

Safe, Clean Water Program

Rio Hondo

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, August 17, 2021
1:00pm - 3:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Julian Juarez (LA County Flood Control District)
Tom Love (Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District)
Kristen Ruffell (Sanitation Districts)
James Tong* (City of Pasadena Parks and Recreation)
Thomas Wong (San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District)

Mark Hall (Greater LA County Vector Control District)
Daniel Rossman (The Wilderness Society)
Eddie Chan* (Arcadia)
Fernando Villaluna (LA County)
Gloria Crudgington (Monrovia)
Frank Lopez (Monterey Park)
Kris Markarian (Pasadena Public Works)
James Carlson (Sierra Madre)
Richard Watson (RWA Planning)

Committee Members Not Present:

David Dolphin (Alhambra)
Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin)

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached attendance report for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

Melanie Morita (District) welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order.

Melanie Morita facilitated the roll call of Committee Members. All committee members made self-introductions with a majority present, quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2021

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Melanie Morita asked the Committee members for comments or revisions.

Gloria Crudgington motioned to approve the minutes. Mark Hall seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from May 18, 2021. (Approved, see vote tracking sheet).

3. Committee Member and District Updates

Alexander Iglesias Rosales (District) provided the District update noting: The Stormwater Investment Plans (SIP) from all 9 WASC were recommended for approval by the Regional Oversight Committee to the Board of Supervisors. The tentative date for the Board of Supervisors approval meeting is September 15, 2021.

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The deadline for Round 3 Call for Projects ended July 31, 2021. The Rio Hondo WASC received 2 IP and 4 SS applications. The District is currently conducting completeness reviews on the IP and they will upload the completed projects to the SCWP portal for review.

The Round 1 SCW Program recipients are required to submit annual and quarterly reports. The most recent quarterly reports were due August 15, 2021.

Regarding the Municipal Program, FY 2021-22 Annual Plans were due April 1, 2021, and project proponents were expected to comply with documentation requirements. The FY 2021-22 disbursements are tentatively scheduled for the end of August 2021 or beginning of September 2021.

4. Watershed Coordinator Updates

Richard Watson (Richard Watson & Associates) will present during item 7a.

5. Ex Parte Communications Disclosures

None.

6. Public Comment Period

None.

7. Discussion Items

a) Watershed Coordinator Draft Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (TBD)

Richard Watson and Julie Millett provided a presentation and discussed the draft Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP).

Bryan Matsumoto suggested that the section on diversity be more specific on the matter of lower income Municipalities and communities. Richard Watson responded that there are specific requirements for Disadvantaged Communities and that he had an initial conversation with the Upper LA River Watershed Group as southern portions of the Rio Hondo Watershed fall within their boundaries. Bryan Matsumoto invited the WC to the community education classes held by Nature for All.

Thomas Wong commented that the SOEP should be intentional on reaching out to underrepresented parts of the WASC and stressed the importance of language accessibility as well as cultural sensitivity.

b) Review of WASC roles and responsibilities (Presentation by Stantec)

Tori Klug (Stantec) provided an overview of the WASC roles and responsibilities.

Gloria Crudgington asked if the guideline changes pertaining to Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) and Nature Based Solutions were under consideration by the Board of Supervisors. Tori Klug replied that a final version of the DAC and Nature Based Solutions guidance is planned for the near future and will be released for public review. The Board of Supervisors approval is not required because there are no changes to the

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ordinance. Gloria Crudgington asked if the proposed changes to the interim guidelines were available. Tori Klug responded that the proposed changes have not been outlined but that they will keep the WASC up to date as guidelines move from interim to final. The District noted that the interim guidelines are currently available on the SCW Program website and that they will be discussed at Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meetings. The District mentioned that more substantial guidelines are projected for Spring 2022.

Thomas Wong asked if a breakdown of SIP funding and benefits provided was available for all approved years. Tori Klug replied that the numbers are not readily available but can be generated. The District responded that most of the information is available using the SCW portal and that some of the information will also be included in the Board of Supervisors letter slated for September 15, 2021. Thomas Wong noted that there are 2 community seats open in the RH WASC and asked about the timeline for filling those seats. The District responded that those seats must be filled by the Board of Supervisors and that they were recently notified. Thomas Wong asked how interested parties should get in contact about the open community positions. The District confirmed that interested parties can contact the District directly or the Supervisor's offices regarding the openings.

Kristen Ruffell mentioned that the SCW program website was missing the date for the next ROC meeting. The District responded that the next is not confirmed but that there is a tentative date of October 7, 2021 for the next meeting. The District noted that the date for the next ROC meeting will be posted to the SCW Program website once it is confirmed.

Daniel Rossman noted that more state and federal funding opportunities for water are coming forward and asked how the SCWP can take advantage of those opportunities. Tori Klug commented on the role of the WC and how WC are currently communicating about leveraged funding sources including funds from Caltrans. Richard Watson confirmed that they are looking into outside funding resources and mentioned that there may be a new water bond in 2022. Richard Watson mentioned that they have been presented with the idea of creating a strategy for reviewed cost-effective proposals that would be eligible for outside resources.

c) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

Thomas Wong nominated Kristen Ruffell as Chair. Kristen Ruffell accepted the nomination.

Kristen Ruffell nominated Thomas Wong as Vice-Chair. Thomas Wong also nominated Tom Love as Vice-Chair.

8. Public Comment Period

Bryan Matsumoto announced that they have communication education courses for San Gabriel Valley residents and that they have a water education class August 18, 2021.

9. Voting Items

a) Selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, or Co-Chairs

Tom Love made a motion to nominate Kristen Ruffell as Rio Hondo WASC Chair and both Tom Love and Thomas Wong as Vice-Chairs of the Rio Hondo WASC. Gloria Crudgington seconded the motion.

The Committee voted to approve Kristen Ruffell as Chair and Tom Love and Thomas Wong as Vice-Chairs of the RH WASC. (Approved, see vote tracking sheet).

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b) Send all completed feasibility studies to Scoring Committee for consideration

Kristen Ruffell made a motion to send all completed feasibility studies to the Scoring Committee (SC) for consideration. Thomas Wong seconded the motion.

The Committee voted to send all completed feasibility studies to the SC for consideration. (Approved, see vote tracking sheet).

10. Items for next agenda

Gloria Crudgington commented that Zoom meetings are more environmentally friendly than attending in-person meetings and that the Brown Act would need to be reconsidered to allow virtual meetings going forward. The District responded that the Executive Order easing the requirements for teleconferencing expires in September. The District is preparing to follow the original Brown Act guidelines starting in October including possible hybrid meetings. Thomas Wong agreed that Zoom meetings are better for the environment than in-person meetings. Kristen Ruffell asked for more information on District locations that are technologically equipped to host hybrid meetings. The District responded that they are working on the details of hybrid meetings and will keep the WASC informed.

a) Schedule Project Presentations (TBD)

b) Presentation on Interim Guidance

11. Adjournment

Melanie thanked WASC members and public for their attendance and adjourned the meeting.

RH WASC - August 17, 2021

Member Type	Quorum Present				Voting Item							
	Member	Voting/ Present?	Alternate	Voting/ Present?	Approve 5/18 Meeting Minutes	RH WASC Chair (Kristen Ruffell) and Vice-Chair (Tom Love, Thomas Wong)	Send all completed Feasibility Studies to Scoring Committee					
Agency	Julian Juarez	X	Ramy Gindi		Y	Y	Y					
Agency	Tom Love	X	Robert Tock		Y	Y	Y					
Agency	Kelly Gardner		Tony Zampello									
Agency	Kristen Ruffell	X	Martha Tremblay		Y	Y	Y					
Agency	Brent Maue		James Tong	X	Y	Y	Y					
Community Stakeholder	Thomas Wong	X	Bryan Matsumoto		Y	Y	Y					
Community Stakeholder												
Community Stakeholder	Mark Hall	X	Mark Daniel		Y	Y	Y					
Community Stakeholder												
Community Stakeholder	Daniel Rossman	X	Liliana Griego		Y	Y	Y					
Municipal Members	David Dolphin		Latoya Waters									
Municipal Members	Vanessa Hevener		Eddie Chan	X	Y	Y	Y					
Municipal Members	Fernando Villaluna	X	Ruby Wang		Y	Y	Y					
Municipal Members	Gloria Crudgington	X	Sean Sullivan		Y	Y	Y					
Municipal Members	Frank Lopez	X	Bonnie Tam		Y	Y	Y					
Municipal Members	Kris Markarian	X			A	Y	Y					
Municipal Members	James Carlson	X	Chris Cimino		Y	Y	Y					
Watershed Coordinator Non-Voting Member (RWA Planning)	Richard Watson	X	Julie Millett									
Total Non-Vacant Seats	15			Yay (Y)	12	13	13	0	0	0	0	0
Total Voting Members Present	13			Nay (N)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agency	4			Abstain (A)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Stakeholder	3			Total	13	13	13	0	0	0	0	0
Municipal Members	6				Approved	Approved	Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved

Attendance
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Maritsa DRA INC.	Stephanie Tong - LACFCD
James Carlson	James Tong
Larry Tran - LACFCD	Uriel Cobian
Bryan Matsumoto	Julie Millett
Mark Hall	Julian Juarez
Gloria Crudgington	Aric Torreyson
Kris Markarian	aric
Enrique Baul	Honor Hayball
Thomas Love	Kristen Ruffell
Tori Klug	Hugo Garcia
Katie Harrel	Pablo Forni
Eddie Chan	Fernando Villaluna
Melanie Morita - SCW	Frank Lopez
Richard Watson	Thomas Wong
Jose	Michael Lewis
Brian Rowley	Daniel Rossman