

MINUTES

North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Review Panel Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 3, 2005
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: River Lodge Conference Center
1800 Riverwalk Drive, Fortuna

Review Panel Members. Members present included:

Jimmy Smith, Chair	County of Humboldt
Michael Delbar	County of Mendocino
Hal Wagenet	County of Mendocino
Bill Hoy	County of Siskiyou
Mark Lancaster	County of Trinity
Tom Stokely	County of Trinity
Jake Mackenzie	County of Sonoma/Russian River Watershed

Association

Members present represented a quorum of Review Panel participants.

1. Welcome and Introductions. Jimmy Smith, Interim Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. and self introductions were made. An item was added to the agenda under Other Issues/Items of Interest entitled "Proposed Resources Bond Acts".
2. Review Preferred Representation Concept. Jake Mackenzie moved that each participating North Coast County Board of Supervisors appoint two Supervisors, or their designees, to the North Coast IRWMP Review Panel. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
3. Overview of Regional Purpose. Mark Wheatley, California Department of Fish and Game, distributed handouts and provided an overview of the "Seven Principles for Integrated Watershed Planning" as developed by the California Watershed Council to help guide agencies, watershed groups and others in developing Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plans.
4. Chapter 8, Proposition 50. Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program. Tracie Billington, Department of Water Resources, and Paul Marshall, State Water Resources Control Board, gave a presentation on the Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program. Ms. Billington reviewed and answered questions regarding the program's objectives, funding, match requirements, disadvantaged community waivers, eligibility, application and review process, and provided two examples of potential proposal submittals.

Based on the information presented, Chair Smith asked for input from the Panel regarding the North Coast IRWM Planning process. Participants discussed the merits of varying scales and sizes of a region. Jake Mackenzie moved that the North Coast IRWM Plan Review Panel be consistent in its movement toward adoption of an IRWM Plan for the North Coast region and move to develop an implementation proposal that recognizes hydrological

sub-regions nested within the North Coast hydrologic region. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

5. Elections. Jimmy Smith was nominated to continue serving as Chair of the Review Panel. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Jake Mackenzie was nominated to serve as the Review Panel's Vice Chair. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

6. Draft Outline for North Coast IRWMP. Karen Gaffney, Circuit Rider Productions, distributed copies and stated that the outline is also posted on the North Coast IRWMP website, www.northcoastirwmp.net. Ms. Gaffney asked the Panel and all interested participants to review the outline, as it will serve as the basis for the North Coast IRWM Plan, and provide any comments to her as soon as possible.

7. Draft Prioritization and North Coast IRWM Plan Review Process. To provide technical evaluation of the proposed projects and the plan, the Review Panel reached consensus that each county would designate two individuals representing infrastructure and restoration respectively, to serve on a Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) to evaluate the technical feasibility of proposed projects for a given management strategy, recommend priorities based on the evaluation criteria listed in the final guidelines of Chapter 8, Proposition 50, and review the content of the North Coast IRWM Plan for accuracy. The Panel noted that nothing would preclude TPRC members from convening their own panel of local experts to help inform their review. The Sonoma County Water Agency and Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program offered support for travel expenses for individuals attending these meetings. A tentative date for the first TPRC meeting was set for March 29, 2005 in conjunction with the Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference to be held in Fortuna, CA.

8. Grant Application Submission & Funding Agreement. Due to time limitations this item was tabled until the next meeting.

9. Other Issues/Items of Interest.

- Proposed Resources Bond Acts & handouts were provided.
- Kirk Girard, County of Humboldt, noted that staff would be recommending that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors support the incorporation of Redwood Creek National Park's efforts in the North Coast IRWM Plan.

10. Public Comment.

- Eric Sunsweat, Russian River Watershed Council, noted that the presentation from DWR was difficult to follow and recommended that it be revised to focus on planning and implementation separately.
- Jimmy Smith reminded the group and public present that all eligible projects may be submitted for inclusion in the North Coast IRWM Plan, whether they are a public agency or non-profit or not, and if the State awards funding to those projects that funding can be subcontracted to tribes or other entities through either a public agency or non-profit organization. Chair Smith noted that in light of the fact that there may have been misunderstandings surrounding this issue the website would be re-opened in

mid-March until March 31, 2005 to allow the upload of any eligible projects and allow others the opportunity to edit existing projects as necessary. Karen Gaffney will send out information to all North Coast IRWMP participants and interested parties with further information.

11. Adjourn. Jimmy Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.