexus between differing datasets.

6. Announcements/ Next Meeting

After posing the question of whether another meeting was needed before the Clean Water Summit on July 15, it was suggested that the TAC utilize email resources in determining several points, and possibly setting the next meeting date. As “homework” – Mr. Hutsel suggested that the group consider three items, and provide feedback to the Co-chairs. These items were:

- Thoughts on the usefulness of the TAC;
- How to increase participation in the TAC; and
- Topics for future meetings and for the Clean Water Summit Tract.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

JMD:ns

Attachments