

NBWRA Zoom Meeting
Minutes
Thursday, May 28, 2020, 3:00 p.m.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89516120608>

Attendance

Chuck Weir	Program Manager
Kevin Booker	Sonoma Water
Kent Carothers	City of Petaluma
Grant Davis	Sonoma Water
Rene Guillen	Brown & Caldwell
Tim Healy	Napa Sanitation District
Dan Herrera	City of Petaluma
Pam Jeane	Sonoma Valley County San District
Sandeep Karkal	Novato Sanitary District
Liz Lewis	Marin County
Jim O'Toole	ESA
Mike Savage	Data Instincts
Brad Sherwood	Sonoma Water
Jake Spaulding	Sonoma Water
Chelsea Thompson	City of Petaluma
Leah Walker	City of Petaluma

The Zoom meeting started at 3:02 p.m.

Agenda

The stated purpose of this meeting was to Discuss possible State and Federal Funding Options for Shovel Ready Projects.

Kevin Booker discussed the purpose of the meeting and noted that it is likely that there will be more federal stimulus funding similar to the ARRA program in 2009. He asked if there are projects that are at the 30% design stage, meet CEQA/NEPA requirements, and would be eligible for federal funding. He also noted that the State Revolving Fund (SRF) is another possible source of funding. He noted that Sonoma Valley has a pipeline project from Phase 1 that could be added to the list. He then suggested that each of the agencies represented in the meeting describe any possible projects that could be eligible.

Chuck Weir stated that he had heard from two agencies prior to the meeting. Both Las Gallinas Valley Sanitation District and North Marin Water District do not have any projects at this time. He also noted that any federal stimulus funding could also apply to other water and wastewater projects, not just recycled water.

Liz Lewis stated that Marin County project for using recycled water on the Novato Creek Deer island Levee is at the 30% design stage and could be eligible.

Leah Walker's screen was shared, and she displayed the project map from the Phase 2 EIR/EIS. She noted that Petaluma has several projects listed in the Phase 2 EIR/EIS documentation that could be eligible, including a project along Adobe Road. Having that project included in the Phase 2 EIR/EIS would be a benefit to them. Dan Herrera will send a list of possible projects to Jim O'Toole.

Jim O'Toole, stated that he has contacted USBR, but has not yet heard back from them. He will be discussing possible federal stimulus funding as well as contacting the State Water Board regarding SRF funding.

Tim Healy stated that Napa San has no changes from previous efforts.

Chuck Weir asked if any agencies were looking at Nitrogen or Phosphorus removal projects due to the San Francisco Bay Nutrient Watershed Permit process. Participants stated that this was not an issue at this time.

No other projects were mentioned at this time.

Grant Davis stated that it appears that there are enough projects that could be eligible for stimulus funding. There would be two options for seeking funding: 1) through NBWRA, or 2) through individual agencies.

Tim Healy stated that NBWRA has been extremely helpful in supporting agencies that need assistance and that he would be supportive of adding additional projects to the Phase 2 EIR/EIS process.

Rene Guillen stated that from his experience the likelihood of success is better as a group than as individual agencies.

Grant Davis asked about next steps and whether or not stormwater programs could be added to the mix. Various agencies are developing stormwater management plans.

There was general discussion regarding how stormwater could be incorporated. The Memorandum of Understanding will need to be checked to determine if modifications would be needed to accommodate different funding mechanisms. It was determined that prior to developing stormwater as a new NBWRA objective that the Board would need to review, approve, and provide direction. If there appears to be traction for stormwater, a special Zoom Board meeting could be arranged since the next Board meeting is not until October 26, 2020.

Jim O'Toole discussed options for federal oversight of funding for water related projects other than through USBR, including EPA (likely) and USDA (unlikely).

As the meeting ended, it was agreed that Chuck Weir will prepare minutes of the meeting and have Jim O'Toole and Sonoma Water staff review before going to the larger group. In closing, meeting participants were optimistic about the future of this effort.

The Zoom meeting ended at 3:53 p.m.

Action Items

1. TAC reviews and comments on draft minutes.
2. Jim O'Toole continues making contact with USBR and SWRCB looking for federal stimulus funding or State SRF funding
3. Agencies submit additional project info to Jim O'Toole and Rene Guillen to evaluate fit/potential costs of adding to Phase 2 EIR/EIS.
4. TAC considers possibility of adding stormwater projects to NBWRA program.
5. If No. 3 or 4 looks feasible, schedule a Zoom meeting with the Board to provide information and request direction.
6. Pending Nos. 4 & 5, research MOU to determine if modifications are needed for adding stormwater and developing a funding mechanism for it.
7. Inform Board of current status and seek further direction at October meeting.

Minutes approved by the TAC on July 20, 2020.