



Posting Date: 06-14-2021

NOTICE OF MEETING WATERSHED COMMITTEE/BOARD OF DIRECTORS (WATERSHED)

MEETING DATE: 06-17-2021
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
LOCATION: This meeting will be held virtually, pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20.

To participate online, go to <https://zoom.us/j/93703549316>. You can also participate by phone by calling 1-669-900-6833 and entering the webinar ID#: 937 0354 9316.

PARTICIPATION DURING MEETINGS: During the public comment periods, the public may comment by clicking the “raise hand” button on the bottom of the Zoom screen; if you are joining by phone and would like to comment, press *9 and we will call on you as appropriate.

EMAILED PUBLIC COMMENTS: You may submit your comments in advance of the meeting by emailing them to BoardComment@MarinWater.org. All emailed comments received by 11:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting will be provided to the Board of Directors prior to the meeting. Those emailed comments on approval items received by 11:00 a.m. will also be summarized by the board secretary at the board meeting. All emails will be posted on our website. (Please do not include personal information in your comment that you do not want published on our website such as phone numbers and home addresses.)

AGENDA ITEMS	RECOMMENDATIONS
Call to Order and Roll Call	
Adopt Agenda	Approve
Public Comment <i>Members of the public may comment on any items not listed on the agenda during this time. Comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker, and time limits may be reduced by the Committee Chair to accommodate the number of speakers and ensure that the meeting is conducted in an efficient manner.</i>	

MARIN WATER BOARD OF DIRECTORS: LARRY BRAGMAN, JACK GIBSON, CYNTHIA KOEHLER, LARRY RUSSELL AND MONTY SCHMITT

AGENDA ITEMS	RECOMMENDATIONS
Calendar	
1. Minutes of the Watershed Committee/Board of Directors (Watershed) Meeting of March 18, 2021	<i>Approve</i>
2. Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan-Prescribed Burning Planning Report	<i>Information</i>
3. Lagunitas Creek Stream Release Study Update	<i>Information</i>
Adjournment	

ADA NOTICE AND HEARING IMPAIRED PROVISIONS:

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FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS:

- ❖ Friday, June 18, 2021
Operations Committee/Board of Directors (Operations) Special Meeting
9:30 a.m.
- ❖ Tuesday, June 22, 2021
Board of Directors’ Special Meeting (Closed Session)
7:00 p.m.
- ❖ Thursday, June 24, 2021
Finance & Administration Committee/Board of Directors (Finance & Administration)
Special Meeting
9:30 a.m.



 Board Secretary



Item Number: 01
 Meeting Date: 06-17-2021
 Meeting: Watershed
 Committee/Board of Directors
 (Watershed)

Approval Item

TITLE

Minutes of the Watershed Committee/Board of Directors (Watershed) Meeting of March 18, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the adoption of the minutes.

SUMMARY

On March 18, 2021, the Watershed Committee/Board of Directors (Watershed) held its quarterly meeting. The minutes of that meeting are attached.

DISCUSSION

None

FISCAL IMPACT

None

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Minutes of March 18, 2021, Meeting of the Watershed Committee/Board of Directors (Watershed)

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Communications & Public Affairs Department	 Terrie Gillen Board Secretary	 Ben Horenstein General Manager

**MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
WATERSHED COMMITTEE /BOARD OF DIRECTORS (WATERSHED) MEETING**

MINUTES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Via teleconference

(In accordance with Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20)

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Larry Bragman, John C. Gibson, Larry L. Russell, and Monty Schmitt

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Cynthia Koehler

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Bragman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ADOPT AGENDA:

On motion made by Director Gibson and seconded by Director Schmitt, the board approved the adoption of the agenda by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Gibson, Russell, Schmitt, and Bragman

Noes: None

Absent: Director Koehler

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were three (3) public comments.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

ITEM 1. RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION FOR LAURIE OFFENBACH

Chair Bragman recognized Laurie Offenbach for her years of service working at the Watershed, and congratulated her on her upcoming retirement. In turn, Ms. Offenbach thanked the board and her colleagues.

There were five (5) public comments.

On motion made by Director Gibson and seconded by Director Bragman, the board approved the resolution. The following roll call votes were made:

Ayes: Directors Gibson, Russell, Schmitt, and Bragman

Noes: None

Absent: Director Koehler

**ITEM 2. MINUTES OF THE WATERSHED COMMITTEE /BOARD OF DIRECTORS (WATERSHED)
MEETING OF DECEMBER 10, 2020**

On motion made by Director Gibson and seconded by Director Russell, the board approved the minutes by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Gibson, Russell, Schmitt, and Bragman
Noes: None
Absent: Director Koehler

ITEM 3. WATERSHED REGULATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

Director of System Maintenance and Natural Resources Crystal Yezman introduced this item and Chief Park Ranger Don Wick provided a presentation. Discussion followed.

There were 10 public comments.

The board did not take any formal action, because this was an informational item.

ITEM 4. WATERSHED RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

Director of System Maintenance and Natural Resources Crystal Yezman brought forth this item. Discussion ensued.

There were 10 public comments. The board took no formal action, because this was an informational item.

ITEM 5. LAGUNITAS CREEK STREAM RELEASES

Senior Engineer 1 Manager Elysha Irish and Fisheries Manager Jonathan Koehler presented this item. Discussion followed.

There were four (4) public comments. The board took no formal action, because this was an informational item.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Watershed Committee/Board of Directors (Watershed) meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Board Secretary



Item Number: 02
Meeting Date: 06-17-2021
Meeting: Watershed
Committee/Board of Directors
(Watershed)

Informational Item

TO: Watershed Committee/Board of Directors (Watershed)

FROM: Shaun Horne, Watershed Resources Manager 

THROUGH: Ben Horenstein, General Manager 

DIVISION NAME: Watershed

ITEM: Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan-Prescribed Burning Planning Report

SUMMARY

The District conducts vegetation management work on watershed lands throughout the year under the Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP), which was adopted in October of 2019. Under the BFFIP, the District has identified management targets for carrying out prescribed burning in which fire will be applied to most or all of a well-defined area with discrete boundaries for the combined purpose of fuel load reduction and habitat improvement. Staff will provide a brief presentation relating to the findings of the Prescribed Burning Planning Report and options for implementation.

DISCUSSION

The District adopted its first vegetation management plan in 1995. The District's principal management concern at the time was reducing wildfire hazards on its lands, while minimizing impacts on natural resources. The plan included the creation of a series of fuelbreaks and access roads along major ridges, and the maintenance of the fuelbreak infrastructure. The plan also included limited use of prescribed burning. Prior to 1995, watershed rangers were regularly using prescribed burning as a cost effective approach to managing watershed fuel loads. During the adoption of the 1995 plan, there were general concerns relating to air quality and the use of prescribed burning so it was not brought forward as a primary management tool. Since that time there have been advancements in air quality monitoring and our understanding of the implications of removing fire from this fire-adapted landscape for hazardous fuels and ecosystem health.

In October of 2019, the District adopted the BFFIP which described the actions the District would implement to reduce wildfire hazards and to improve ecosystem resilience. Under the BFFIP there are 27 management actions that are being implemented to fulfill the goals and approaches described in the plan. To implement the inventorying, planning, and monitoring management actions, the District conducts surveys, manages data, and creates maps. To

implement the vegetation management actions, the District uses a combination of manual and mechanical techniques to achieve the BFFIP management action targets.

Vegetation management under the BFFIP aims to reduce fuel loads, maintain fuelbreak infrastructure, preserve defensible space, and reduce invasive weed species. Vegetation management is conducted continuously throughout the year with the chief goals of reducing fuel loads, maintaining the ecosystem function of water provisioning and maintaining the watershed's biological diversity. Management Action 23-Improve Forest Stand Structure and Management Action 24-Improve Grassland and Oak Woodland, both include the use of prescribed burning as a treatment method. We know wildfire will someday come to the watershed, the treatment goal is to change fire behavior in treated areas by reducing future intensity and flame lengths. Additionally, the focus is to increase ecosystem resiliency, watershed health, provide defensible space, and create possible anchor points.

To facilitate the re-introduction of prescribed burning as a fuels and vegetation management tool, the District hired Ben Jacobs, a consultant who is a retired National Parks Service Burn Boss, to develop a Prescribed Burning Planning Report for the District. Jacobs has experience implementing prescribed burning at Sequoia Kings Canyon National Parks and in Point Reyes National Seashore. The findings of the report will be used to inform the development of burn plans for identified burn units. Once the burn plans are finalized, the District will conduct the necessary environmental compliance survey work to facilitate implementation and carry out pre-project vegetation removal as needed. The District will then work with Marin County Fire Department, who will lead the execution of the prescribed burn.

Prescribed Burning Planning Report Findings

The District's preliminary planning process for prescribed burning of eight sites was mapped and assessed, totaling approximately 370 acres. The District is advancing burn planning work for at least three of the most suitable burn units to establish a series of projects that can be carried out over the next 3-5 years. Under the BFFIP, the District is targeting the implementation of 2-3 prescribed burns per year. In order to achieve this target, additional burn units will need to be assessed for future burn plans. The preliminary report found that local fire history relating to pre-settlement burning likely occurred during the drier summer months and suggested that the District mimic this process to the extent feasible and establish an ongoing maintenance regime to maintain the areas as shaded fuelbreaks. The report identified three burn seasons for consideration including spring/early summer, fall after initial moisture followed by adequate drying or a few days ahead of precipitation, and in some cases in the winter if it aligns with ecological goals. For each of the eight sites the preliminary report evaluated burn boundaries and size, defensibility and proposed mitigation, pre-burn vegetation site prep work, smoke management, chance of implementation, and objectives.

Coordination with Marin County Fire

Marin County Fire Department has identified prescribed burning as an important tool for fuel reduction work in Marin County. As such, the District shared the preliminary Prescribed Burning Planning Report with the Marin County Fire on March 22, 2021. On March 31, 2021 the District and the Marin County Fire Department conducted field site inspections and assessed operational logistics for each of the burn units. At that meeting the District discussed opportunities for collaboration and the process for establishing Marin County Fire Department as the project lead for the implementation of the prescribed burns. A major challenge for implementing prescribed burns is the availability of suitable resources during California's extended wildfire seasons.

Staff will provide a brief presentation relating to the findings of the Prescribed Burning Planning Report and the approach for implementation.

FISCAL IMPACT

Expenditures for FY2021 Vegetation Management efforts were budgeted within appropriate operational cost centers and capital appropriations under fund center A1E07 Natural Resource Projects.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None



Item Number: 03
Meeting Date: 06-17-2021
Meeting: Watershed
Committee/Board of Directors
(Watershed)

Informational Item

TO: Watershed Committee/Board of Directors (Watershed)

FROM: Shaun Horne, Watershed Resources Manager 

THROUGH: Ben Horenstein, General Manager 

DIVISION NAME: Watershed

ITEM: Lagunitas Creek Stream Release Study Update

SUMMARY

On April 6th, Marin Water (District) authorized Environmental Science Associates (ESA) to initiate the Lagunitas Creek Stream Release Study to better understand how to optimize flows to protect salmonid migration and instream habitat while reducing the volume of water released in order to conserve storage during these historical drought conditions. This study is currently underway, and the district and ESA have begun evaluating a variety of release schedules and potential water supply savings through a temporary urgency change petition (TUCP) to State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order WR 95-17. Preliminary surveying, model development, and analysis have also been completed. Staff have actively engaged the resource agencies with jurisdiction on this matter, as well as the Lagunitas Creek Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), in several meetings to date, and their feedback has been incorporated into the study design.

DISCUSSION

The Lagunitas Creek Stream Release Study is comprised of the following main tasks:

- Develop ecological criteria (i.e. water depth, velocity, temperature) specifically applicable to Lagunitas Creek coho salmon, steelhead, and California freshwater shrimp
- Model salmon migration conditions under a range of hypothetical flow reduction scenarios
- Develop a habitat suitability model and analyze conditions for target species at various life stages under a range of hypothetical flow reduction scenarios
- Develop a watershed hydrology model both with and without dams to analyze runoff and streamflow patterns under several water year types

In addition, the District is engaging stakeholders and resource agencies to review the study plan and solicit feedback. To date, the Lagunitas Creek TAC subcommittee for this study has met in May and June, and the resource agency representatives (California Department of Fish and

Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board) have met with the District in April, May, and June. The District is working collaboratively to refine the study approach based on feedback from these groups.

Progress to Date

This study has a completion target date of August in order to provide adequate time for the district to determine whether to file a TUCP application and allow adequate review time for the State Water Board. Within the scope of work and timeline, approximately half of the study has been completed to date. More specific details on each task are described below.

Four representative study sites in Lagunitas Creek, each approximately 500-1,000 feet long, are to be included in the habitat suitability modeling task. To date, staff have selected and completed detailed topographic surveys at two sites. The exact locations of the remaining two sites are being finalized in collaboration with resource agency staff.

The project team compiled a series of habitat suitability criteria curves from existing literature, including some of the supporting documents from Order WR95-17 and presented these to the TAC subcommittee and resource agencies for review.

Field measurement data will be incorporated to model potential impacts to various life stages under hypothetical flow reduction scenarios.

Additionally, the project team developed a preliminary hydrologic model of the Lagunitas watershed and is refining it with additional rainfall and reservoir storage data. Detailed topographic surveys were completed at study sites 1 and 2 to calibrate the model and survey work is planned for sites 3 and 4. The project team also analyzed the district's long-term streamflow record for San Geronimo Creek to provide a proxy hydrograph representing unregulated runoff from the watershed and develop a series of wet, average, dry, critically-dry year types for modeling. The district and ESA are using Marin Water historic spawner monitoring data and redd location to inform study area site selection. Furthermore, fisheries monitoring field observations related migration and spawning are being used to help inform the analysis of different release schedules.

Next Steps

The District will continue to hold monthly meetings with the resource agencies and Lagunitas TAC subcommittee through the end of the study.

Topographic surveying of Sites 3 and 4 are planned for June and early July. Once all surveys are complete, the project team will begin a comprehensive analysis of the model outputs as well as characteristics for each specific site. Results will be presented to the TAC subcommittee and resource agencies for review and to solicit feedback. Once completed, the study results will be summarized and presented at a committee meeting ahead of the TUCP application deadline.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Flow Release Study is anticipated to cost \$331,000 and is budgeted in Watershed Administration Fund Center 6710 and Fisheries Fund Center 6730.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None